



volume 4 | Spring 2007

IN OUR VOICES

A COMMUNIVERSITY YOUTH PROJECT

OF THE SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER

FOR BLACK CULTURE & HISTORY

MISSION

The mission of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History is to encourage and support the critical examination of all dimensions of African American and African diaspora cultures through sustained and open discussions, dialogue and debate, and to enhance the intellectual and socio-cultural climate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and communities beyond our campus boundaries.



An African-American woman of grace and beauty, Dr. Sonja Haynes Stone was an extraordinary individual whose powerful presence reflected her deep commitment to social justice, the improvement of race relations and the dignity of all humanity. Dr. Stone's legacy lives on through the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History and in the hearts and minds of all those she touched.

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- 2** About Our Organization
- 3** Letter from the Director
- 4** Goals and Objectives
- 6** IOV Articles
- 10** Poetry Café
- 12** Music Reviews
- 13** Top 10 Music Singles
- 14** IOV Fashion and Culture
- 15** Photo Gallery
- 16** Students Biographies



Communiversity, a cornerstone program of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History, was created to honor Dr. Sonja Haynes Stone's dedication and commitment to educating young people in communities.

Communiversity's youth program is comprised of several after-school enrichment components, and is managed and run by University student volunteers, who teach and mentor participants and help them identify community resources. The program components educate, empower and expose participating community youth to various aspects of African and African American culture and history, along with other cultural traditions through alternative teaching methods.

Working in cooperation with other University departments, Communiversity also sponsors other community outreach programs that assist in building and/or rebuilding key economic and social resources.

In Our Voices: Youth Review of the Arts and Humanities is a component of Communiversity designed to expose students to various forms of African and African American cultural expression and to allow the students to document the event in their own words. The program culminates with the production of a publication that reflects the participating students' experience.

This school year 2006-2007 Communiversity teamed with Grey Culbreth Middle School to produce In Our Voices: Youth Review of the Arts and Humanities.



Communiversity's In Our Voices (IOV) program encourages young people to see obstacles as opportunities. The goal of IOV is to expose young minds to the limitless possibilities of the human experience through artistic, cultural and intellectual expression. This critical exploration encourages students to become sensitive to the vibrant life and creative forces within themselves and the world around them.

The student participants from Culbreth Middle School should be proud of their perseverance and desire to gain such a valuable experience. They are lively and intelligent individuals and I am confident they will continue to develop as inquisitive and expressive human beings.

I must thank the Site Coordinators of IOV, Guiane Baker and Stephanie Parker. They exhibited a great spirit of teamwork and faith in each other. Without their efforts, IOV would not have been possible. They should also walk away with the pride of knowing that lives were touched and goals were met.

Lotticia Mack
Communiversity Director

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

COMMUNITY YOUTH PROGRAMS



GOAL ONE

Increase culture awareness and understanding

Objectives

- Participants will gain knowledge of their culture
- Participants will gain knowledge and respect of other cultures
- Participants will express pride in their heritage
- Participants will compare and contrast similarities and differences between their culture and others.

GOAL TWO

Improve literacy and Communication skills for all participants, including English language learners in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and technology.

Objectives

- Participants will read and write more
- Participants will enjoy reading, talking about what they have read, and retelling stories.
- Participants increase their use of computers to communicate and learn new information.
- Parents of participants will understand what their children are learning in school.

GOAL THREE

Increase knowledge, participation, and skills in both the visual and performing arts

Objectives

- Participants will increase interest in and enjoyment of the arts
- Participants will improve ability for self expression in both individual and group settings.
- Participants will increase knowledge of basic art forms and the role of the arts in society.

GOAL FOUR

Increase success and achievement in school

Objectives

- Participants will complete homework assignments and turn them in regularly.
- Participants will use homework time to review class material and learning
- Participants will connect homework effort and completion to class/school success



5 GOAL FIVE

Facilitate communications among home, school, and student to support learning

Objective

- Teachers will maximize the opportunities available with Communiversity Youth Programs
- Parents will increase awareness of school work and activities

6 GOAL SIX

Improve social skills

Objectives

- Participants will improve interactions with volunteers and peers.
- Participants will form friendships with peers
- Participants will listen to others and participate in group efforts, recognizing that peer opinions differ from their own
- Participants will voluntarily invite peers of different ethnic or cultural backgrounds, different genders, or have special needs to participate in activities
- Participants will examine existing rules and contribute to group making decisions.

