



HOOKS INSTITUTE

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2017



A Special Evening for Hooks Donors and Supporters

On September 28, 2017, live jazz music and good food kicked off the Hooks Institute's Donor and Friends Reception at the Crescent Club (Memphis). The Hooks Institute thanked and encouraged its donors and supporters to continue their efforts to help us sustain and expand our programs that create change through scholarship and community engagement. Executive Director Daphene R. McFerren discussed upcoming initiatives of the Institute, including the Hooks Institute's annual Join Hands for Change fundraiser on March 1, 2018 at the UofM Holiday Inn. Stay tuned!

Creating impact in our Memphis communities requires a team of committed individuals, organizations and activists. Want to become involved? Please contact us at

HAAMI on the Academic and Cultural Move!

HAAMI, an intensive resource and enrichment program launched in 2015, provides guidance and support for African American Male students on their way to graduation from the University of Memphis.

Fall 2017 HAAMI Updates

- Three HAAMI members graduated from the UofM in the 2016-2017 school year!
- In Fall 2017, HAAMI membership grew from 30 to 58 members!
- Encouraging HAAMI students to study abroad by providing financial support, the Hooks Institute is launching the **SAAI Initiative** through a partnership with the University of Memphis Center for International Education
- Exploring the dynamics of personal and career frustrations because of racial oppression on the friendship and careers of African Americans Muhammad Ali and Stephen Fitchit (1930s TV actor), HAAMI students attended the Hattiloo Theatre play, *Fetch Man, Make Man* on October 31, 2017. Immediately after the play, HAAMI students and Hooks Staff discussed the themes of the play and issues raised during the play that were relevant to contemporary issues of race, class, and personal relationships.



HAAMI students and Hooks Staff attend *Fetch Clay: Make Man*.

2017 Hooks National Book Award Call for Nominations

The Hooks Institute is soliciting nominations for the 2017 Benjamin L. Hooks Institute's National Book Award, given each year to the book that best furthers our understanding of the American Civil Rights Movement and its legacy.

Deadline for submission is December 31, 2017.

Visit memphis.edu/benhooks/programs/book-award.php for more information.



Visit Our Website

We Are an African American People Hooks Institute National Book Award Winner Lecture



Russell Rickford speaks to students at Melrose

On October 19, 2017, it was a full house at Russell Rickford's lecture on *We Are An African People*, which was the recipient of the Hooks Institute's National Book Award. *We Are an African People* follows the emergence of independent Pan-African nationalist schools following the 1960s civil rights movement.

Rickford's noon lecture to the UofM audience followed his morning lecture at Melrose High School, where Rickford explored with students

[Watch Russell Rickford's lecture about We Are an African People through this link!](#)

A Diverse America Faces Twenty-First Century Obstacles to Equality

Tackling socio-economic issues facing Native Americans, and discriminatory practices against African Americans, the LGBTQ community, and Muslims, Hooks Institute fellows provided historical overviews and proposed solutions to contemporary injustices faced by these communities in the 2017 Hooks Institute Policy Papers, [*Bending the Arc Toward Justice: Including the Excluded*](#).

At our Open House on October 5, 2017, the authors of the Policy Papers provided an overview and discussed their positions with members of the greater Memphis community.

A special thanks to the following faculty who used their scholarship to further greater community understanding of these issues:



(from left to right)

- **Michael R. Duke** (Department of Anthropology, UofM)
- **Idia B. Thurston** (Department of Psychology, UofM)
- **Peter A. Kindle** (Department of Social Work, University of South Dakota)
- **Nabil A. Bayakly** (Department of World Language and Literature, UofM)

The Policy Papers have been distributed locally and nationally and can be read online [here](#).



**THE BENJAMIN L.
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FOR SOCIAL CHANGE
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