

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

THE BENJAMIN L. HOOKS INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE



FY 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT





UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

**THE BENJAMIN L. HOOKS
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**

MISSION

The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute's mission is teaching, studying and promoting civil rights and social change. For over 25 years, the Hooks Institute has addressed disparities related to education, diversity and inclusion, economic mobility and civic engagement.

The Hooks Institute's goal is to promote its mission by ameliorating racial, economic and social disparities in Memphis and the Mid-South by using the collective scholarship and resources of the university community.



DOUBLING DOWN ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS WORK

During this trying year, the Hooks Institute doubled down on its social justice and civil rights work by successfully continuing its community engagement and public outreach efforts. During winter and spring 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic shook the world, closing nations for business and pleasure. In the United States, COVID-19 left in its wake millions of lives lost and impacted by illness and disability, with a disproportionate number of those being African Americans, Native Americans and Hispanics.



In horror, the whole world stopped as we watched Minneapolis police officers murder George Floyd on May 25, 2020. Floyd's death and COVID-19 have this in common: they highlighted that this nation faces ongoing racial, civil rights and social justice disparities and, in the case of COVID-19, severe health disparities. Forced into a virtual world by COVID-19, the Hooks Institute led several public forums for community discussion about the ongoing urgency for social justice and civil rights activism to create equity for African Americans and others.

The Hooks Institute has the privilege and formidable responsibility to engage with the university, greater Memphis and national communities to

examine, research and teach the relationship between disparities that exist today and unresolved inequalities that originate from the nation's past. The Hooks Institute's public forum provides an opportunity for diverse people to civilly discuss complex issues facing Memphis and the country while advancing the Institute's goal of creating a greater understanding and empathy among various groups. We hope these conversations are a catalyst for positive change that will empower individuals and communities.

At the Hooks Institute, our goal is to ensure that African Americans and others reach their full potential without having their trajectory cut short by race, class,

health or other disparities. Rarely does social change come easily. As the civil rights movement demonstrated when profound changes take place throughout American life, not only do marginalized people benefit, but our nation and our world equally benefit by the expansion of civil rights and social justice to others.

The Hooks Institute thanks our donors and friends for supporting our work. We hope that this support not only continues but increases in years to come. Much work remains in the quest for human equality.

Sincerely,

Daphene R. McFerren
Executive Director



FY 20-21 HOOKS INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP TEAM

- **Daphene R. McFerren, JD**
Executive Director
- **Rorie Trammel, MS**
Associate Director, HAAMI Director
- **Daniel Kiel, JD**
Associate Director
- **Nathaniel C. Ball, MA**
Assistant Director, Media Initiatives and Programs Support
- **Meghan Cullen**
Administrative Coordinator
- **Rodques Jones, MSW**
HAAMI Project Coordinator
- **Andre E. Johnson, PhD**
Scholar in Residence
- **M. Elena Delavega, PhD**
Programs Research Advisor
- **Kirstin Cheers**
Graduate Assistant
- **Tarrin McGhee**
Graduate Assistant
- **Amy Ruggaber**
Graduate Assistant
- **Lamarcus Minnis**
Student Worker

“The Institute’s mission - teaching, researching and promoting civil rights and social change - continues to be essential for the betterment of our communities in Memphis and across the nation, and I am proud to lead their Advisory Committee.

The academic study of civil rights and social change is critical in providing examples of precedent and

ongoing research to activists, lawmakers and the public as we work together towards fulfilling our nation’s promise of equality and freedom for all.”

Thomas Flippin

Hooks Institute Advisory Board Chair,
2020-2021

HOOKS INSTITUTE BOARD

Created in May 2008, the Hooks Institute's Advisory Board assists the Hooks Institute in the strategic development and implementation of its mission and programs. The Board is composed of people dedicated to the uplift of communities in Memphis and the nation. Members have included community activists, attorneys, corporate and public relations officials, engineers and the clergy.

BOARD OFFICERS

- Thomas Flippin, Chair
- Detlef Heck, Secretary
- Gretchen Stroud

BOARD MEMBERS

- Yolanda Baptist-Green
- James S. Crone, Jr.
- Alan Ferguson
- Kenya Hooks
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- Andrew Meyers
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- Darin Johnson

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- Logan Meeks

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- Patricia Hooks Gray
- Johnnie R. Turner

TEACHING

The Benjamin L Hooks Institute and the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy welcome you to

Land Installment Contracts Training



School of Urban Affairs
and Public Policy



Neighborhood
Preservation, Inc.



