The Annual Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey Distinguished Africana Lecture

October 18, 2018 | 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

“They saw everything that was going to happen”: Remembering the Middle Passage in Black Artistic Expressions of Resistance

McKnight Hall, Cone University Center

africana.uncc.edu

Contact: Dr. Akin Ogundiran, Chair, Africana Studies Department
    Email: ogundiran@uncc.edu or Call: 704-687-5162
Two centuries after the last ship with enslaved persons sailed to the Americas, people of African descent remain haunted by forced engagement with the Atlantic, especially the leg of the journey known as the Middle Passage. In this presentation, Professor Green will examine how the metaphor and lived experience of the Middle Passage are being deployed by Black artists to inform and shape contemporary concerns, including Black Lives Matter, social inequality, assault on civil liberty, institutional efforts to suppress minority votes, and debates over ethical behavior in governance and leadership. Green will conclude with a roadmap on what the literary and visual arts that are rooted in memory and history may teach us about the process of healing the past trauma and creating a new social compact for a better society.

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Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey has spent a lifetime educating generations of students, building institutions for the promotion of Black Studies, and working tirelessly for racial integration. Dr. Maxwell-Roddey joined UNC Charlotte in 1970, and assumed the leadership of the Black Studies Program in 1971. She served as the founding chairperson when the program became a department. During her tenure, she presided over the development of a four-year curriculum for the undergraduate major in African American and African Studies (now Africana Studies), and initiated a number of programs on multicultural education, service learning, and community outreach. Dr. Maxwell Roddey spearheaded the establishment of the National Council for Black Studies (NCBS), and also co-founded Charlotte’s Afro-American Cultural Center (now the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Art + Culture).