

The Purpose The Struggle **The Victory**

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After a long struggle, students and faculty alike will celebrate the groundbreaking of the free-standing Black Cultural Center on April 26.

"The students felt they needed a space of their own," said BCC publicist Lorie Clark.

Clark explained that the desire among students to celebrate African-American history and culture emerged in the 60's and 70's with the birth of cultural centers across the country.

Shortly after the 1991 death of beloved professor and activist Sonja Haynes Stone, these dreams were put into action.

"The students got together for a memorial with two goals," said

Interim Director Harry Amana, "One, there should be a building and two, it should be a tribute to Dr. Stone."

Amana served as chair of the BCC advisory board in 1992 and 1993 when rallying was at its peak. He recalls celebrities including Spike Lee, George Lynch and Jimmy Hitchcock who came to campus to speak up for the cause. Along with their support, students and other faculty members protested against their chancellor and others in opposition. The non-supporters assumed that a Black Cultural Center would promote separatism.

"We need to move past that myth," said Clark, who looks at the Center as a learning experience for all races and cultures.

The University's Board of Trustees approved the free-stand-

ing BCC on May 25, 2000. The 36,000 square foot building includes offices for the subgroups of the Black Student Movement, a library geared toward African-American studies, an auditorium, an art museum and a dance studio.

"I think it's going to be quite a showpiece," said Amana.

Amana also expressed future goals of the expansion of programs, continued fundraising and space for visiting scholars and residents.

The groundbreaking ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. on April 26 in the Bell Tower parking lot. Performances by Harmonyx, Ebony Readers and Gospel Choir will entertain spectators. Other guests and speakers include Dr. Chuck Stone, Chancellor Moeser and UNC alumni who shared with the efforts in the 80's and 90's.

The Freestanding BCC