HOOKS TRAINING ON ISSUES OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND SOCIAL CHANGE

On Oct. 16 and 26, the Hooks Institute and the UofM's School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy led training for the City of Memphis Code Enforcement on land installment contracts, or rent-to-own agreements, in Memphis. These agreements can have insidious consequences for poor and minority renters.

On July 30-31, the Hooks Institute also led a training for the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service titled "Looking Back, Looking Forward." This training focused on the social justice and civil rights issues today, poverty, workforce automation, transportation and other disparities in Memphis.





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INTERVIEW FEATURE

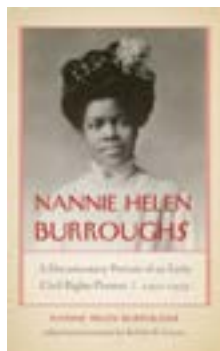
“The Fight to Vote: Black Voter Suppression in Tennessee” Documentary Feb. 22

Daphene R. McFerren, executive director, Hooks Institute, spoke about the history of voter suppression in Fayette County, Tennessee, and efforts to suppress voting nationally in the documentary “The Fight to Vote: Black Voter Suppression in Tennessee,” produced by Nashville Public Television (NPT). This documentary featured a host of activists and historians.

NO FUTURE IN THIS COUNTRY

By Andre E. Johnson | Feb. 24

Hooks Scholar in Residence Andre E. Johnson lectured on his book *No Future in This Country: The Prophetic Pessimism of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner* (University Press of Mississippi, 2020). This book draws from Bishop Turner’s speeches, editorial and letters to tell the story of how Turner provided rhetorical leadership during the period when America defaulted on many of the rights and privileges gained for African Americans during Reconstruction.



Kelisha B. Graves author of

NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS: A DOCUMENTARY PORTRAIT OF AN EARLY CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER 1900-1959

March 9

Kelisha B. Graves lectured on her book *Nannie Helen Burroughs: A Documentary Portrait of an Early Civil Rights Pioneer* on Facebook Live. Nannie Helen Burroughs (1879–1961) was a celebrated African American (or, in her era, a “race woman”) female activist, educator, and intellectual. Institute Scholar in Residence Andre E. Johnson moderated the lecture.



FACING DOWN STORMS: IDA B. WELLS DOCUMENTARY

The Hooks Institute is a prolific producer of documentary films. Our current documentary in production is a full-length film on the life and legacy of Ida B. Wells, her time in Memphis and her anti-lynching crusade titled *Facing Down Storms: Memphis and the Making of Ida*

B. Wells. Five years in the making, the Hooks Institute is excited to hold a premiere for the film on April 19, 2022. The 2021 University of Memphis Research and Innovation magazine featured the production team's work on the film.

IDA B. WELLS: “A CHICAGO STORIES SPECIAL”

May 21

Along with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones, creator of the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting and the landmark 1619 Project, Daphne R. McFerren, executive director of the Hooks Institute, explored the activism of Ida B. Wells in the WTTW Chicago Television - “Ida B. Wells: A Chicago Stories Special.” The documentary, which also features historians and descendants of Ida B. Wells, premiered on WTTW Chicago on May 21 and was shown on WKNO Memphis, the week of July 16, in honor of the Ida B. Wells monument unveiling and dedication in downtown Memphis.



CRITICAL RACE THEORY PANEL DISCUSSION

June 22

Critical Race Theory (CRT) provides a systemic analysis of institutions, laws, customs, policies and practices to examine how racial and other disparities can become entrenched thereby negatively impacting the lives of marginalized groups. However, CRT has recently come under attack as opponents of the theory and its teaching charge that it divides Americans and promotes a distorted view of American history through a racial and ideological lens. In response to these attacks on CRT, panelists Kami Anderson (Bilingual Brown Babies), Wallis C. Baxter III (Gettysburg College), Latrice Donaldson (University of Wisconsin-Stout) and Daniel Kiel (UofM Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law) addressed those concerns. Panelists helped unpack what CRT is and why it has been and continues to be an essential tool in confronting our racist past and present.

