



# THE HOOKS INSTITUTE

NEWSLETTER | FALL 2018

Teaching, Studying and Promoting Civil Rights and Social Change

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## MY FIRST YEAR IN HAAMI



When I first heard about the Hooks African American Male Initiative (HAAMI), I didn't know the impact it would have on my life. HAAMI offers so many life lessons, professional growth opportunities and soft skills that are vital for success. For example, a donation from Ingersoll Rand Trane created the HAAMI Resource Center, a study room at the Hooks Institute that is exclusive to HAAMI members. During my freshman year, having a quiet place to study and to access helpful information had a tremendous positive impact on my study habits. It's a quiet place for me to go to during the day. Even when other HAAMI members are there at the same time we encourage each other and provide peer support. And, there are always great materials in the room to help us be successful.

In spring 2018, the Hooks Institute paid for Matthew Moore, my fellow HAAMI member and President of the HAAMI Student Leadership Council (SLC), and me to attend the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB) conference in Atlanta. The SAAB conference did not only impact my academic life but was also a confidence builder for me socially. The trip also allowed me to experience my first plane ride. As Vice President of the SLC, attending the SAAB conference will help me think about ways to improve HAAMI as a whole.

HAAMI provides many opportunities to meet outstanding professionals who walked in my shoes and faced many of the same difficulties that I come across in college. Being able to connect and network with the community and professionals gives me perspective concerning where I am now and where I want to be. HAAMI has become a focal point of my college experience and I will continue to be involved with the Hooks Institute because I personally believe in the HAAMI program and its mission.

### About the Hooks African American Male Initiative (HAAMI)

In spring 2015, the Hooks Institute launched HAAMI which focuses on improving the retention and graduation rates of African American males attending the University of Memphis by enriching each students' academic, personal and career readiness development.

*Matthew Bellow, Sophomore, Vice President of the HAAMI SLC*

## CREATING LASTING CHANGE DEMANDS ALL OF US!

The Hooks Institute seeks to uplift Memphis by addressing challenges related to education, diversity, inclusion and economic mobility. We envision a stronger community with equal access to prosperity for all, and we are committed to working together to make a difference. Please join us by supporting our work through a donation to the Hooks Institute by clicking the "Make A Gift" link on our website.



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# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## STANDING IN THE GAP

Daphne R. McFerren, Hooks Institute Executive Director



In these times, it's more important than ever that nonprofits stand in the gap for the most vulnerable among us. We can do so by encouraging the civil debate of ideas and solutions, advocating for a strong democracy that recognizes the rights of others and holding our nation to the highest moral standards. The strength of our nation is shown by its compassion in managing, through process, policy and law, extremely complex and difficult issues and not by its ruthlessness – the separation of immigrant children from their parents – that offends universal principles of human rights and common decency. By encouraging civil conversations among diverse communities and using scholarship in service to the community, the Hooks Institute seeks to stand in the gap for those whose civil and human rights go unrecognized.

We ask that you join us for a dynamic year of educational, entertaining and community engagement programs that furthers the Institute's mission of teaching, studying and promoting civil rights and social change. The Hooks Institute thanks you for your support and for staying the course with us in pursuit of a more just and equal nation.

## EMPOWERMENT, ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Be sure to join us for the release of the 2018 Hooks Institute Policy Papers at our Open House on November 15! At the event, faculty panelists will present their scholarship and policy recommendations on critical civil rights issues including the impact of automation on jobs in Memphis and beyond, historical entrenchment of segregation in Memphis public schools, needed reform of the criminal justice system on African American juvenile offenders and the impact of race and ethnicity on end-of-life decisions.

## UPLIFT THE VOTE

### FAYETTE COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION EXHIBIT

The Hooks Institute will host a non-partisan exhibit about voting rights and the civil rights movement of Fayette County, Tennessee, from September through October 2018 in the rotunda of the Ned McWherter Library on the University of Memphis Campus.

The Fayette County Civil Rights movement began in 1959 when African Americans demanded the right to vote and continued through the 1960s with an urgent civil rights agenda for economic, educational and social empowerment. In 1969, the *New York Times* described that movement as the "longest sustained civil rights protest in the nation." The exhibit this Fall will explore the history of Fayette County activists' perseverance in their struggle for the right to vote and will demonstrate that voting, a vital part of our democracy, was shaped by the sacrifices of ordinary people. ***The exhibit will be free and open to the public.***

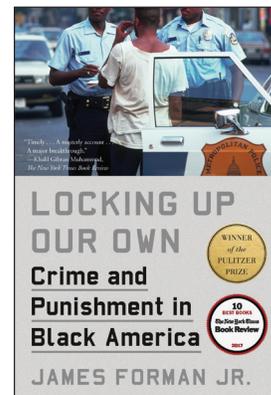


# CELEBRATING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

## ANNOUNCING THE WINNER OF THE HOOKS INSTITUTE'S NATIONAL BOOK AWARD!

The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute is committed to studying, preserving and celebrating the courageous actions of civil rights heroes and movements. That is why every year the Hooks Institute's National Book Award is presented to the author of a non-fiction book, published in the previous calendar year, that best furthers understanding of the American civil rights movement and its legacy.

The Hooks National Book Award committee selected *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America* by James Forman Jr. as the winner of the 2017 Hooks National Book Award. In his remarkable book, Forman argues that the disproportionate impact of long prison sentences on African American communities was not shaped solely by whites, but in part by the exasperation of some African Americans who urgently demanded action to deescalate crime in their communities related to drugs. Forman encourages a candid examination of the forces that created draconian criminal sentences related to drugs to encourage honest and transformative reform of the criminal justice system.



### Special thanks to the 2017 Hooks National Book Award Committee

Beverly Cross, PhD (Lillian and Morrie Moss Chair of Excellence in Urban Education, University of Memphis); Ernest Gibson, III, PhD (Assistant Professor of English, Rhodes College); Aram Goudsouzian, PhD (Chair, Department of History, University of Memphis); Daniel Kiel, JD (Book Award Committee Chair; Associate Professor, University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law); and Terrence Tucker, PhD (Associate Professor/Coordinator of African American Literature, University of Memphis Department of English).

***We hope you join us to hear Forman speak about his excellent work at our upcoming Hooks National Book Award presentation!***

### STAY IN TOUCH - JOIN OUR E-MAIL LIST

Help us reduce our mailing costs and stay up to date on Hooks Institute news by joining our email list. The money we save on mailings can be used directly for programs! To sign up for our e-mail list, contact us at [bhievents@memphis.edu](mailto:bhievents@memphis.edu) or click the "Join our E-Mail List" link on our website.

## THANK YOU!

THE HOOKS INSTITUTE EXPRESSES ITS SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDED GRANTS AND EVENT SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT IN 2017-18:

A2H - Engineers - Architects – Planners; ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; Baptist Memorial Health Care; BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Community Trust; Brown Missionary Baptist Church; Cigna; City of Memphis; FedEx Corporation; First Tennessee Foundation; Greater Middle Baptist Church; Hilton; Ingersoll Rand Charitable Foundation; Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare; MINACT, Inc.; OMO Energy & Technology, Inc.; Philanthropic Black Women of Memphis; Pinnacle Financial Partners; Regional One Health; SunTrust Foundation; Tennessee Human Rights Commission.

As a UofM interdisciplinary center, we are also grateful for the support of the University of Memphis and our departmental partnerships!



The Benjamin L. Hooks  
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