



**THE BENJAMIN L.  
HOOKS INSTITUTE  
FOR SOCIAL CHANGE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS**

**Annual Report  
2017-18  
Academic Year**



## THE INSTITUTE

The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change implements its mission of teaching, studying and promoting civil rights and social change to further its namesake's legacy of public service and commitment to an equitable society. The Institute takes a leadership role in providing awareness, education and advocacy for social justice changes, in policy and practice, for the betterment of the Memphis area community and its citizens. The Institute strives for impact with national replicability. Institute programs include funding faculty research and publications that inform broad sectors of the community, including educators, students, civic leaders and policymakers, business leaders, community organizations and individuals.

Institute initiatives such as documentary films, conferences, symposia and lecture series further fulfill the Institute's education goal. The Hooks Institute's community engagement programs have included financial literacy classes for adults, voter registration and education, the Splash Mid-South initiative to increase minority children's ability to swim (African American and Hispanic children have the highest drowning rates in the nation) and student educational enrichment activities, including the Hooks African American Male Initiative (HAAMI).



*BENJAMIN L. HOOKS SPEAKS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS. NOV. 4, 2009.*

## TEACHING

### DOCUMENTARY FILMS

The Hooks Institute's award-winning documentaries educate, inform and entertain to advance the cause of civil rights and social justice. This year, we continued to increase the impact of our documentary films by expanding our reach both nationally and in our own community.

#### Highlights from Hooks Institute Films

- *Duty of the Hour*, a documentary on the life of civil rights activist Benjamin L. Hooks, began broadcast on KCET (Los Angeles), one of the largest independent television stations in the nation. The film was also streamed on the station's website at [kcet.org/shows/link-voices/episodes/duty-of-the-hour](http://kcet.org/shows/link-voices/episodes/duty-of-the-hour).



- In honor of MLK50, the Hooks Institute produced a short documentary film, *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., His College Years and Assassination*, featuring reflections from Memphis civil rights activist Maxine Smith about her time in college with King and his legacy.
- We took our documentary films about the American civil rights movement on the road and hosted two special film screenings for the public at the Orange Mound Community Center here in Memphis.
- 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. This year the Hooks Institute completed interviews and production, and we are moving into the post-production phase. Highlights from this year include an interview with Ida B. Wells' granddaughter Alfreda Duster Ferrell and Tennessee Rep. Raumesh Akbari. Initial edits to the film began this summer.



*TENNESSEE REP. RAUMESH AKBARI, INTERVIEWS FOR HOOKS INSTITUTE DOCUMENTARY ON IDA B. WELLS. OCT. 30, 2017.*



*A PANEL OF UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS STUDENTS AND FACULTY, AND LEGAL EXPERTS DISCUSS PEACEFUL PROTEST AND FREE SPEECH IN UNIVERSITY SETTINGS AT A CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS EVENT. OCT. 3, 2017.*

## CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

Led by the Office of the Provost and the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change, Critical Conversations is a University-wide initiative to use our collective scholarship to sustain and facilitate a democratic and civil society that values diversity, civil rights, human rights and nonviolent movements and initiatives.

This year, Critical Conversations hosted events on campus to discuss important topics related to civil rights and equality including:

- The impact of the Trump administration's ending of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and its impact on University communities
- Free speech and protests on campus
- The #MeToo movement

## MLK50 EVENTS

In remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s profound local and global impact, the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change cosponsored several events in partnership with the University of Memphis Libraries. As part of Memphis' MLK50 events, exhibits and programs alike highlighted the libraries' unique resources related to Dr. King, the sanitation worker's strike and the civil rights movement. Sponsored events included a University of Memphis student essay contest, a civil rights film series, discussions on civil rights today and in the past and an open mic night.







## STUDYING

### HOOKS NATIONAL BOOK AWARD

The Hooks Institute's National Book Award is presented to a non-fiction book, published in the calendar year, that best furthers understanding of the American civil rights movement and its legacy. In 2017, author Dr. Russell Rickford was chosen from among a field of 38 nominations to receive the Hooks Institute National Book Award. His book, *We Are an African People: Independent Education, Black Power and the Radical Imagination*, examines the emergence of a handful of Pan-African nationalist independent black schools which emerged in the 1970s as an alternative mechanism for African American uplift. Rickford was presented the award following a lecture at the University of Memphis on Oct. 19, 2017. Prior to the event, Rickford spoke with students at Melrose High School about educational movements as social justice causes.



2016 HOOKS NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER DR. RUSSELL RICKFORD SPEAKS ABOUT HIS BOOK, *WE ARE AN AFRICAN PEOPLE* ON THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS CAMPUS. OCT. 19, 2017.