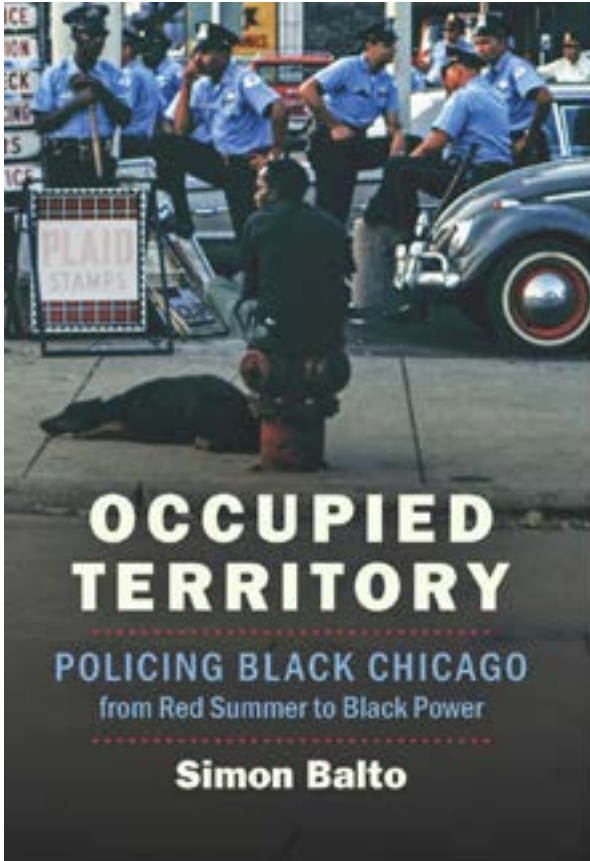
“If we restrict conversations about racism, white privilege and unconscious bias, what tools are we giving black children, especially, to make their own decisions.” - Kami Anderson

“As we look at this idea of Critical Race Theory, what it means and how it affects us today, it’s so important because our people have to be to understand how they are viewed and perceived from those who are looking at them.” - Wallis C. Baxter III

STUDYING

HOOKS NATIONAL BOOK AWARD PRESENTATION

Simon Balto, author of *Occupied Territory: Policing Black Chicago from Red Summer to Black Power* | Oct. 20



Each year, the Hooks Institute awards its National Book Award to a nonfiction book published in the calendar year that best furthers understanding of the American civil rights movement and its legacy. In 2019, Hooks received 30 nominations from prestigious universities and trade presses from around the country.

A panel of judges representing various disciplines and academic institutions in Memphis selects the winner. Simon Balto won the 2019 Hooks National Book Award for “*Occupied Territory: Policing Black Chicago from Red Summer to Black Power*.” This book speaks directly to the current national crisis on race and policing. His lecture took place on Facebook Live on October 20, 2019.



THE HOOKS INSTITUTE EXTENDS ITS GRATITUDE TO THE 2019 HOOKS NATIONAL BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- **Aram Goudsouzian**, Bizot Family Professor of History at the University of Memphis (UofM) Book Award Committee Chair
- **Beverly Cross**, Lillian and Morrie Moss Chair of Excellence in Urban Education at the UofM
- **Charles McKinney**, Associate Professor of History at Rhodes College
- **Ladrica Menson-Furr**, UofM Associate Professor of English, Director of African and African American Studies and Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
- **Sharon Stanley**, UofM Professor of Political Science
- **Terrence Tucker**, UofM Chair and Associate Professor of English Coordinator of African American Literature

THE HOOKS INSTITUTE EXTENDS ITS GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS ENTITIES AND SPONSORS OF THIS EVENT:

African and African American
Studies Program

Department of History

Department of Criminology
and Criminal Justice

Marcus Orr Center for the
Humanities

REIMAGINING POLICING PANEL DISCUSSION

Nov. 10

In response to local and national protests and demands for systemic changes in policing, panelists discussed policing policies, practices and reforms. Panelists included Lynda Williams, president, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), Alexandria, Va.; Shahidah Jones, community activist, Black

Lives Matter, Memphis Chapter; Myesha Braden, director of special justice initiatives, Alliance for Justice, Washington, D.C.; and Richard McKinney, II, sergeant, Shelby County Sheriff's Department. Marc Perrusquia, an award-winning journalist and director of the Institute for Public Service Reporting, moderated the discussion.



Photo: Reimagining Policing Panelists (left to right: Williams, Jones, Braden, McKinney and Perrusquia).

