

Mary Smith Named Human Rights Award Recipient



Mary Smith and Elizabeth Brooks celebrate victory in 1969

Dear Friend,

March 16, 2006

Last year the Campaign for Historical Accuracy and Truth (CHAT) presented our first annual Mary Smith-Elizabeth Brooks Human Rights Award to Elizabeth Brooks, one of the leaders of the 1969 UNC foodworkers' struggle.

This year CHAT has named **Mary Smith the second award recipient**. The foodworkers' victory began in the spring of 1969 with a raise for 5000 low-wage state workers and the restoration of overtime pay that the university had cheated from the cafeteria workers. But Mrs. Smith's courageous leadership of the 1969 strikes had tremendous ripple effects throughout the Carolina community. The strike was a victory for racial justice and a much needed reminder to the university that its employees' dignity and work should not be taken for granted.

Please join us in celebrating the life and work of Mary Smith, who still works at Lenoir Dining Hall, on **March 31 at 6pm in room 2518 of the UNC Student Union**. There will be refreshments and a brief program featuring Rev. Nelson Johnson, pastor of Faith Community Church in Greensboro and executive director of the Beloved Community Center. Rev. Johnson has been a leader of social and economic justice struggles for over forty years. As a student leader at North Carolina A&T in 1969, Nelson Johnson mobilized statewide support among black students for the UNC cafeteria workers. A discussion led by Joyce Johnson, a UNC graduate student in 1969 and strike activist, will follow the program.

CHAT will also provide an update on the status of its petition drive requesting that the university honor the historic 1969 strike through an appropriate public commemorative marker.

Like last year, the award will include a substantial financial gift. We hope that you will feel moved to contribute. Checks should be made out to Dr. Roberta Ann Dunbar. Please mail or deliver your contribution to Dr. Roberta Ann Dunbar, Department of African and Afro-American Studies, CB#3395 106 Battle Hall, UNC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3395. Your gift is not tax deductible.

On behalf of the Program Committee, thank you and we hope to see you on Friday, March 31.

Donelle Boose
Steve Wing
Barbara Prear
Altha Cravey

Kerry Taylor
Sandi Chapman
Dave Brannigan
Karen Booth

Yonni Chapman
Roberta Ann Dunbar
Nate Davis

Mike Hachey
Bob Konrad
Sherryl Kleinman