



# THE BENJAMIN L. HOOKS INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

2018-19 ACADEMIC YEAR





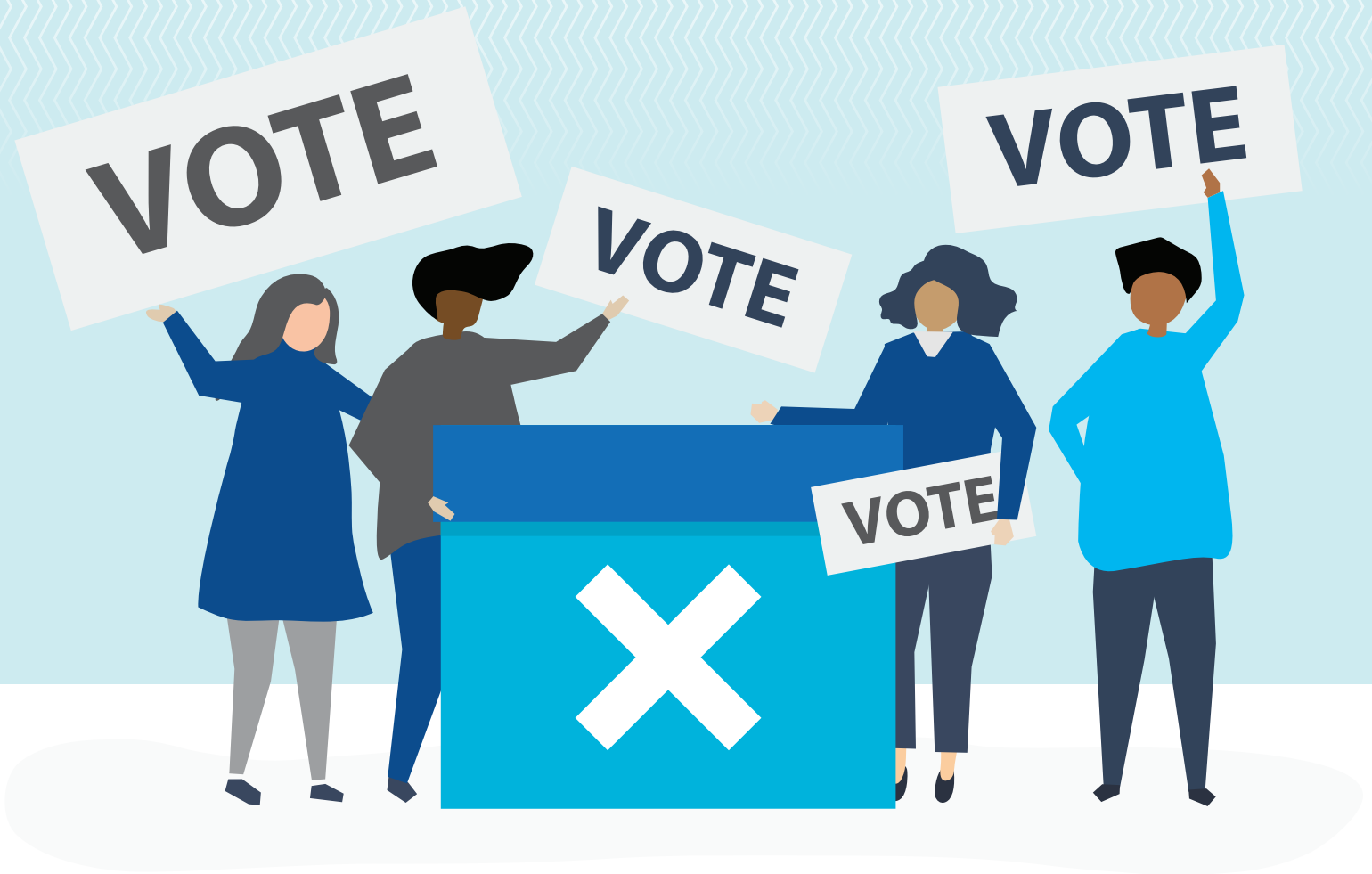
# OUR MISSION

The Hooks Institute's mission is teaching, studying and promoting civil rights and social change. For over 23 years, the Hooks Institute has addressed disparities related to education, diversity and inclusion, economic mobility and civic engagement.

The Hooks Institute implements its mission through funding faculty research and publications to shape policies and initiatives; production of documentaries for social media and public television broadcast that explore civil rights history; public exhibitions on civil rights movements in West Tennessee and the nation; lecture series on social justice issues; and direct community interventions that include the Hooks African American Male Initiative (HAAMI), a program to increase the retention and graduation rates of undergraduate African American males attending the UofM.