“

The power of the police comes from the people, so until the people learn to engage the levers of power and exercise the control that they have, you will have situations where people in most need of service are finding themselves most oppressed by police.” - Myesha Braden



HOOKS ACADEMIC RESEARCH FELLOWS

The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change created the Hooks Academic Research Fellows to increase the Hooks Institute's research capabilities and interconnectedness with faculty working in civil rights across the nation. Serving for two years, Fellows assist the Hooks Institute in fulfilling its mission of teaching, studying and promoting civil rights and social change and in becoming a premier center for scholars working on race and social justice scholarships. The Academic Research Fellows consist of faculty from diverse disciplines and universities around the country.

HOOKS ACADEMIC RESEARCH FELLOWS

- **Kami Anderson**, Interculturalist, Scholar and Language Advocate
- **Angela Antipova**, Associate Professor of Geography, University of Memphis
- **Wallis C. Baxter III**, Senior Pastor, Second Baptist Church, District Heights, Md.
- **Sandra Cooley-Nichols**, Professor Chair, Instruction Curriculum Leadership, University of Memphis
- **Le'Trice Donaldson**, Assistant Professor, History in the Applied Social Science Department, University of Wisconsin-Stout
- **Earle J. Fisher**, Senior Pastor, Abyssinian Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
- **Elizabeth M. Gillespie**, Assistant Professor, Department of Public and Nonprofit Administration, University of Memphis
- **Cerise L. Glenn**, Associate Professor, Communication Studies, UNC Greensboro
- **Edith Gnanadass**, Assistant Professor, Higher and Adult Education, University of Memphis
- **Rita Green**, Instructor, Crews School of Accounting, University of Memphis
- **Christopher A. House**, Associate Professor, Communication Studies, University of Pittsburgh

- **Kimberly P. Johnson**, Associate Professor, Communications and Affiliate Faculty Member, Women's Studies, Tennessee State University
- **Liz Lane**, Assistant Professor, English in Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication Concentration, University of Memphis
- **SunAh M. Laybourn**, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Memphis
- **Michael Brandon McCormack**, Associate Professor, Pan-African Studies and Comparative Humanities (Religious Studies), University of Louisville
- **Annette Madlock**, Adjunct, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and Marquette University
- **AnneMarie Mingo**, Assistant Professor, African American Studies and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Penn State University
- **Courtnee Melton-Fant**, Assistant Professor, Division of Health Systems Management and Policy, University of Memphis
- **Shameka Hamlin-Palmer**, Clinical Assistant Professor, College of Health Sciences, University of Memphis
- **Paige Pirkey**, Researcher
- **Sonya Ramsey**, Director, Graduate Certificate Program in Women's and Gender Studies, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- **Melodie J. Rodgers**, Ph.D. Student, Department of English and Literary Studies, Georgia State University
- **Don Rodrigues**, Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Memphis
- **Kathy Lou Shultz**, Charles Freeburg University Professor and Director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program, University of Memphis
- **Jennifer Turchi**, Visiting Assistant Professor, Social and Behavioral Division, University of Memphis
- **Kiesha Warren-Gordon**, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice/Criminology and the Director, African American Studies Program, Ball State University
- **Courtney N. Wright**, Associate Professor, Communication Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

“

The backgrounds and disciplines of the Academic Research Fellows represent the diversity that strengthens the Hooks Institute and the University of Memphis. They can help make our university a stronger community where all excel.”

- Daphene R. McFerren, Hooks Institute Executive Director

“

I am pleased with the diversity of our Fellows across disciplines and departments. I look forward to working with our Fellows and helping the Hooks Institute continue as a premier center for scholars working on race and social justice scholarship.”

- Andre Johnson,
Hooks Institute Scholar In Residence

PROMOTING

VOTER RIGHTS, APATHY AND SUPPRESSION: A CONVERSATION WITH THE EXPERTS

Sept. 22

The Hooks Institute Policy Papers are published annually about current civil rights, social justice and equity issues and provide detailed analyses of contemporary social justice issues and proposed policy changes. The authors write the policy papers to reach general audiences from grassroots to government. Find digital versions of the Policy Papers at memphis.edu/benhooks/policypapers.

On September 22, 2020, the Hooks Institute held a Facebook Live event on its 2020 Policy Papers, “Let Every Voice Be Heard: Protecting and Promoting the Right to Vote and American Democracy.” Panelists (each of whom published an article in the 2020 edition) included Shanna Singh Hughey and Dawn Schluckebier (ThinkTennessee, Nashville), Mitchell Brown (Southern Coalition for Justice, Durham, N.C.) and Earle Fisher and Sijuwola Crawford (#UpTheVote901). Daniel Kiel, Hooks Institute associate director and FedEx Professor of Law, UofM.



