**SPOTLIGHT DONOR: THE TIMMONS FAMILY**

This issue’s Spotlight Donor is the Timmons Family, founded by Beulah Tindal and SFC (ret) Edward Moses Timmons of Florence, SC. Members include:

- Patricia Timmons-Goodson
- Xanita Timmons
- Rose Timmons Dawson
- Dr. Phillip Timmons
- Col. (Ret) Edward Timmons, Sr.
- Linc Timmons McLaughlin
- Dr. Ernest Goodson
- Patricia Kornegay Timmons
- Maj. Edward Timmons, Jr.
- Tianna Smith Timmons

Following Edward’s honorable discharge from the US Army in 1969, they settled in Fayetteville, NC. As staunch believers in education, they stressed its importance to their six children. As a result, all six attended schools in the University of North Carolina system and attained multiple degrees. The Timmons family has supported the Stone Center with various gifts throughout its history and we are proud and pleased to have their continued partnership.

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**CHECK US OUT ON VIMEO!**

Did you miss a “can’t-miss” Stone Center event or lecture? Don’t worry – you can view video from Stone Center lectures, programs and special events on our Vimeo page. Vimeo is a platform used to upload video content and share it with the world.

We’ve upgraded our account so that we can share more content. You can now access videos from past programs and lectures as well as current content from our most recent events. Check us out at: vimeo.com/stonecenter

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**HIGHLIGHTS SPRING 2019 PROGRAMMING**

On March 1 at 7pm, the Stone Center will present a solo dramatic performance by multi-talented performer Azusa SHESHE Dance entitled *Hound Dawg: The Life and Times of Big Mama Thornton*. This production is part of the Stone Center’s 30th Anniversary celebration and is made possible through the support and joint efforts of the Carolina Women’s Center, the African American Studies Department, the Center for the Study of the American South, the Communications Studies Department, the Center for Dramatic Art, the LGBTQ Center and the University, and the MTA: Music Under New York Program, The Connelly Theater at Columbia University, and the Jamaica Performing Arts Center BRAATA Productions.

The production chronicles the life of Willie Mae “Big Mama” Thornton, who was the first to record the iconic song “Hound Dawg” in 1952. Her version held the number one spot on the R&B charts for seven weeks in 1953. Thornton, born in Ariton, Alabama on December 11, 1926, had a commanding presence when she took to the stage. She brought a powerful, gospel-inflected voice that rocked audiences wherever she appeared. That talent, combined with the raucous lyrics that peppered her songs and a penchant and preference for men’s clothes, made her a sensation. Her 1920s style often transgressed other norms when she consistently refused to conform to the sexual norms that prevailed during that period. In addition to “Hound Dawg”, commonly associated with Elvis Presley who achieved success with the tune in 1956, she also scored a hit with “Ball and Chain”, successfully covered by Janis Joplin in 1967. Her straight-ahead, hard-driving performances continued throughout her life until she died of a heart attack in Los Angeles, California, on July 25, 1984 at the age of 57. Thornton was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 1984 and “Ball and Chain” was selected for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame’s list of “500 Songs That Shaped Rock and Roll.”

A native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Azusa SHESHE Dance, like many artists and performers, grew up singing in church. For her, it was Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church. She also studied classical music in the local school system and went on to attend the Tennessee Governor’s School of the Arts. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. After performing on stage in regional productions she moved to New York where she has been active in the theater scene and captivated roles in productions at the 13th Street Repertory Theater, the MTA: Music Under New York Program, The Connelly Theater at Columbia University, and the Jamaica Performing Arts Center BRAATA Productions.

Houn’ Dawg: The Life and Times of Big Mama Thornton will be presented in the Stone Center’s theatre on March 1 at 7 pm. To reserve tickets, go to the Stone Center’s website at stonecenter.unc.edu.
These ideas are explored through pieces such as beginning of his own spiritual transformation. In effect, Williams' father's spiritual transformation set him on a quest to excavate other important milestones in the development of other movements centered around Black Power, Black nationalism, Black Internationalism and Pan-Africanism. In the 1970s and 1980s Black feminism, as well as Black gay and lesbian activists, also fostered Black bookstores to be a formidable weapon in fighting for recognition and rights.

