



The Benjamin L. Hooks
Institute for Social Change
The University of Memphis
107 Scates Hall, Memphis, TN 38152



THE HOOKS INSTITUTE

NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2018

Teaching, Studying, and Promoting Civil Rights and Social Change

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OUR TIME IS NOW! RENEWING THE DREAM

During this period of our nation's history when communities across the nation are revisiting basic principles of fairness and equality that many considered settled, at least in principle, the work of the Hooks Institute and other organizations committed to social change is more important than ever. Our community leaders, nonprofits and individuals must remain steadfast in advocating the uplifting of marginalized communities and must promote inclusiveness and diversity. That is especially true in Memphis, which for all of its wonderful qualities, labors under the vestiges of Jim Crow, slavery, and historical pay inequities that, in the case of the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike, set in motion the events that led to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



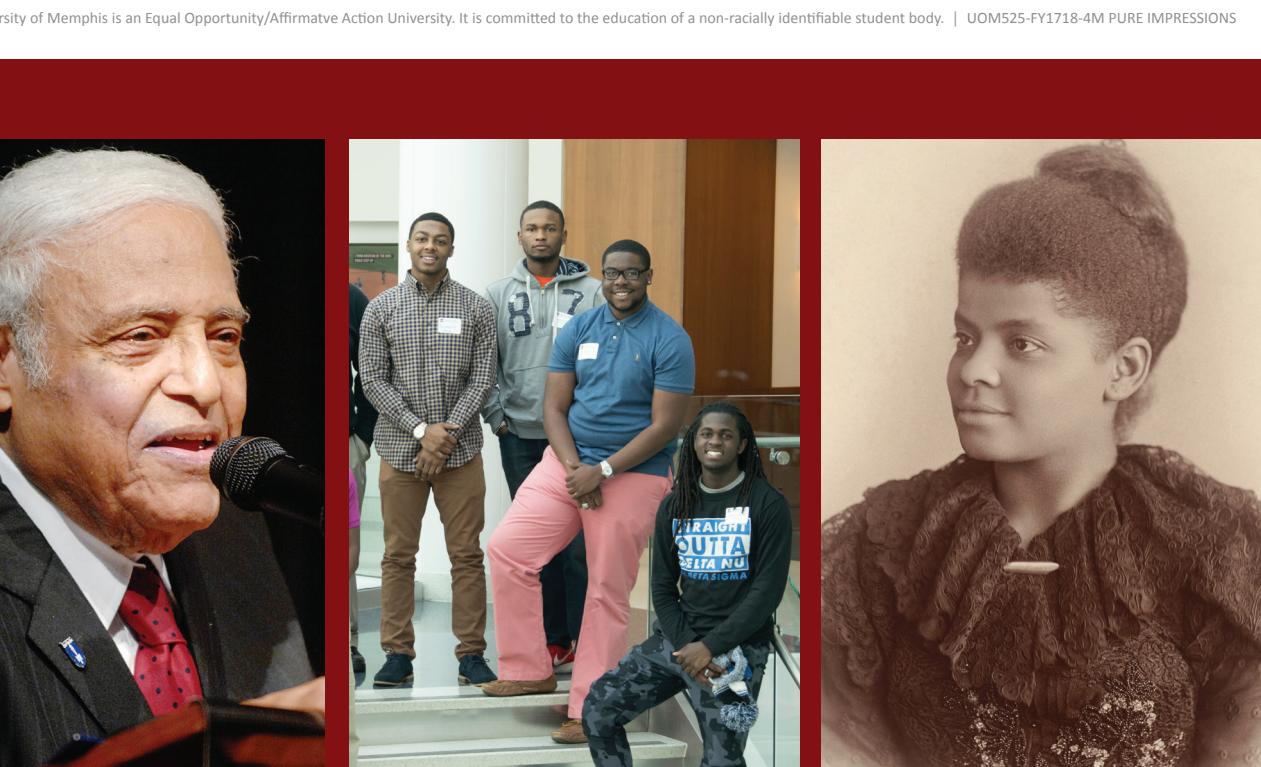
Despite past and contemporary struggles for civil rights, there are reasons for optimism. It is unequivocally true that the civil rights movement fundamentally changed America by demanding, and gaining, substantial civil rights victories for African-Americans. These victories have also benefitted whites, women and others. This is a profound legacy upon which each of us can build upon today to advance the cause of civil rights.

In the coming months, I invite each of you to the Hooks Institute's public events. I encourage you to watch the Hooks Institute's documentaries about the civil rights movement on public television and to follow the progress of our programs, like the Hooks African-American Male Initiative (HAAMI), a program to increase the retention and graduation rates of African-American male students attending the UofM. I also ask that you remember the Hooks Institute in your giving. A substantial amount of the work of the Hooks Institute is made possible by donations from people like you and from people who attend our annual fundraiser. Finally, I ask that you remain hopeful about our "collective" ability and responsibility to create a more just and fair Memphis and nation. After all, it's the dreams of how things ought to be that can create, with sustained hard work by the dreamers, the reality of a more just, inclusive and diverse world.

Daphene McFerren, Executive Director, Hooks Institute

CREATING LASTING CHANGE DEMANDS ALL OF US!

The Hooks Institute seeks to uplift Memphis by addressing challenges related to education, diversity and inclusion, and economic mobility. Like you, we envision a stronger community with equal access to prosperity for all, and we are committed to working together to make a difference. Please help support our work by donating to the Hooks Institute through the QR code to the right.