7 GOAL SEVEN

Increase leadership and responsibility

Objectives

- Participants will demonstrate improved willingness to take responsibility for behaviors
- Participants attitude towards self and school will improve
- Participants will exhibit improved work habits at school and home
- Participants will exhibit greater confidence in handling challenging situations in a productive manner



On April 12, 2007, Communiversity Youth Programs hosted a Cultural Show in the Stone Center Theater. The Cultural Show gave the students of Communiversity the chance to explore many of the talents of the UNC students. The following singing groups: Harmonyx, Psalm 100, the Loreleis, Visions, the Walk-Ons; dance groups: MiscONceptions, Oasis, Starheels; Greek Organization: Zeta Phi Beta; and spoken work performance group: EROT shared their talents at this event. The event allowed several components to merge together for a day of entertainment.





THE CULTURE SHOW AT THE STONE CENTER

By Justice Dell

We (IOV) attended a Culture Show that was at the Stone Center on UNC's campus. The culture show was very enjoyable because it had a lot of different dance and singing groups. The music and dances were great. The singing group, the Harmonyx, which counselors Guiane and Stephanie were in, was my favorite act. They sang the song "Real Love" by Mary J. Blige and they were awesome. They sang another song, that almost made me cry.

The only thing that I did not like about the culture show is the fact that we had to leave early to catch the van back to school. We were unable to see the last three acts, and I really wanted to see them. A couple of the performances I did not understand them, but I still enjoyed them. It was a good show. I am glad that I was able to attend.

CULTURE SHOW AT THE STONE CENTER

By Giordan Rose

In April, IOV went to the Stone Center to see a Culture Show that involved different types of acts. There was a variety of dance and music groups. My favorite performance was the spoken word poetry performance. My former counselor Donovan performed a poem that really made me think. It was a deep poem. I also enjoyed all of the singing groups that performed a capella. I was amazed at how good the groups sang as they harmonized together. I wish we would have been able to see the remaining acts, but I did enjoy the ones that I did have the opportunity to see.



TRIP TO THE ACKLAND ART MUSEUM

By Will Buckley

During Communiversity's trip to the Ackland Museum, I saw a sculpture that I really liked. I liked it because it looked as if people were in a heated battle. I also saw the Mbuya Fuma mask. My life relates to this mask because some of my ancestors could have worn this mask. If slavery didn't end I could have worn the Mbuya Fuma mask. People mostly wore the mask in dance ceremonies. This mask looks like a black man with a beard and a lot of hair. The mask is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It has long thin eyes, and a long thin nose.





ALVIN AILEY WORKSHOP

By Aliyah Turrentine

The Alvin Ailey dancers conducted a dance workshop with the students of Culbreth Middle School. We had the opportunity to dance with some great dancers. We had to create a great warm-up, and for the most part we learned new dances, and danced with different partners. The name of the dance that the Alvin Ailey dancers taught us was called “Revelations.”

Besides learning the dances that were taught to us, we had lessons that focused on Alvin Ailey’s life. We had to summarize his biography and discuss how we felt about his accomplishments. For those who do not know, Alvin Ailey was a famous African American choreographer. He created wonderful dances that are still being taught today. After we had our lessons, which included homework, learned and performed the dance “Revelations,” we had to write a poem defining what the word “dance” meant to us.

ALVIN AILEY WORKSHOP

By Ahsatan Snipes

When I first arrived in the gym for the Alvin Ailey workshop I did not know what to expect. I was amazed because I had never seen or been to anything like the workshop before. When we first started we did a hip hop dance warm-up, so I thought we were going to mainly do hip hop dance with a small mix of Alvin Ailey dances. I was wrong. We learned a routine that was choreographed by Alvin Ailey, so the dances were new to me. They were not like the dances that I was use to doing. Overall, it was fun, and I had a great time learning a new dancing and meeting the Alvin Ailey dancers.