In many ways, these establishments became much more than depots for purchasing canonical works and new writing from Black authors. Many quickly established themselves as cultural centers and political gathering places where the most important issues of the day were discussed, debated and challenged. This rich and colorful legacy deserves further exploration and attention of U.S. national intelligence agencies.

The African Diaspora Lecture and Roundtable will feature a presentation by Professor Joshua C. Davis whose recent book, Final Stop Shop: The Rise and Fall of Bookstores (Columbia University Press, 2017), includes a chapter titled “Liberation Through Literacy: African American Bookstores, Black Power, and the Menacing of ‘Black Books’”. Davis' research included extensive review of PBH files and additional interviews with the owners of Black bookstores. His work, featured in the Atlantic, “The PBH War on Black-Owned Bookstores, February 19, 2016” concluded that there had been an organized campaign to undermine the key and central role of Black bookstores in Black community life.

Davis will be joined by several actresses and actor and current bookstore owners including Gerti Augustone, formerly affiliated with Drama and Space Bookstores in Washington, D.C. and currently Founding Assistant Professor of International & Public Affairs and Africa Studies, Brown University, Shimmimia Gesta, co-founder of Sandlot Bookworks, Washington, D.C., El Vaughn, founder and former owner, Vaughn's Bookstore, Detroit, Michigan, Chassie Lassie, former employee, Vaughn's Bookstore, Detroit, Michigan and currently Professor and Chair, Political Science Department, Howard University, Paul Coste, Founder-owner of Black Classic Press, Yvonne Blake, owner, Hakim's Bookstore, Philadelphia, Karen Johnson, co-owner, More Than Books, Brooklyn, Georgina Smegielski, Lecturer, African American Studies, Georgia State University and author of Congress of African People: History and Memory (Praeger Press, 2010). Other former bookstore owners will be in attendance during the discussion.

The 2019 African Diaspora Lecture-Roundtable will take place in the Highrock Room of the Stone Center on 2:30 pm on Friday, March 29. The program is free and open to the public but reservations are encouraged via the Stone Center website.

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

**SEAN DOUGLAS FELLOWSHIP AND UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP**

Sean Douglas Leadership Fellowship Program

An Opportunity for Undergraduate Students

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History and the Phi Beta Kappa Society are pleased to announce a new opportunity for undergraduate students. The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History and the Phi Beta Kappa Society are partnering to create the Sean Douglas Leadership Fellowship Program. This program provides an opportunity for undergraduate students interested in gaining practical experience in planning and managing arts events, with a focus on arts programs to serve as artists at the Stone Center while working closely with the Director.

The center will participate in various Center activities that require participation in staff, board and other key meetings, working on specially designed projects, assisting in preparing and delivering project, program and special events and serving as a Stone Center representative at selected gatherings. Interns will receive a stipend for completing the program.

The internship occurs over a 10-week period (September–November or January–April) and is open to all regular UNC at Chapel Hill sophomores, juniors and seniors in good academic standing.

The deadline to apply for the Fall 2019 fellowship is March 4, 2019. Application for the 2018 fellowship will be selected on the basis of a combination of factors including scholarship, record of volunteer work and off-campus civic and community activities, clarity in describing their objectives for participating in the program, and quality of recommendations submitted in support of their application

Applicants must submit:

- A brief narrative no more than 4 pages that addresses the criteria described above
- An official or unofficial transcript (you may also include a brief resume outlining your extracurricular activities, awards, and any supporting background information)
- Two letters of recommendation (from faculty or staff familiar with your work and your work)

Submit your application electronically to sonjahaynesstonecenter@unc.edu, or you may hand deliver to Christopher Wallace at Room 215, The Stone Center, For information call (919) 962-9001.

**The Summer-Fall 2019 Undergraduate International Studies Fellowship**

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History will be accepting applications from UNC undergraduates for its summer and fall 2019 Undergraduate International Studies Fellowship (UISF). The Stone Center, established in 1998 to support the critical examination of all dimensions of African and African-American and Diaspora cultures, created the UISF program in support of the University's effort to globalize the campus and internationalize the curricula. UISF recipients are awarded up to $1,500 toward academic research or study in an international setting.

