

Speakers Honor Stone, Call for Free-standing BCC at Ceremony

By Lee Richardson
On-Campus Editor

Promoting understanding and awareness of African Americans at the University is the mission of the Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center, said education professor Frank Brown at the center's official naming Friday.

The 4-year-old BCC was crowded and forced some of the more than 120 observers to stand outside the room and in the Student

Union hallway. As members of the BCC Advisory Board and friends and family of the late professor Stone came to the podium, the audience listened attentively. Some spoke of Stone's dedication and integrity, and others gave their thoughts on a free-standing building for the BCC.

Margo Crawford, the center's director, discussed the many programs produced by the center. Outgoing Black Student Movement President, Arnie Epps, dedicated

the spiritual hymn, "His Eye is on the Sparrow" to Stone, a professor of African American Studies and civil rights activist. Student Body President Matt Heyd and others spoke of the legacy of social justice Stone had left in her wake.

Rev. Lorenzo



Stone's mother, Doris Haynes, praised her daughter's commitment.

Lynch of White Rock Baptist Church, Stone's home church in Durham, delivered a fiery message about the influence of money on education.

The controversy surrounding the drive for a free-standing BCC surfaced in Lynch's presentation as well as in those of members of the student coalition pushing for this goal. Senior Trish Merchant noted

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Speaking on behalf of a beloved professor...

Moments from the official naming of the Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center, March 27



Stone's minister, Rev. Lorenzo Lynch, preaches against the influence of money in the naming of educational institutions. Money should not "sway the day," he said.



Delores Jordan says her son, NBA standout Michael, would have liked a BCC when he attended UNC. He told her, "Mama, we need it."



Chancellor Paul Hardin points out members of the University Board of Trustees in the audience. Whatever site is chosen for a BCC, it will forever retain Stone's name, he said.

Photos by
Myron
Pitts



Stone's father, Wendell Haynes and her son, Bobby, came from Durham and New Jersey, respectively to attend the ceremony. Bobby is enrolled at Rutgers University.



BSM President Arnie Epps and Trish Merchant spoke. Actually, Epps sang "His Eyes Are on the Sparrow," in honor of Stone.