Pain or Hurt

Is it pain or hurt that I feel
 Everyday I wake up and hear my
 Sister crying to see my mom

Is it pain or hurt that I feel
 When I hear my mom's
 Voice but don't get to see her

Everyday I feel pain or hurt
 Because my whole life I have
 Been left, hit, and hurt without
 Anyone to be there for me

Is it pain or hurt that I
 Feel when I have to live with that
 And the thing that make me feel
 Both pain and hurt is that everyday
 I think of what it is like to
 Have someone say sorry
 For the things they have done
 To hurt me in my life

– Nia Johnson

I wish I was Chubby

I wish I was chubby
 I would put my snack in my cubby
 Ruffles and Cheeteos
 I wish my feet did not smell like Fritos
 Soon my stomach will be flubby

– Justice Holloway

Braids

I like to braid hair
 That's all I need to do
 Get a comb, get some grease
 And don't forget my music
 That is how I braid my hair

– Justice Holloway

Athlete is a true part of my soul.

Responsible individual that cares about her property.

Intelligent lady with an exotic mind.

Attitude supports my confidence.

North Carolina is where my life is at.

Nosy is what I am.

Angel is what I am.

JESUS is my number one man and no one comes
 before my savior.

A unique individual with my own personality and style.

Courage is a true part of me.

Other people try to tear my spirit apart but it never works.

Balla 4 life; a passion that is true to my heart.

Social skills are a natural gift.

– Arianna Jacobs

Awesome

Happy

Straight "A" Student

A Great friend to have

Too Diva for you

A great athlete

Nice

– Ahsatan Snipes

Young Love

Young love is a deep passion between two people that is irresistible. It is a connection, bond that is deeply desired for that lover's soul mate. An honest, loyal, admiring crave as if no one can relate. This person doesn't make you happier than to see his face, His gleaming eyes, brown sugar skin tone and to match with his spotlight teeth. Oh but don't forget about his brood muscular shoulders. My love for him is so real!!! But I don't know how to make him understand how I feel. First we were lover's best friends, ballaz, he was my homeboy and I was his homegirl. Until it hit me without warning and I couldn't stop my feelings for him. I know he loves me because we hardly talk like friends now. To me just a small flirt here and there. Young love is so hard to explain, but how can two people feel the same? Is this all a game? My shadows of fear are telling me to let go. But my heart is saying that our love for each other is strong and intimate. Young love is a powerful phrase that I can relate too. But my now I know that all of this it must be, it is true.

– Arianna Jacobs

J.U.S.T.I.C.E

Just a DIVA

Uses her brain

Super and very silly

Talks a lot

Is very smart

Can hear well

Eats a lot

– Justice Holloway

SISTERS

INCREDIBLE

BROTHERS

LOVING

Inquisitive

Next of Kin

Ghetto superstars

Smiling faces

– Douglas Parrish

IF I COULD CHANGE ANYTHING IN THE WORLD...

“ I would want to change the way that people treat homeless people. They are people just like us, just with out money. ”

– Nia Johnson

“ I would change the violence in the world because I'm getting sick of all the killings and families losing their relatives. I watch the news on television, and it depresses me tremendously because it shows me that people, even though they are good at heart, have the potential of doing really horrible acts towards others. ”

– Ahsatan Snipes

“ I would change my brother going to jail last month. I wasn't happy about him going to jail because he is my brother. ”

– Douglas Parrish



MUSIC OBSERVATIONS

Song title: Sweet Escape

Artist: Gwen Stefani

Genre: Pop

First thoughts: According to the title it seems as though she wants to escape and start over. She's a baby girl and wants to be sweet.

Song title: Ready for Love

Artist: India Arie

Genre: R&B

First thought: She's ready for love. Her heart has been broken so many times. After a while she takes a pause, and finally it's time to feel love. She thinks she's the cause.

Song title: bless the lord

Artist: Byron Cage

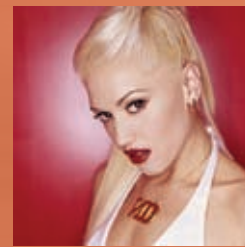
Genre: gospel

First thought: You should bless the Lord for all the things he's done. Pray for others and problems. Lord has been there through hard times

– Aliyah Turrentine

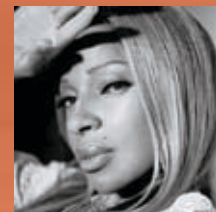
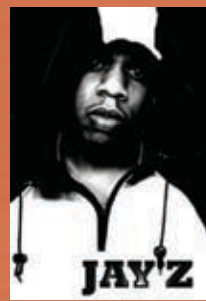
Gospel is one of my favorite genres of music because it offers me encouragement and inspiration in a struggling society. Byron Cage's *I Will Bless the Lord* is a beautiful song that leaves me feeling blessed every time I listen to it. It symbolizes my personal relationship with God, and it shows me that God will bless me with everything I need.