*Ida B. Wells (portrayed by Daneka Norfleet) and the staff of the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute lead the audience through the programs of the Hooks Institute at its 2019 Benefit. May 2, 2019.*





## TEACHING

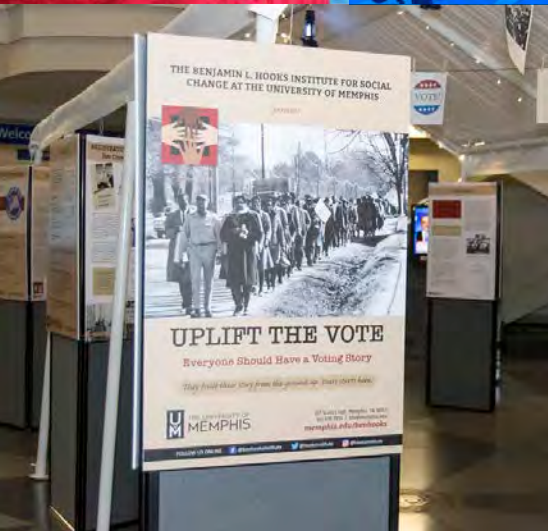
Uplift the vote. Everybody should have a voting story. This is theirs. What will be yours?

In 1969, the *New York Times* called the Fayette County, Tennessee, civil rights movement the “longest sustained civil rights protest in the nation.” This movement began in 1959 when African Americans in that county demanded the right to vote. In 2018, the Hooks Institute unveiled the nonpartisan exhibit “Uplift the Vote,” which highlights the price paid by the activists of the Fayette County civil rights movement in the mid-20th century for the right to vote. The exhibit

challenged viewers to assess the significance of voting in contemporary America while encouraging them to participate in the democratic process of voting. In 2018-19, this exhibit reached a large and diverse audience in various locations including the McWherter Library at the University of Memphis, the Fayette County Public Schools, Central Administration Building in Somerville, Tenn., and the Dunbar Carver Museum in Brownsville, Tenn.

Daphene R. McFerren, Hooks Institute executive director, leads University of Memphis students through "Uplift the Vote" exhibit. Ned McWherter Library, Oct. 28, 2018

# THE FAYETTE COUNTY COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE UPLIFT THE VOTE EXHIBIT



**"So very pleased to see that someone do (sic) care about the history of this county and its people, and the struggles."**  
Augusta Lewis Watson

**"Quite a legacy!! Amazing! What fortitude!"**  
David Smith, former Fayette County mayor, 1978-94

**"Awesome, also brought back memories of unity of the people of our community."**  
James Jamerson

**"Thank you for providing this opportunity for our scholars!"**  
East Junior High School seventh and eighth graders



Community members at the opening of the exhibit "Uplift the Vote." Ned McWherter Library, Sept. 20, 2018

# WOMEN OF THE SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE EVENT



*The wives of the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike speak at the University of Memphis. From left to right, Jimmie Leech, Florence Ueal and Helen Turner. March 21, 2019.*

The Hooks Institute was honored to host Florence Ueal, Helen Turner and Jimmie Leech, three women who partnered with their husbands, who were sanitation workers, to support the Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike of 1968, on the University campus on March 21, 2019. It was exciting to hear first-hand their stories of courage and determination in the face of discrimination.



*Emily Yellin (right) moderates the discussion with the wives of the sanitation workers. March 21, 2019*

## SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Emily Yellin, our moderator, and the executive producer of the series *1300 Men*, featured on [TheRoot.com](http://TheRoot.com).



**“My husband was a hero. He stayed and fought for what he knew was right.”**

- Florence Ueal

**“I think change has to be effected through sacrifice.”**

- Helen Turner

**“Keep the dream alive. Stand together. We can make things happen.”**

- Jimmie Leach



# STUDYING

## Economic Challenges Facing Black Men and Boys: Beyond the Data to Lived Experience

The largest research study in U.S. history on the economic mobility of men and boys of color found that they experienced downward economic mobility even if born into wealth. How can

our communities create and sustain prosperity for men and boys of color? William Emmons, (economist, Center for Household Stability, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis) addressed these findings on the

University of Memphis campus on Feb. 19, 2019, and explored this data and its implication for public policy in the future.

Emmons' opinions are not the official position of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis or the Federal Reserve System.