Through the fellowships, the UISF program supports the participation of students and other underrepresented student in travel and study abroad programs. Students who plan to study abroad in the summer or fall of 2019 who are interested in applying are eligible. Applicants must be in good standing and enrolled full-time are eligible to apply. Applicants must also submit an essay of three pages describing their interest in gaining practical experience in planning and managing arts events, with a focus on arts programs to serve as artists at the Stone Center while working closely with the Director.

The internship occurs over a 10-week period (September–November or January–April) and is open to all regular UNC at Chapel Hill sophomores, juniors and seniors in good academic standing.

The application deadline is March 4, 2019. Application for the 2018 fellowship will be selected on the basis of a combination of factors including scholarship, record of volunteer work and off-campus civic and community activities, clarity in describing their objectives for participating in the program, and quality of recommendations submitted in support of their application

Applicants must submit:

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- An official or unofficial transcript (you may also include a brief resume outlining your extracurricular activities, awards, and any supporting background information)
- Two letters of recommendation (from faculty or staff familiar with your work

Submit your application electronically to sonjahaynesstonecenter@unc.edu, or you may hand deliver to Christopher Wallace at Room 215, The Stone Center, For information call (919) 962-9001.

**COMING IN FALL 2019: 1619 SYMPOSIUM AND EXHIBITION WITH ARTIST FAHAMI PECCOU**

The Stone Center’s Fall 2018 anniversary celebration brought together over 2,500 participants and well-dressed attendees in a vibrant event at the ICC. The event was not only an opportunity to celebrate the history of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History but also an opportunity to engage with the work of a diverse range of artists, thinkers, and activists.

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**THE SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER FALL 2018 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BRINGS TOGETHER CAMPUS, COMMUNITY, AND ALUMS**

**GALLERY HIGHLIGHTS**

The Stone Center’s fall 2018 celebration brought together over 2,500 participants and well-dressed attendees in an event that took place on Saturday, September 29th, at the ICC. The event was not only an opportunity to celebrate the history of the Stone Center but also an opportunity to engage with the work of a diverse range of artists, thinkers, and activists.

**The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History**

**WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY**

The Stone Center’s fall 2018 anniversary celebration brought together over 2,500 participants and well-dressed attendees in a vibrant event at the ICC. The event was not only an opportunity to celebrate the history of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History but also an opportunity to engage with the work of a diverse range of artists, thinkers, and activists.
He was a Poem, He was a Song

Join us on a celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with our annual He Was a Poem, He Was a Song program. Students, faculty, staff, and community members are invited to explore Dr. King’s legacy through music, dance, and spoken word.

January 22 | 5 p.m.
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room
Stone Center

AfricAn Diaspora Lecture and Round Table Discussion


Derr’s talk included extensive review of FBI files and additional interviews with the owners of Black bookstores. His work, situated in the Atlantic (“The FBI’s War on Black-Owneed Bookstores”, February 19, 2018) concluded that there had been an organized campaign to undermine the key and central role of Black bookstores in community life.

Joshua Derr will be joined by several activists and former and current bookstore owners including Gert Auguste, formally affiliated with Drum and Spor Bookstores in Washington, D.C. and currently Guest Writing Associate Professor of International & Public Affairs and African Studies, Barnet, Shakti Kirti, co-founder of Sankofa Bookstores, Washington, D.C., Ed Vaughn, founder and owner of Vaughn Bookstores, Detroit, Michigan; Clarence Sainte, former employee, Vaughn’s Bookstores, Detroit, Michigan and currently Professor and Chair, Political Science Department, Howard University; Paul Coates, Founder-Owner of Black Classic Press, Yvonne Blake, owner, Hakim’s Bookstore, Philadelphia; Karen Johnson, Co-owner, Marien Books, Oakland California; and Michael Smatresk, President, African American Studies, Georgia State University and author of African American People, Money and Memory (Palgrave Press, 2014)

February 12 | 5:30 p.m.
Stone Center

African Kings and Black Slaves: Sovereignty and Dispossession in the Early Modern Atlantic

Herman L. Bennett

As early as 1441, and well before other European countries encountered Africa, small Portuguese and Spanish trading vessels were plowing the coast of West Africa, where they conducted business with African kingdoms that possessed significant territory and power. In the process, Portuguese developed an understanding of Africa’s political landscape in which they recognized specific sovereigns, plotted the extent and nature of their powers, and grouped subjects according to their ruler.

