



*The College of William & Mary*  
**AFRICANA STUDIES PROGRAM**

**Symposium:**  
**The Origins of the African Diaspora in the Historic Triangle**

This symposium addresses two interrelated issues: (1) the relationship between the local and the global, and (2) the appropriate expression of responsibility for an institution's historical legacies as it reinvents itself periodically. Two recent developments pushed these two issues to the fore. First, the College established an Africana Studies Program that promotes the study of the people of African descent by melding global and local contexts. The Historic Triangle of VA is a great case study with its origins in globalization and colonial bondage. Second, the Board of Visitors acknowledged the entanglement of the College in slavery by passing a resolution in April 2009 that created "The Lemon Project: A Journey of Reconciliation at the College of William and Mary." For the full text, see: (<http://www.wm.edu/news/pressreleases/2009/bov-resolution-on-the-lemon-project.php>). Furthermore, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the Jamestown/Yorktown Foundation have taken important steps to redress the longstanding marginalization of Native Americans and African Americans in the telling of the story of America. The symposium will, therefore, address a number of questions, including: How should we characterize the antebellum world of the College, of the town of Williamsburg and Tidewater, to help us make sense of the global roots and the national role of the College? What is the appropriate form of atonement for past institutional sins in order to advance the longstanding mission of the College in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? There will be ample opportunity for Q & A.

**PROGRAM**

Friday, March 19, 2010 (2:00 – 6:00 PM)  
 Brinkley 2025, Miller Hall (MASON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS)

**Welcome**

Carl Strikwerda, Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences

**Introduction**

Berhanu Abegaz (Program Director, Economics/AFST)

**Session I (2:15-4:15): Slavery in the Historic Triangle and Tidewater of Virginia**  
*Chair: Joanne Braxton, English/AFST*

Michael Blakey (Anthropology, WM)	"A Question Regarding the Scope of Discussion."
Lorena Walsh (Historian, formerly CW)	"The Development of Slavery in Tidewater, Virginia"
Jennifer Oast (History, Bloomsburg U)	"How Slavery Came to William and Mary: James Blair and Slaveholding by the Early Anglican Church in Virginia"

**Session II (4:30-6:00): The College of William & Mary and Slavery**  
*Chair: Robert Vinson, History/AFST*

Terry Meyers (English, WM)	"Benjamin Franklin, the Bray School, and William and Mary: Some New Connections."
Robert Engs (History, UPenn)	"The College, Slavery, Jim Crow and the Origins of the Lemon Project"

**Dinner (6:30 – 9:30):** *Remarks by Provost Michael Halleran (by invitation only)*