“There are a lot of people in our country who don't want to acknowledge the possibility that there are these structural issues which are important in determining the outcomes that we see today.”  
– William Emmons

*William Emmons speaks at a Hooks Institute event about the economic challenges facing black men and boys. Feb. 19, 2019*

# PROMOTING

## Climbing Out from Under the Rock: Restoring Civil Rights, Economics and Social Justice in Memphis and the Nation

Robots? Disparate health care outcomes? Prison pipeline? Unequal education? These issues are examined in the 2018 Hooks Institute Policy Papers *Climbing Out from Under the Rock: Restoring Civil Rights, Economics and Social Justice*. The Policy Papers focused on identifying and proposing solutions to contemporary pressing disparities in Memphis and the nation. On Nov. 15, 2018, UofM faculty panelists presented their scholarship as laid out in the fourth edition of the Hooks Policy Papers and gave policy recommendations on important civil rights topics which included 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 juvenile offenders, and the impact of race and ethnicity on end-of-life decisions.

The Commercial Appeal adapted three of the four Hooks Institute policy papers for publication on consecutive Sundays in December 2018.







Authors of the 2018 Hooks Institute Policy Papers (left to right): Ana L. Leech, Daphene R. McFerren, Demetria D. Frank, Daniel Kiel and Elena Delavega.



**“Educational opportunity and attainment are uneven, and race and geography continue to play an outsized role in determining the education students receive.”**

Daniel Kiel (University of Memphis Law School) from “The Dangers of a Fragmented Educational Landscape in Shelby County.”

**“Due to the long-standing history of negative criminal associations between blacks and criminality in the United States, black youth are particularly vulnerable to bias associations in the juvenile system.”**

Demetria D. Frank (University of Memphis Law School) from “Implicit Bias and Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Shelby County Juvenile Court System”

**“Assessing the communication curriculum at the academic health centers in Memphis would be an initial step toward improving health care along with working with the school system to improve basic health literacy skills.”**

Ana L. Leech, (University of Texas Health Science Center McGovern Medical School) from “Race and Poverty: Disparities in Healthcare at the End of Life.”

**“We are in the middle of a technological revolution where automation is already, and will increasingly, perform complex tasks now performed by humans. The definition of civil and human rights must evolve with the increasing role that automation will play in redefining, creating or eliminating jobs.”**

Daphene R. McFerren (executive director, Hooks Institute) and Elena Delavega (University of Memphis School of Social Work) from “The Robots Are Ready! Are We? Automation, Race and the Workforce”

**The Hooks Institute Policy Papers are available online at [memphis.edu/benhooks/pdfs/2018policypapers.pdf](https://memphis.edu/benhooks/pdfs/2018policypapers.pdf)**



# OUR PROGRAMS

**HAAMI** The Hooks African American Male Initiative provides academic, career readiness and personal development enrichment activities and intensive case management by assisting students with issues such as food and housing insecurity, mental health and financial challenges.

NOW, IN ITS FIFTH YEAR, HAAMI HAS HAD POSITIVE IMPACT:



- The overall fall 2018 collective GPA for HAAMI **MEMBERS INCREASED**



- The percentage of HAAMI students maintaining **ACADEMIC GOOD STANDING INCREASED** from 83% in the fall 2018 semester to 87% in the spring 2019 semester



- 20% of HAAMI students **EARNED DEAN'S LIST STATUS** in the spring 2019 semester



- **NINE ENRICHMENT SESSIONS** were held on topics regarding academic success, personal financial literacy, professional networking skills and career readiness



- HAAMI students enjoyed a **COMMUNITY AWARENESS OUTING** to Hattiloo Theatre



- All students finished the spring 2018 semester with an **INCREASE IN CUMULATIVE CREDIT HOURS**



- In general, students improved their academic standing



HAAMI students attend the Hooks annual fundraiser. May 2, 2019



HAAMI focuses on increasing the retention and graduation rates of undergraduate African American males attending the University of Memphis.



HAAMI members learn personal finance life skills at HAAMI personal finance session led by Operation Hope/SunTrust Bank. Oct. 22, 2018

# DOCUMENTARIES

The Hooks Institute is hard at work on our documentary about civil and women's rights activist Ida B. Wells. The film focuses on how the unique social, political and cultural atmosphere of Memphis in the late 19th century shaped Wells' activism and anti-lynching crusade. The documentary reached several major milestones this year that included an interview with Michelle Duster (great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells). The team is hard at work completing this exciting film.

## HOOKS NATIONAL BOOK AWARD



James Forman Jr. saw firsthand the impact of harsh sentences for nonviolent drug offenders as a public defender in Washington, D.C. His experiences led him to ask the question, "How did we get here?" This problem is studied extensively in Forman's Hooks National Book Award winner *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*. He writes that America's draconian sentences for drug crimes were created not only by whites, but also inadvertently by exasperated African American leaders whose communities were facing an unprecedented drug epidemic starting in the late 1960s. At a public lecture on the University of Memphis campus on Jan. 31, 2019, Forman reminded the audience that actions have consequences, but real change can come about through moral imperative, collective action and persistence.