Panelists and topics included:

“Voting With Conviction: Voting Rights and Voting Restoration in Tennessee,” by Hughey and Schluckebier explores the history of efforts to secure voting rights and confront voter suppression before delving deeper into the most significant example of formal voter disenfranchisement – the potentially permanent removal of voting rights after conviction for a felony.

“More than 420,000 voting age Tennesseans – one in twelve adults – are barred from voting. These already-high numbers show a distinct racial disparity: One in five Black adults in Tennessee cannot vote today because of a past felony conviction. Policymakers and advocates from across the ideological spectrum see an improved reentry process as a way to reduce high recidivism rates and save taxpayer dollars.” - Voting With Conviction: Voting Rights and Voting Restoration in Tennessee

“The Criminalization of the Ballot Box: Navigating the Rise of Voter Prosecution, Charting a Path of Resistance,” by Mitchell Brown describes the use of voter prosecution to punish individuals who have “wrongfully voted.” This practice can

intimidate entire communities from exercising their collective power through voting.

“The right to vote is an equalizing force in our society. . . However, laws disenfranchising people with felony records and laws criminalizing a person’s vote without any showing of intent to defraud act to silence and intimidate many members of our communities.” - “The Criminalization of the Ballot Box: Navigating the Rise of Voter Prosecution, Charting a Path of Resistance.”

#UpTheVote901 and the Fight for Democracy in Memphis/Shelby County,” by Dr. Earle Fisher and Sijuwola Crawford, outlines the challenges of increasing voter engagement to overcome a hidden form of voter suppression – voter apathy.

“Voter suppression can result when voters are not informed and engaged or do not believe in their power. Through issue-based organizing that engages the citizenry more broadly, disenfranchised voters can reclaim that power.” – “#UpTheVote901 and the Fight for Democracy in Memphis/Shelby County.”



Photo: Gwendolyn D. Clemons and David D. Clemons speak at the Hooks Institute event.

A COMPLETE EMBRACE: THE LGBTQIA+ BLACK COMMUNITY AND THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

Oct. 1

This event addressed challenges faced by the LGBTQIA community and law, policies and practices that impact their life experiences. Panelists were Gwendolyn D. Clemons and Davin D. Clemons, co-founders of Relationship Unleashed.

“It’s past time that our community stop justifying the violence that they commit against LGBTQ people.”
- Gwendolyn D. Clemons

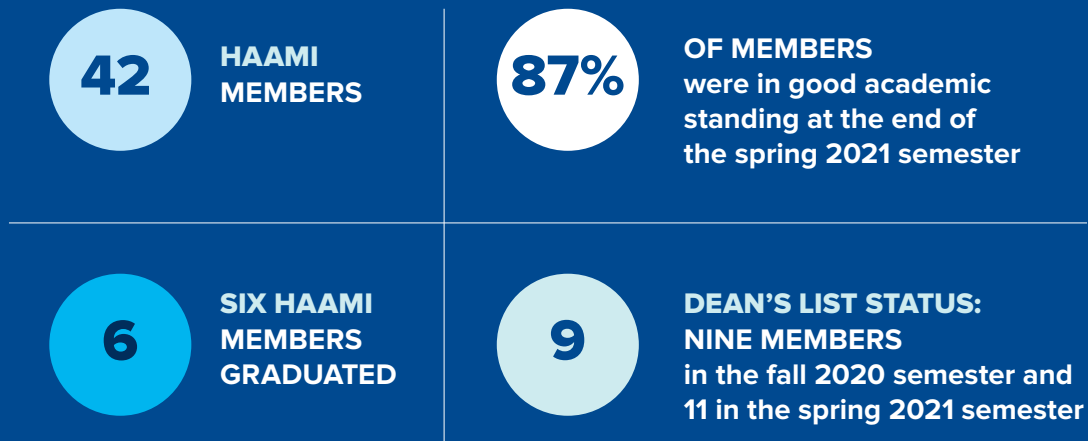
“Silence is violence. You have to speak up at all times about all injustices. You can’t only speak up about things that matter to you. Every Black and Brown life matters.” - Davin D. Clemons

HAAMI

The Hooks African American Male Initiative (HAAMI) was established in 2015 to enrich the collegiate experience and improve graduation outcomes for African American undergraduate male students at the University of Memphis. The program's pillars are academic achievement, personal development and career readiness.

