



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

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The Benjamin L. Hooks  
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# THE HOOKS INSTITUTE

## NEWSLETTER | FALL 2017

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

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## UPLIFT MEMPHIS, UPLIFT THE NATION

**HARNESSING THE POWER OF TALENT: AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE STUDENTS**



*HAAMI members celebrate a successful year at the 2017 Hooks Gala, April 20, 2017.*

What better way for the Hooks Institute to celebrate its 20th anniversary than by developing the personal, social and academic skills of African-American men at the University of Memphis (UofM)? While African-American male students are tremendously talented and ambitious, they are among the lowest graduating groups at the UofM. The Hooks African-American Male Initiative (HAAMI) focuses on increasing the retention and graduation rates of African-American males attending the UofM through intensive academic, social and cultural coaching and mentoring.

### GROWTH OF THE PROGRAM

Participation in the program is growing by leaps and bounds! Since 2015, the pilot year of HAAMI, enrollment has grown from 10 members to 32 members during the 2016-2017 academic year. For the 2017-2018 academic year, we expect a total of 50 students to enroll in HAAMI!

### CELEBRATING HAAMI'S THIRD YEAR!

HAAMI is successful in large part because of the commitment of the HAAMI members to positively shape a future that includes their personal and professional success. Additionally, the Hooks Institute is proud of the collaborations that make HAAMI possible: committed students, community members, businesses, and the staff of the Hooks Institute. Together we can build a strong Memphis and nation by investing in African-American male success!

For more about HAAMI, contact Rorie Trammel at [rtrammel@memphis.edu](mailto:rtrammel@memphis.edu) or 901-678-4654, or visit [www.memphis.edu/benhooks/haami](http://www.memphis.edu/benhooks/haami).



*HAAMI members at monthly session.*



### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Support HAAMI by making a donation directly to the program by visiting [www.memphis.edu/benhooks](http://www.memphis.edu/benhooks) and clicking on the "Make a Gift" link on the left of the screen, or use the QR code to the right.



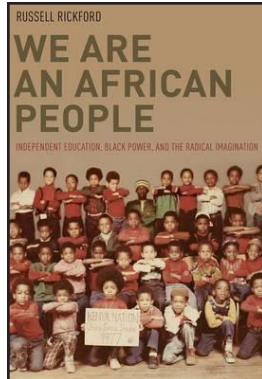
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## GEARING UP FOR FALL 2017

### HOOKS NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED! WE ARE AN AFRICAN PEOPLE: INDEPENDENT EDUCATION, BLACK POWER, AND THE RADICAL IMAGINATION | BY RUSSELL RICKFORD



In the midst of the more well-studied educational changes of the school desegregation era, a handful of “Pan African nationalist” independent black schools emerged as an alternative mechanism for African American uplift. *We Are An African People: Independent Education, Black Power, and the Radical Imagination* by Russell Rickford examines the ideas and motivations behind these autonomous black institutions and places them within a broader discussion about how best to achieve liberation for the next generation of African Americans. Rickford’s work at once expands upon the understanding of a very specific topic within the quest for the intellectual liberation of African Americans and grapples with very broad questions about education, freedom and the diversity of viewpoints during the civil rights era.

*“By focusing on schools, Rickford raises questions that continue to have relevance today, given the persistent racial disparities in American education.”*

**Daniel Kiel (Associate Professor, UofM Law School), Book Award Committee Chair**

The Hooks Institute’s National Book Award annually recognizes the publication that best advances our understanding of the American Civil Rights Movement and its legacy.

The 2016 National Book Award presentation, including a lecture by the winning author, Russell Rickford, will be held on Thursday, October 19, 2017, at noon in the University Center River Room (Room 300) at the University of Memphis. This event is free and open to the public.

#### MAKE AN IMPACT!

Donate to the Hooks Institute today and help us promote social change! Please visit our website at [memphis.edu/benhooks](http://memphis.edu/benhooks) and click on the ‘Make a Gift Button’ or use the QR code below.