James Forman, Jr. University of Memphis, Jan. 31, 2019

The Hooks Institute's National Book Award is presented to a nonfiction book, published in the calendar year, that best furthers understanding of the American Civil Rights Movement and its legacy. The Hooks Institute extends its gratitude to the 2017 Hooks National Book Award committee, which included Beverly Cross, Lillian and Morrie Moss Chair of Excellence in Urban Education at the UofM; Ernest Gibson III, assistant professor of English at Rhodes College; Aram Goudsouzian, UofM Department of History; Daniel Kiel, FedEx Professor of Law at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and associate professor of the Hooks Institute; and Terrence Tucker, associate professor/coordinator of African American Literature in the UofM Department of English.

“ We can push back against mass incarceration and replace it with a justice system that deserves the name justice in it. ”



*Hooks Institute staff assists the UofM Student Government Association's voter registration drive. Ned McWherter Library, Sept. 18, 2018*



*Daphene R. McFerren, Hooks Institute executive director, speaks at a public meeting on Civic Roles and Responsibilities in Modern America hosted by the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service. National Civil Rights Museum, Aug. 16, 2018*



*Hooks Institute executive director Daphene R. McFerren explored the impact of automation and artificial intelligence on the nation's workforce and how it provides a new lens through which to view social justice issues. TEDx, Memphis Crosstown, Feb. 2, 2019*



# OUR IMPACT

The Hooks Institute promotes its mission by ameliorating racial, economic and social disparities in Memphis and the Mid-South by using the collective scholarship of the University community. The Hooks Institute has made great strides in messaging its mission and programs to the University and community. We have become a community and national resource for the media, nonprofits and other entities on issues of race, class, gender and equity.





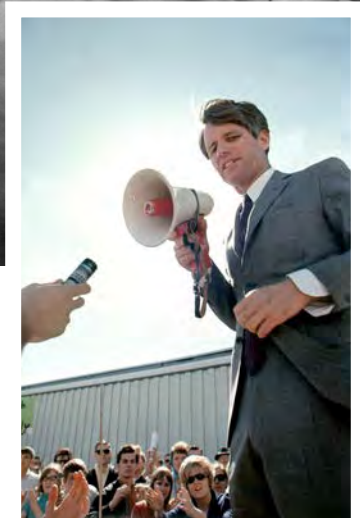
# MY BROTHER'S KEEPER COALITION

In 2018, the Hooks Institute launched the Memphis My Brother's Keeper Coalition. Led by Rorie Trammel, associate director of the Hooks Institute, and hosted and facilitated by Jan Young, executive director of the Assisi Foundation of Memphis, Inc. The goal of MBK is to increase academic, personal and professional success of men and boys of color. Approximately 40 nonprofits and government entities are invited to help facilitate opportunities for boys and men of color.





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# ART SHAY “IF I HAD A CAMERA”

In 2019, the Hooks Institute and the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM) opened up the exhibit *If I Had A Camera | Art Shay: Activism, Civil Rights & Justice* at the AMUM. From June 24 through Oct. 5, this exhibit showcased the photographs of seminal photographer, Art Shay, who chronicled social unrest of the 1960s that includes events in West Tennessee and the nation. This exhibition attracted UofM faculty, students, tourists and community members and was used by faculty in summer 2019 as a teaching aid.

**AMUM strives to work with our expert campus colleagues like the Hooks Institute to provide interdisciplinary programming, and we're excited about the new and engaged audiences we've attracted to the Art Shay exhibition.**

Leslie Luebbers, director, AMUM

# OUR PARTNERS

COLLABORATORS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19

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School of Social Work  
Department of English  
African and African American Studies  
Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law  
University of Memphis Libraries  
Student Government Association  
Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities  
Black Law Students Association  
Department of Anthropology  
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice  
Department of Theatre and Dance

## SELECTED EXTERNAL ENTITIES

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Just City, Memphis  
Leadership Fayette and Fayette County, Tenn., Public Schools  
Dunbar Carver Museum (Brownsville, Tenn.)  
Assisi Foundation of Memphis, Inc.  
Operation Hope/SunTrust Bank





# THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

First Tennessee Foundation; Regional One Health; A2H Engineers Architects Planners; BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee; Cigna; Allworld Project Management, LLC; Burke's Book Store; Brown Missionary Baptist Church; Greater Middle Baptist Church; MINACT Inc.; Nike Inc.; Pinnacle Financial Partners and the Wharton Law Firm.

## A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS THAT MADE GRANTS OR OTHER DONATIONS TO THE HOOKS INSTITUTE

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Memphis Alumnae Chapter; Gannett Foundation; FedEx Corporation; Tennessee Human Rights Commission; and SunTrust Foundation.



# Thank You

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