

The Spirit of Dr. Stone

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Scholar, teacher and leader, Dr. Sonja Haynes Stone passes on her legacy to the university, the Black Student Movement and the community.

By Davene Swinson

It was not until 1955 that African-American students were allowed to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Since then, African-American students have experienced prejudice and unfair treatment as inferior and less important students. In the 1970's Sonja Haynes Stone was one woman who stood up for these students.

This incredible woman came into the world Dec. 14, 1938, in Chicago, Ill. She earned a bachelor's degree in social science at Sarah Lawrence College, a master's degree in social work from Atlanta University, a master's degree in social and ethical philosophy from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a doctoral degree in history and philosophy of education from Northwestern University. Stone also studied at the University of Illinois at Chicago and earned a

doctoral degree in history and philosophy of education from Northwestern University. In addition, Stone studied also at the Duke University School of Divinity.

After getting her education, she became a professor at Northeastern Illinois University. She was assistant director and acting director of its Center for Inner City Studies in Chicago and became chairman of the Department of Inner City Studies. In 1974, Stone came to UNC-CH as the director of the Curriculum in African American Studies until 1979.

Current Associate Dean of Student Counseling Harold Woodard said, "I was a freshman here at an open house sponsored by African American Studies the first time I saw her. I thought she was stunningly beautiful, very dynamic,

charismatic and regal in appearance and garb. She was also very excited about her discipline and getting others involved in learning about it. She truly made me proud to be Black."

Stone was the founder of the Southeastern Black Press Institute and served as the director from 1977 to 1979. She received the National Council for Black Students Dedicated Service Award in 1978 and the Black Student Movement Award for Excellent Academic Achievement in 1980. In 1981, she won the NAACP Woman of the Year and the Favorite Faculty Award by the Class of 1990. In the same year, Stone also won the first Outstanding Black Faculty Award from the UNC General Alumni Association, an award that recognizes professional and academic achievement and service to