– Ahsatan Snipes



IN OUR VOICES
TOP 10 MUSIC SINGLES OF 2006-2007

- 1** Get It Shawty Lloyd
- 2** Promise Ciara
- 3** Stuntin Like My Daddy Lil Wayne
- 4** The Sweet Escape Gwen Stefani featuring Akon
- 5** Outta My System Bow Wow
- 6** This is Why I'm Hot Mims
- 7** Walk It Out DJ Unk
- 8** Irreplacable Beyonce
- 9** Run Away Love Ludacris featuring Mary J. Blige
- 10** Show Me What You Got Jay Z





We have realized that entertainers and the media influence the fashion that is worn by people. People look to musicians, artists, athletes, actors, dancers, etc to learn and copy the latest fashion trends. Fashion is an art form within itself because it allows an individual to express themselves through the clothes that they wear. Ironically we have discovered that many of the fashions that we wear are the fashions that our teachers, parents, and even principal might have worn when they were teenagers. We were told that many of our styles came from the fashion of the 80's.

We have put together a list of the favorite styles of the school years.

- Mini- Skirts with leggings
- T-shirt dresses
- Double belts
- White tees
- Stunna sunglasses
- Capris
- Wide belts
- Big earrings
- Mini Jackets
- Baggy Jeans
- Shoes: Adidas, Jordans, Airforce Ones, Jesus Sandals, Crocs, Vans
- Clothing brands: RoccaWear, Baby Phat, Aeropastle, Abercrombie, Apple Bottoms

We express ourselves through the clothes we wear.
What do your clothes say about you?

PHOTO GALLERY



Justice Holloway

Hi my name is Justice Arielle Holloway, and I'm a Culbreth Middle School student. I was born in Chapel Hill, NC in 1994. I have a five-year-old little brother, and his name is Demonntre. My favorite subjects are Math and Science. My favorite colors are pink and red. My hobbies are acting, dancing, singing, and shopping. I love to do all of this in my free time. I joined Communiversity to have fun learning new things and to be able to go on field trips. I plan to go to UNC when I grow up. Also, I want to be an actress. I just love to act and make people laugh.

Arianna Jacobs

Wat up!!! This is your girl Arianna Jacobs, but I like to be recognized as Ari. I now attend Culbreth Middle School and I am on the A-B honor role. I play many sports which are basketball, track, and dance. If you already knew me, you would say that I am a unique individual and that I have my own style. My personality is very positive and wild, and with that, I have gained a lot of friends. To follow up with this, five words to describe me are athlete, unique, social, Christian, and intelligent. Enough said!!

Brian James

My name is Brian Keith James, and on November 3, 1994, I was born in Charlotte, North Carolina. I have two brothers, and one sister. Some of my favorite hobbies are basketball and football. I love music! I listen mostly to hip-hop. I love to get involved with group activities, and that is one of the reasons why I got involved with Communiversity. I've thought a lot about my purpose, and I think that God put me on this Earth so that I can help someone.

Douglas Parrish

I was born on January 3, 1995 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina at UNC Hospital. In my spare time, I enjoy playing football and basketball. I hope to go to the University of Miami for college. And after college, I hope to go to the NFL. If I don't go to the NFL, I hope to become a lawyer. My family is really important to me, and I enjoy spending time with my siblings.

Giordan Rose

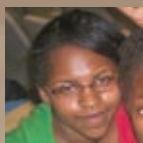
Hi, my name is Giordan, and I am 12 years old. I live in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. I was born in 1995 in Colombia, Tennessee. I was raised in Memphis Tennessee for 3 years, and then, my family moved to North Carolina. One of my goals in life is to start my own business. In my free time, I enjoy collecting comic books.

Ahsatan Snipes

Hi, my name is Ahsatan. I am 12 years old. I was born in North Carolina in 1995. One of my favorite things to do is sing. I also like to dance, and I

make up new dances and steps. When I grow up, I would like to be a teacher or a doctor.