## 2017–2018 UPCOMING EVENTS!

*The issues of our time call for immediate action! We encourage each of you to engage with us and help us ensure the integrity of our democracy as we work to promote social justice for all!*

#### HOOKS INSTITUTE OPEN HOUSE | OCTOBER 5, 2017 | 5:30 PM RECEPTION | 6:00 PM LECTURE

Hear about the work of the Hooks Institute in the upcoming year and join us for the release of the 3rd edition of the Hooks Institute Policy Papers. Authors of these papers will address the impact of the Trump administration policies on LGBTQ rights; the Islamic religion and contemporary issues in America; and lessons to be learned from the impact of welfare in Native American communities.

#### HOOKS NATIONAL BOOK AWARD LECTURE | OCTOBER 19, 2017 | NOON

Lecture by Russell Rickford, 2016 Hooks Institute National Book Award winner for *We Are An African People*

#### IDA B. WELLS DOCUMENTARY VIEWING | SPRING 2018

The Hooks Institute will host a public feedback viewing of our documentary film on Ida B. Wells in Spring 2018.

#### HOOKS AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE INITIATIVE BENEFIT | MARCH 2018

Support the future of Memphis by joining us for an evening celebrating HAAMI and the phenomenal members of the program. Funds raised at this event will help sustain and build this very critical program.

*All events are free and open to the public excluding the HAAMI benefit. For updates on Hooks events, visit [www.memphis.edu/benhooks/events](http://www.memphis.edu/benhooks/events).*

## SPRING 2017 IN REVIEW



### 2017 ANNUAL JOIN HANDS FOR CHANGE GALA AN EXCITING EVENING IN SUPPORT OF HOOKS PROGRAMS

Momentum is not made through the actions of leaders alone; it requires teamwork and persistence. Speaking with the wisdom of a seasoned civil rights activist, Ambassador Andrew J. Young, a friend and colleague of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., emphasized the importance of working in unity to achieve the dream of an equal world.

*“We are always looking for leaders and I think that’s a mistake. We didn’t have a leadership, we had a team... When everybody does what they are supposed to, we can change America.”*

**Andrew J. Young, 2017 Hooks Gala**

On April 20, 2017, Young highlighted the Hooks Institute’s 20th anniversary celebration and gala in support of the outstanding programs of the Institute. Young’s inspiring career leads us to ask ourselves, “What can we do in our lives to move toward an equal and just world?”

*Proceeds from the 2017 Hooks Gala help sustain Hooks Institute programs and initiatives.*

#### STAY IN TOUCH!

Help us reduce our mailing costs and stay up to date on Hooks Institute news by joining our email list! The money we save on mailings can be used directly for programs! To sign up for our e-mail list, contact us at [bhievents@memphis.edu](mailto:bhievents@memphis.edu) or use the QR code below.



## HOOKS IN THE COMMUNITY



*The Hooks Institute is pushing forward our examination of civil rights in the past and present, highlighting important and relevant issues of our time! Our work over the past several months include the following:*

#### COMMUNITY SCREENINGS

*Duty of the Hour*, a film on the life of civil rights activist Benjamin L. Hooks, produced by the Hooks Institute, was screened to nearly 1000 students at White Station High School, Booker T. Washington High School, and Leoyne-Owen College.

#### HOOKS PAPERS DIGITIZATION WEBSITE

The University Libraries at the University of Memphis and the Hooks Institute completed the digitization of the personal papers of Benjamin L. Hooks. The digitized collection, which spans the tenure of Hooks as Executive Director of the NAACP (1977-1993), is now available for a world audience online at [www.memphis.edu/hookspapers](http://www.memphis.edu/hookspapers).

#### IDA B. WELLS

The Hooks Institute completed interviews with scholars and others for the Hooks Institute’s upcoming documentary on civil rights and human rights activist Ida B. Wells (1862-1931).

#### AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE ACHIEVEMENT

In April 2017, Hooks hosted a free conference for the community, featuring national experts on African American male achievement in education.

Visit [www.memphis.edu/benhooks/events](http://www.memphis.edu/benhooks/events) for more information on Hooks Institute events!