HAAMI sessions this year were in-person and virtual and included topics such as personal finance, budgeting and credit (courtesy of Truist Financial Corporation and Operation Hope); perceptions of manhood; classroom-to-career; and job search skills. Members also received personal coaching to help with academic goals, overall development and wellness and career exploration and preparation.

The Hooks Institute is proud of HAAMI member successes in a year with unexpected disruption and transition to all-virtual learning:



Through the MomentUM platform,

the University of Memphis's crowdfunding service, the Hooks Institute exceeded its goal of raising \$3,000!

\$4,605
IN DONATIONS RECEIVED
TO SUPPORT HAAMI

\$5,000
CUMMINS, INC. GENEROUS
MATCHING GRANT



HAAMI QUOTES

“HAAMI has put me in a great position in college. It feels good to have a team of people behind you that genuinely want you to succeed.”
Zachary (HAAMI 2021 graduate)

“HAAMI has meant a lot to me because I gained great connections and essential upgrades to my skill sets.”
Cordell (Junior, Civil Engineering)



“ Staying connected with HAAMI presents camaraderie, which promotes growth and learning on many levels.”
Denzel (Junior, Art)

“ HAAMI has been a great source for my walk through college. They provide me with all the tools and resources I need to be successful. Being engaged in HAAMI has made my college experience smoother. I am glad I am a part of such a caring program and I invited one of my friends to join the spring 2021 semester!”
Theo (Junior, Mechanical Engineering)

OUR IMPACT

VIOLA HARRIS MCFERREN AND FAYETTE COUNTY CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT FEATURED IN TENNESSEE STATE MUSEUM'S SUFFRAGE EXHIBIT: RATIFIED! TENNESSEE WOMEN AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

Open to the Public, July 31, 2020 to September 26, 2021

To honor her legacy and commitment to the right to vote, Viola Harris McFerren, a Fayette County civil rights movement leader, was featured in this exhibit hosted by the Tennessee State Museum. Working with UofM Special Collections, the Hooks Institute worked with the museum to find photographs and other historical material for the exhibit, which was open to the public at the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville.



Viola McFerren's featured in the Tennessee State Museum's "Ratified" exhibit.



VIOLA HARRIS McFERREN

First Henry Wallace and later husband John L. Lewis led her to become a civil rights activist. She was a leader in the NAACP and the National Urban League. She was also a member of the National Association of Women's Clubs and the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. She was a member of the National Council of Jewish Women and the National Council of the American-Soviet Friendship. She was a member of the National Council of the American-Soviet Friendship. She was a member of the National Council of the American-Soviet Friendship.



What would you do if the voting rights amendment passed, and you still couldn't vote?

VIOLA McFERREN

SOCIAL CHANGE RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS



Sohye Lee, Ph.D., R.N.

Sohye Lee, Ph.D., R.N. (UofM Loewenberg College of Nursing) and Jaime Sabel, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor, UofM Department of Biological Sciences) were awarded social change research grants by the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change at the University of Memphis. The Hooks Institute awarded Lee \$5,000 and Sabel \$2,500 to support their research that addresses social change issues.



Jaime Sabel, Ph.D.

Lee and her research team’s grant-winning project, “Assessing Perceived Racial Discrimination and Health Outcomes among Asian Americans and African Americans,” will examine the relationships between perceived racial discrimination and health outcomes among Asian Americans and African Americans after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sabel’s grant-winning project, “Exploring Factors That Contribute to Persistence in Underrepresented Biology Students,” will work to determine factors and interventions to better support graduation of students seeking degrees in the life science field with an emphasis on African American students.

HOOKS COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The Hooks Institute’s communication strategy using social media, newsletters and video and postcard mailings has resulted in a measurable and substantial increase in people connected to the work of the Hooks Institute. The metrics were as follows:



LIVESTREAM VIDEOS
REACHED OVER 25,000 PEOPLE ON FACEBOOK



DONOR SUPPORT

The Hooks Institute appreciates the continued financial support from donors and grantors it received in FY21.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Community Trust• Cummins Inc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Memphis Alumnae Chapter• Federal Express Corporation• First Horizon Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hilton• UofM Campus Community Fund• Truist Financial Corporation |
|--|--|--|



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