I have the ability to become a great doctor or teacher because I work hard and I have a lot of confidence. All of my life, I've wanted to work with children. My role model is my mother because she has always been there for me. I joined Communiversity because I want to get to know other people.

Aliyah Turrentine

My name is Aliyah Monet Turrentine. I was born January 9, 1995 at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. I have a sixteen

year old sister whose name is Samaria Leigh Farrar. Even though we do not have the same last name, we are still blood sisters. My mother, Lara Marrie Farrar and Sammie Leigh Turrentine created us. I am standing at 5'3" and a half with my head up high because I not only have a great sister, but my parents are wonderful blessings. When I grow up, I would like to be a Pediatrician because family is so important to me. If my career goals change, then I would also like to be a chef, poet, singer, and a graphic designer all in one. On another note, my favorite music is R&B, Rap, Hip Hop, Pop and Rock.

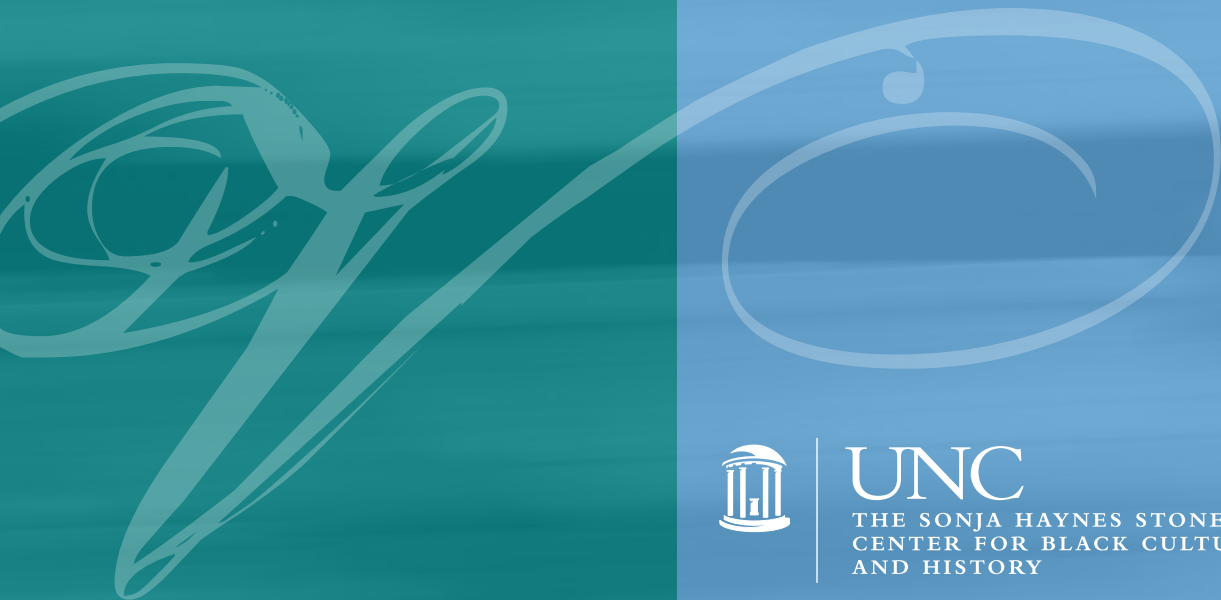
We hope you enjoyed and gained from the written expressions of the Communiversity Youth Programs (IOV) students from Grey Culbreth Middle School located in Chapel Hill. They have worked diligently to share their new experiences with you.

We would like to thank Strowd Roses, Inc for their support in providing resources for the printing and production of this publication.

Thank you for the following venues for allowing access to the IOV program: Ackland Museum, Memorial Hall, Wilson Library, Alvin Ailey Dance Ensemble, and the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History.

Special thanks got to Culbreth Middle School's Communiversity liaison William Hennessee, all the parents of the students for providing support and transportation to various events, Jumoke Blaize for organizing the Dance Brazil and Carolina Chocolate Drops performances/workshops, Olympia Friday for her guidance and assistance, and to everyone who played a role in the production of "In Our Voices: The Youth Review of the Arts and Humanities.

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