In African Kings and Black Slaves, Herman L. Bennett mines the historical archives of Europe and Africa to reconsider the first century of sustained African-European interaction. These encounters were not simple economic transactions. Rather, according to Bennett, they involved clashing understandings of diplomacy, sovereignty, and politics: Bennett unmasks the ways in which Africa’s kings required Iberian traders to participate in elaborate diplomatic rituals, establish treaties, and negotiate trade practices with autonomous territories. And he shows how Iberian had their interpretations of African sovereignty on western European political precepts ground in Roman civil and canon law. In the eyes of Iberians, the extent to which Africa’s policies conformed to these norms played a significant role in determining who was, and who was not, a sovereign people—judging that those who could legitimately be endowed.

Through an examination of early modern European encounters, African Kings and Black Slaves offers a reappraisal of the dominant depiction of those exchanges as being mediated through the slave trade and racial difference. By asking in what manner did Europeans and Africans recognize sovereignty, politics, and subject status, Bennett offers a new depiction of the dyanic identities that had implications for their experiences in the Americas.

TaKeia N. Anthony • February 26 • 3:30 p.m. – Bull’s Head Bookshop – 207 South Rd, Chapel Hill

Jezebel Unhinged: Loosing the Black Female Body in Religion and Culture

Tamara Lomax

In Jezebel Unhinged Tamara Lomax traces the use of the “jezebel” trope in the black church and in black popular culture, showing how it is grounded in reinforcing male cultural and institutional power to discipline and define black femininity and womanhood. Drawing on writing by enslaved thinkers and travelers, Enlightenment theories of race, the commodification of women’s bodies under slavery, and the work of Tyler Perry and Bishop T.D. Jakes, Lomax shows how black women are construed into religious and cultural hierarchy as a part of social desire. She identifies a contemporary black church culture where figures such as Jakes use the jezebel trope to suggest a divine approval of the “lady” while condemning girls and women as “hoes.” The trope provokes gender hierarchy, black patriarchy, and homonormativity in black communities, cultures, and institutions. In response, black women and girls resist, appropriate, and play with the jezebel’s meanings. Uncovering the Black church, Lomax contends, will require the critical rethink of the idea that sin resides in black women’s bodies, thus distancing black women and girls from the jezebel narrative’s oppressive trope.

Tamara Lomax is an independent scholar, CEO and founder of The Fierce Nile, and co-founder of Bluestone and Black Feminist Response to Tyler Perry’s Preachers.

Black, Queer, Southern, Women.

Patrick Johnson

Drown is the lyric narrative of more than seventy African American queer women who have been raised, that continue to reside in the American South, this book powerfully reveals the way these women experience and express racial, sexual, gender, and class identities—aipinked by a place where such identities have generally placed them on the margins of society. Using oral history and performance ethnography, E. Patrick Johnson’s work vividly recovers the historical record of racialized sexual intimacies in the South and brings to light the realities of the region’s thriving black lesbian communities.

At once transcendent and grounded in place and time, these narratives raise important questions about queer identity formation, same-sex community building, and power relations that are negotiated within the context of southern history. Johnson was inspired to stories to reveal the embedded political and cultural ideologies of the self but also of the listener and society as a whole. These breathtakingly rich life histories choral accounts how these invisible and hidden stories have always been an integral part of the pandemic quilt that is southern culture.

E. Patrick Johnson is the Curlis Montgomery Professor of Performance Studies and African American Studies at Northwestern University and author of Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South.

The Universal Ethiopian Students’ Association, 1927-1948: Mobilizing Diaspora

TaKeia N. Anthony

From 1927-1948, the Universal Ethiopian Students’ Association (UESA) mobilized the African diaspora to fight against imperialism and fascist Italy. Formed by a group of educated African, African-Americans, and West Indians based in Harlem and shaped by the ideals of Ethiopians, communism, Pan-Africanism, Black Nationalism, Pan-Africanism, and the New Negro Movement, the UESA sought to challenge the narrative about its glorious African past and advocate for anti-imperialism and independence. This book focuses on the UESA’s literary organ. The African, mapping a constellation of undervalued activists and their contributions to the fight for Black liberation in the twentieth century. Anthony’s publication offers the first study of the ideology, influences, and contributions of the UESA and “The African.”

TaKeia N. Anthony is Assistant Professor of History at North Carolina Central University, USA.