

Statement of Purpose for: **UNC-CH Campaign for Historical Accuracy and Truth (CHAT)**

Adopted by: Donelle Boose

12/1/05

The Campaign for Historical Accuracy and Truth is a student organization at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill founded for the purpose of **educating** the Carolina community about our true history, **insuring** that the university tells its story without censoring either the injustices committed in its name or the contributions of historically disenfranchised groups, and **using** our understanding of history to strengthen movements for justice at UNC.

Our objectives are to generate a more accurate and truthful understanding of the university's history among students, campus workers, faculty, administrators, trustees, and the community at large. A greater awareness of the university's role in the perpetuation of slavery, Jim Crow, and other injustices should be the basis for corrective action, and we will work to see that the university community engages in a process of truth telling, restorative justice, and reconciliation. At the same time, we will work for a greater awareness of the contributions of historically disenfranchised groups, including ways their freedom struggles have strengthened Carolina's democratic traditions.

In order to fulfill our goals and objectives, we will utilize educational programming, campaigns, resource development, coalition building, and community outreach to build a movement for historical honesty on campus that supports ongoing movements for justice. During our 2004 campaign we educated the Carolina community about the involvement of Cornelia Phillips Spencer, a university icon, in the white supremacy movement to suppress black freedom after Emancipation. As a result, Chancellor James Moeser sponsored a symposium called "Remembering Reconstruction at Carolina: A Community Conversation." Based on the discussions at that symposium, the Chancellor abolished the Bell Award, which had been given in Cornelia Phillips Spencer's name to honor outstanding Carolina women since 1994. In the Spring of 2005, CHAT launched a petition drive to have a plaque placed on Lenoir Hall honoring the 1969 cafeteria workers strike that challenged UNC to treat black workers as human beings and won pay raises for 5000 state workers. Also in Spring 2005, CHAT created the Mary Smith-Elizabeth Brooks Human Rights Award in honor of the two women who led the Lenoir Cafeteria workers strike. CHAT raised \$1000 and presented the first award to Mrs. Elizabeth Brooks. The second award will be presented at an awards ceremony in Spring 2006 to Mrs. Mary Smith. CHAT continues to sponsor educational programs on the Lenoir strike and other aspects of UNC's history that have a direct bearing on struggles for social justice on campus today.

The structure includes co-chairs, a treasurer, and committees established as

needed to accomplish our work. Currently, our co-chairs are  
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\_\_\_\_\_. Our treasurer is  
\_\_\_\_\_.

The role of our advisor is to consult with members of the organization and to support the organization in her/his official capacity as needed. Our advisor is  
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Membership in CHAT is open to all undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, staff of UNC-CH, and community members who agree with the purposes of our organization.