

TODAY'S HOOKS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change
at the University of Memphis

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February 7, 2012



*Teaching, studying, and promoting
civil rights and social change*

Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks
1925 — 2010

RESEARCH WATCH

Shannen Dee Williams is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. She earned a B.A. (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) in history from Agnes Scott College in 2004 and a M.A. in Afro-American studies from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 2006.



Shannen is currently finishing her dissertation, "Subversive Habits: Black Nuns and the Struggle to Desegregate Catholic America after World War I," under the direction of Deborah Gray White. Her study unearths the hidden history of black Catholic sisters in the fight to eliminate racial barriers in the U.S. Church. It centers on the struggle to secure African-American access to Catholic education and religious life after the codification of Church canon law in 1917, which went into effect the following year. When completed, "Subversive Habits" will be the first historical study of African-American Catholic sisters in the twentieth century.

Shannen is a native of Memphis, TN and the 2000 salutatorian of Craigmont High School.

Spring 2012 Calendar of Events

- ◆ *Reflections on Living in Service to Others: Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks and the Heirs of His Legacy*
An Evening with Rodney E. Slater, Esq.

Date of the Event: February 9, 2012

Location: Rose Theatre Entertainment Lobby at the University of Memphis

Reception will be at 5:00 pm. The program will begin at 5:30 pm

Rodney Slater, former Secretary of Transportation to President Bill Clinton, will meet with students, emerging leaders, and young professionals to discuss combining civic and public service opportunities with career goals and to speak on how a committed individual, like Dr. Hooks, can help create a more just nation.

This event is free and open to the public.

- ◆ *Benjamin L. Hooks in His Own Words*
A Performance by Hattiloo Theatre: A Black Repertory Company

Date of the Event: April 18, 2012

Location: University Theatre in the University Center at the University of Memphis

Reception will be from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. The theatrical performance will begin at 6:30pm.

Hattiloo Theatre, a Black repertory theatre group in Memphis, TN, in conjunction with the Hooks Institute, presents the story of Benjamin L. Hooks, as told by Hooks himself. Hooks will describe Black life in Memphis shortly after slavery and in segregated Memphis; his service during World War II; his rise as a central figure in the American Civil Rights Movement; and his shaping of national policy through his work as the Executive Director of the NAACP and as a United States Federal Communications Commissioner.

Tickets are \$10 per person and will go on sale Spring 2012.

Check <http://www.memphis.edu/benhooks> for more details.

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Spring 2012 Calendar of Events

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- ◆ *Toward a More Perfect Union: Civil Rights, Human Rights, and Creating an Age of Social Responsibility*
A Conference Focusing on Civil and Human Rights

Date of the Event: April 18-20, 2012

Location: Rose Theatre and other locations to be determined

This conference will explore the civil rights activism of Benjamin L. Hooks by placing his life and work into historical context, examine the current state of civil rights activism and its relevancy to life in America today, and analyze the role of the Civil Rights Movement in shaping and defining issues being tackled by international human rights movements.

Conference sessions are free and open to the public. A \$10 ticket fee will apply to the theatrical production of *Benjamin L. Hooks in His Own Words* during the Conference.

- ◆ *Duty of the Hour: The Life and Times of Benjamin L. Hooks*
Red Carpet Premiere of the Public Release of the Documentary of Benjamin L. Hooks and His Legacy

Date of the Event: April 20, 2012

Location: The Orpheum Theatre, located in Downtown Memphis, Tennessee

The Premiere will begin at 5:30 pm.

The culmination of the Annual Civil and Human Rights Conference is the Red Carpet Premiere of the documentary *Duty of the Hour: The Life and Times of Benjamin L. Hooks*. Written and directed by award-winning filmmaker Reece L. Auguiste and produced by Daphene McFerren, Director of the Hooks Institute, *Duty of the Hour* focuses on Hook's life experiences and his impact on civil and human rights. The hour-long documentary features interviews with, among others, President Jimmy Carter, Benjamin Todd Jealous (CEO, NAACP), Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Congressman Steve Cohen (D-TN), Hooks family members, and local Memphis civil rights activists.

Tickets are available to the public for Orpheum Red Carpet Event at \$125 per ticket and will go on sale during February-March 2012.

Discounted tickets will be available for University of Memphis faculty and staff.

- ◆ *Duty of the Hour: A Tiger Blue Carpet Event*
A Public Showing of *Duty of The Hour* and Speech Competition

Date of the Event: April 27, 2012

Location: The Orpheum Theatre, located in Downtown Memphis, Tennessee

The event will begin at 5:00 pm.

The Hooks Institute, in conjunction with Memphis City Schools, will hold a public showing of the documentary *Duty of the Hour: The Life and Times of Benjamin L. Hooks* for all 10th graders enrolled in the Memphis City Schools district. A speech writing competition will be held, where selected students will speak about how they, like Benjamin L. Hooks, have persevered to overcome difficulties in their lives.



RESEARCH WATCH

The Hooks Institute is proud to welcome Dr. Esra Ozdenerol, who assumes the role of Associate Director, in addition to her



position as the Associate Professor of Geography at the Department of Earth Sciences and the Director of Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) at the University of Memphis. She also serves as Adjunct Professor of Preventive Medicine at UTHSC.

Dr. Ozdenerol received her PhD in Geography from Louisiana State University and has been with the University of Memphis since 2003, where she teaches GIS and its applications to health disparities. In 2010, she served as the President of the Memphis Area Geographic Information Council, a non-profit organization of GIS professionals. She was invited by the National Academies of Science on the Contribution of Remote Sensing for Decisions about Human Welfare and was also recognized as a "Health Research Fellow" by the University of Memphis in 2007. She launched the first interactive mapping website featuring the pivotal events of the civil rights movement. She has lectured nationally and internationally on GIS and Remote Sensing and on community participation GIS and issues of health disparities.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

Editor's note: There were no publications during the second half of 2011. We apologize for this inconvenience.

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