### POLICY PAPERS

In its third edition, authors of the 2017 Hooks Institute Policy Papers *Bending the Arc Toward Justice: Including the Excluded* presented research and policy recommendations on:

- The Trump Administration's rollback on LGBTQ rights in "Prioritizing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Lives in the Era of Resistance and Prejudicial Rhetoric" by Idia B. Thurston, PhD.
- The impact of immigration on local economies through the lens of a small Arkansas town in "Immigrants in Small Cities: Opportunities and Challenges" by Michael R. Duke, PhD.
- The positive influence of Islam and Muslims on the fabric of the nation in "Memphis and Islam: Integrating Muslims and Islam into the Community Fabric" by Nabil A. Bayakly, PhD.
- What we can learn from welfare in Native American communities in "Welfare Dependency and Extractive Economies: Lessons Learned from Pine Ridge" by Peter A. Kindle, PhD.



AUTHORS OF THE 2017 HOOKS INSTITUTE POLICY PAPERS SPEAK AT THE HOOKS INSTITUTE OPEN HOUSE, OCT. 5, 2017.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: DAPHENE R. McFERRIN, JD (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HOOKS INSTITUTE) NABIL A. BAYAKLY, PHD (UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS, DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES), PETER A. KINDLE, PHD, CPA, LMSW (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK), IDIA B. THURSTON, PHD (UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY) AND MICHAEL R. DUKE, PHD (UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY).

The 2017 Hooks Policy Papers were released at the Hooks Institute Open House on Oct. 5, 2017. PDF's of all Hooks Institute Policy Papers are available on our website at [memphis.edu/benhooks/programs/policypapers](http://memphis.edu/benhooks/programs/policypapers).



# PROMOTING

## HAAMI

Through the Hooks African American Male Initiative (HAAMI), the Institute promotes social change through access and achievement in education. This year, HAAMI provided enrichment programming for 37 program members, enhancing their academic achievement, personal development and career readiness skills.

**"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 THIS PROGRAM AND ITS MISSION. HAAMI GIVES THE TOOLS AND EMPOWERMENT TO BE SUCCESSFUL."**

*- Matthew Bellow, HAAMI member and Vice President of the HAAMI Student Leadership Council*

### HAAMI Highlights

- HAAMI sessions covered a variety of topics, including academic success, personal finance and financial aid, dressing for success and image and identity.
- Through a partnership with SunTrust Bank and Operation Hope, HAAMI students learned about personal finance and received personalized financial/credit counseling.
- HAAMI held two group mentoring sessions this year, giving HAAMI members the opportunity to meet with community and campus leaders and gain valuable insights and advice for academic, personal and career success.
- Two HAAMI students attended the Student African American Brotherhood National Conference in Atlanta.
- HAAMI students gained community awareness experiences by attending a play at Hattiloo Theatre and a site visit to International Paper.

### HAAMI added several key elements to enhance the program

- Thanks to a generous donation from the Ingersoll Rand Foundation, a HAAMI resource center was created at the Hooks Institute offices in fall 2017, providing computers, printers, enrichment materials and a quiet space for HAAMI students to study and relax while on campus.
- In spring 2018, the HAAMI Student Leadership Council was created to enable HAAMI members to have a voice in program development, member engagement and community outreach.

**HAAMI MEMBERS AT THE 2018 HOOKS INSTITUTE JOIN HANDS FOR CHANGE BENEFIT. MARCH 1, 2018.**







*THE HOOKS INSTITUTE AND HAAMI MEMBERS ASSIST THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IN REGISTERING PEOPLE TO VOTE AT A NATURALIZATION CEREMONY ON THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS CAMPUS. APRIL 19, 2018.*

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### VOTER REGISTRATION

The Hooks Institute partnered with the Memphis League of Women Voters to register 106 new American citizens at a naturalization ceremony on the University of Memphis campus. This service was an important step in setting these new citizens up to participate in our democracy.

### SPLASH MID-SOUTH

*The Memphis Story: Teaching a Community to Swim* by Dr. Carol Irwin and Dr. Richard Irwin, with a foreword by Daphene R. McFerren, Hooks Institute executive director, was published on Amazon.com to share the story of the Splash Mid-South program. The Hooks Institute is a partner in the coalition of Mid-South organizations leading Splash Mid-South. This program is designed to reduce the drowning rates among African American and Hispanic youth, populations which traditionally have disproportionately high numbers of water fatalities. Since its inception in 2008, more than 7,000 children have completed water safety instructions, swim lessons or have become competitive swimmers.

### ADVISORY BOARD

The Hooks Institute Advisory Board, comprised of Memphis area professionals from diverse fields, provides support and insights to advance the mission of the Institute as well as opportunities for community partnerships.





## Teaching, Studying and Promoting Civil Rights and Social Change

Hooks Institute programs are made possible by the support of grants and charitable contributions. To support our mission, donate through the "Make a gift to the Hooks Institute" link on our website or contact us at [bhievents@memphis.edu](mailto:bhievents@memphis.edu).



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