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A NIGHT OF STARS AND CELEBRATION!

Join us for an evening of celebration in support of the programs and mission of the Hooks Institute at the *2018 Join Hands for Change Donor Benefit* on March 1, at the Holiday Inn on the University of Memphis campus, 3700 Central Avenue. The event will start with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by the program at 7 p.m. The evening will follow the format of late night talk shows featuring as host, award-winning radio personality Stan Bell and the house band *Bill Hurd and Ensemble*. A TV set designed for the evening will showcase our stars, and will both entertain our guests, while also highlighting the community and social justice work of the Hooks Institute.



Proceeds from the *2018 Join Hands for Change Donor Benefit* help fund Hooks Institute programs like the Hooks African-American Male Initiative, which focuses on increasing the retention and graduation rates of African-American males attending the University of Memphis.

Tickets may be purchased directly from Eventbrite through a link on the Institute's web page at memphis.edu/benhooks. Please contact the Hooks Institute at **901.678.3974** or bhievents@memphis.edu with requests for sponsorship packages or for ticket information.

IDA B. WELLS: LEARNING FROM A CIVIL RIGHTS HERO

The Hooks Institute is excited and honored to tell the story of Ida B. Wells, the fearless crusader for justice, through our upcoming documentary film currently in post-production. Our film highlights Wells' captivating growth within the unique cultural, political and social atmosphere of late 19th century Memphis, where she began to develop her strategies of resistance against white supremacy.

Today, telling Wells' story is more important than ever. In the current political and public atmosphere of our nation, remnants of the same issues that Wells faced in her time continue to permeate our world. The uplifting and inspirational story of Wells challenges us to face racism, sexism and other forces of inequality head-on. We hope our film will not only educate the world about this courageous, unrelenting and captivating champion of civil rights, but also energize, encourage and motivate ourselves and others to continue the fight for equality in our everyday lives.



DARIN JOHNSON ELECTED HOOKS INSTITUTE ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

Join us in welcoming Darin Johnson (left) as the newly elected Hooks Institute Advisory Board chair. Johnson is a senior vice president at First Tennessee Bank and has served on the Hooks Institute Advisory Board since August 2016. We look forward to Darin's leadership in helping to shape the future of the Hooks Institute.



The Hooks Institute extends our heartfelt gratitude to our departing Advisory Board chair, Logan Meeks (right). Meeks is the President at A2H - Engineers • Architects • Planners and has served as chair of the Advisory Board for four years, having been reelected for two consecutive terms. Meeks provided inspiring leadership, strategic direction, and passion, and worked tirelessly to sustain and grow the programs of the Hooks Institute.

HOOKS IN THE COMMUNITY

HAAMI: CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN

The Hooks African-American Male Initiative (HAAMI) had a strong fall 2017 semester, with 40 students actively involved in the program. A study abroad initiative was launched, in partnership with the university's Study Abroad Office. HAAMI students learned about the value of study abroad experiences during a presentation by the study abroad advisor and a HAAMI member who studied in Costa Rica. The HAAMI Study Abroad Scholarship will provide funding assistance for HAAMI students who are accepted into international education programs.



Monthly HAAMI enrichment sessions focused on academic success strategies, financial aid and scholarships, and personal finance and budgeting. At a group mentoring session, HAAMI students had the opportunity to develop business networking skills and gain insights for success from more than 20 community professionals and UofM faculty. A HAAMI graduate also participated, reflecting on his HAAMI experience and sharing tips for students to get the most from their college experience in preparation for careers.

Community engagement is an important part of HAAMI, with the goal of retaining HAAMI graduates, to be successful contributors to the Memphis area, after graduation. In October 2017, HAAMI students participated in a community awareness experience at Hattiloo Theatre where they enjoyed the play *Fetch Clay, Make Man*, a play about the friendship between Muhammad Ali and actor Stepin Fetchit. A feedback session was held after the play to discuss the value and challenges of friendships and how relationships affect successful achievement of personal goals.

Invest in the Success of African-American Males!

HAAMI is funded completely by grants and the generosity of friends of the program and the Hooks Institute. To support the HAAMI program, visit the Hooks website at memphis.edu/benhooks and click the "Make A Gift" link.

For more information about HAAMI, or to get involved, contact Rorie Trammel at rtrammel@memphis.edu or **901.678.4654**.

SPRING 2018 COMMUNITY EVENTS

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS MLK 50 EVENTS

January–April 2018. Join us for a series of events celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Ned R. McWherter Library. The Hooks Institute is a co-sponsor of these events. For a complete list of Hooks Institute sponsored MLK50 events visit libguides.memphis.edu/mlk50.

DUTY OF THE HOUR SCREENING AT ORANGE MOUND COMMUNITY CENTER

Friday, February 9, 9:30–10:30 a.m. The Hooks Institute hosted a documentary screening of *Duty of the Hour*, a documentary about civil rights activist Benjamin L. Hooks in the heart of Orange Mound, followed by a Q & A session. This event was open to the public.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT: A CULTURAL REVOLUTION AT ORANGE MOUND COMMUNITY CENTER

Tuesday, February 13, 10:30–11:30 a.m. Explore the impact of the Civil Rights Movement on the fashion, music and culture of the era through the Hooks Institute's documentary *The Civil Rights Movement: A Cultural Revolution* in the heart of Orange Mound. This event is free and open to the public.

For additional Hooks Institute events or for more information visit memphis.edu/benhooks/events.