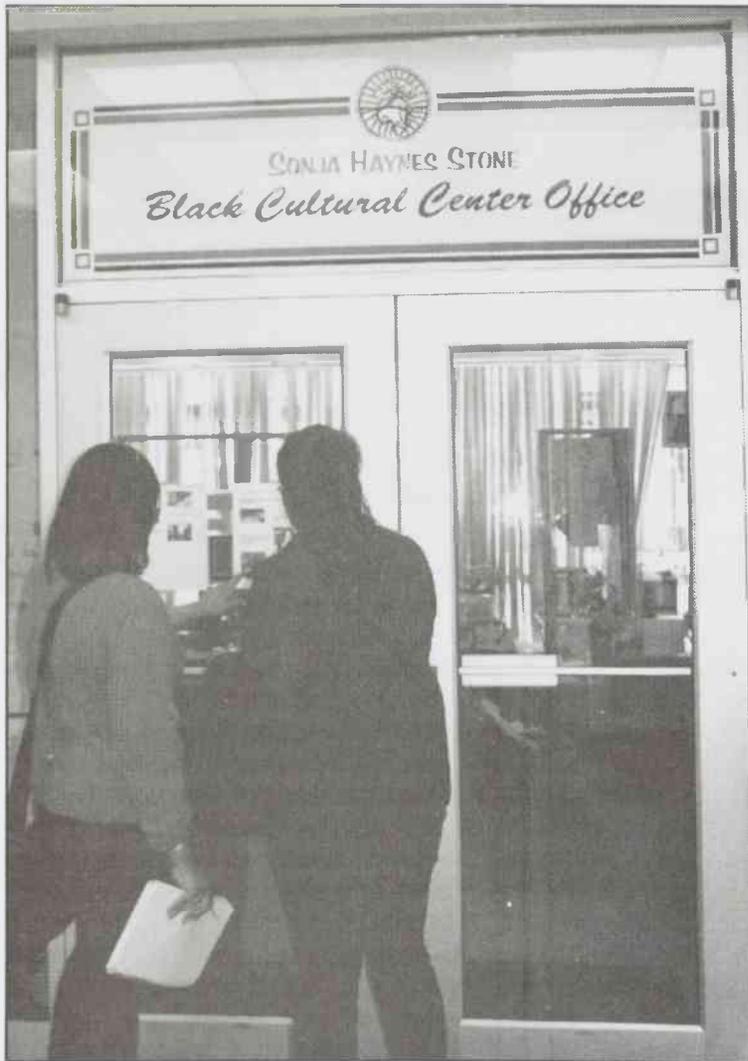


# The Purpose The Struggle The Victory



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**H**ave you ever heard of Around the Circle or Ring Shout? What about Hekima or Communiversity?

If not, then you are missing out on just a few of the exciting and educational programs offered at the Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center.

Co-program coordinator and publicist Lorie Clark is responsible for public relations for the BCC. She directly works with fundraising and the Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture; the seventh annual lecture took place

and Playmaker's Theatre. Clark also said that other organizations use the BCC for their meetings.

Assistant Program Coordinator nadera malika-salaam took on a number of programs when she joined the BCC staff in 1999. They include Around the Circle, Ring Shout, Sauti Mpya, Hekima and the Blacks in the Diaspora Lecture Series. All these programs were in place when malika-salaam arrived, with the Blacks in the Diaspora Series being the oldest running program of the BCC.

Around the Circle, the program most frequented by students, occurs weekly. Students or student-run organizations usually facilitate these

March 1, 2001. The lecture "pays tribute to the legacy of Dr. Stone by inviting an African-American woman whose commitment to the community mirrors that of the late Dr. Stone."

Clark also works with publications of the BCC, including the newsletter and the program guide.

The BCC also co-sponsors programs and events with the Women's Center, Campus Y, Arts Carolina, the Jazz Department

discussions on topics that range from interracial relationships to self-esteem issues. Each Wednesday the BCC is filled with students yearning to hear the latest tidbit of information coming from the other students in the BCC.

Another of malika-salaam's programs, Hekima, gives students a chance to read books and discuss them in an informal setting. The program provides an opportunity to connect over something as simple as reading a book.

One of the most important BCC programs is Communiversity, a program run by Kelly Navies. The youth program is designed to "provide youth ages K-12 with academic and cultural enrichment," said Navies.

Communiversity has three components: Homework Assistance, Literacy and Teen Outreach. Each program focuses on a different age group, providing them with an age-related service. There are about 45-50 Communiversity students and about 30 volunteers.

Navies' vision for Communiversity is for it to be permanently institutionalized and have a permanent director.

malika-salaam also has visions for BCC programming in the future. She feels that the BCC needs new programs, but that it depends on what the student body wants. She would also like to see the return of a program called "Anthesis," which was sort of a support group for African-American females on campus.

Clark said she is pleased with the programs the BCC produces; however, she would "like to see more collaboration with other organizations and departments."

"The BCC mission is to serve all students through our programs," said Clark, "and our programs reflect the history and accomplishments of Africans and African-Americans."