

A List of Negroes at College



AFRICAN AMERICANS
at William & Mary | 2017

BUILDING
on
the **LEGACY**

Effy *not much together*

March 16-17, 2018

The Lemon Project

Lemon Project & 50-Year Commemoration
Symposium: Building on the Legacy

*“Desegregating Higher Education in Virginia:
William & Mary in Historical Context”*



Lemon
James
Letty
Charlotte
...



"We are finding ways to create a climate at the College that will encourage Black faculty, students, and administrators to know that we really want them. Affirmative action is essential if William and Mary is to provide educational opportunities for all qualified citizens of Virginia, and if the educational experience for all our students is to be enhanced in breadth and in depth."
Thomas A. Graves, Jr.
President



WILLIAM & MARY

CHARTERED 1693

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**Lemon Project Symposium
March 16-17, 2018**



Greetings and welcome to the eighth annual Lemon Project Spring Symposium: *Desegregating Higher Education in Virginia: William & Mary in Historical Context*. The Lemon Project and the Committee for the *50 Year Commemoration of African Americans in Residence* have joined forces to recognize and salute the desegregation of the university.

Through this year's series of events, we remember those who bravely chose to join the William & Mary family early on. Hulon L. Willis, Sr., Edward A. Travis and Miriam J. Carter came in the 1950s as graduate and professional students. Oscar H. Blayton came in 1963 as the first black undergraduate. These students were not allowed to live on campus. Lynn Briley, Karen Ely, and Janet Brown Strafer arrived in 1967 and were the first African Americans to live in our residence halls. With courage and determination, they persevered and became the first black women to graduate from William & Mary. While they may not have meant to make history, they demonstrably did, opening a way for others to follow.

This year the symposium will take place over two full days. It will include many opportunities to look back in the Spirit of Sankofa as well as many opportunities to think about how William & Mary can keep building on the legacy.

Cordially,

W. Taylor Reveley, III
President



Left to right: President Graves, Edward Brickell, Rector of the Board, Wesley Wilson, Assistant to the President in Charge of Affirmative Action at a press conference.


WILLIAM & MARY
CHARTERED 1693
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST



March 16 - 17, 2018

Welcome to the eighth annual Lemon Project Spring Symposium. I am pleased that the Lemon Project has joined the planning committee for the 50-Year Anniversary of African Americans in Residence to bring an exciting array of speakers, featuring poet and educator Nikki Giovanni, and artist and educator, Steve Prince, designer of the mural *Lemonade: A Picture of America* that now has a permanent place in Swem Library. These speakers, along with contributors to a series of roundtables and theatrical and dance performers, are an important addition to the yearlong celebration.

Thinking beyond this weekend, it is my hope that you will continue to join us on campus for events. Although the 50th committee will wrap up its work at the end of the commemorative year, the fruits of its labor will continue on, as will The Lemon Project: A Journey of Reconciliation. We are committed to making the Lemon Project a community effort, and any feedback you provide will help us achieve that goal. We appreciate your presence, and hope that you will share your ideas with us as we continue to Build on the Legacy that began more than 50 years ago.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Michael R. Halleran
Provost



Top: President Graves with William & Mary students. Right: (left to right): President Graves, Lloyd Byrd, & Keith Blount.

Friday, March 16

SADLER CENTER | 200 STADIUM DR. WILLIAMSBURG, VA

8:30am – 9:20am **Continental Breakfast**
Lobby area outside auditorium

Commonwealth Auditorium

9:20am **Welcome**
Jacquelyn McLendon
Chair, 50th Anniversary Committee

9:30am – 10:00am

The Second Line: Redressing American Systems of Education with Artist Steve Prince.

In this lecture/presentation, artist, educator, and art evangelist Steve Prince will utilize his artwork to challenge, and openly discuss American systems of education. Prince will utilize the unique funerary tradition of New Orleans as a philosophical construct to weave a story of the Dirge and the Second Line and offer strategies of how we can actively redress these systems to fashion a more inclusive societal structure of education.

10:15 – 11:30am

William & Mary in the Community

This roundtable will explore the relationship between William & Mary and the local African American community.

Moderator: Iyabo Osiapem, *William & Mary, Senior Lecturer Africana Studies and Linguistics*

- **Anthony Conyers**, *Interim Director of Head Start, Williamsburg Resident*
- **Clarence Wilson**, *President, York-James City-Williamsburg Branch, NAACP, Williamsburg Resident*
- **Edith Heard**, *Community Activist, Williamsburg Resident*
- **Virginia Wells**, *MD William & Mary, Director, Student Health Services, Williamsburg Resident*

11:30am – 12:45pm **Lunch**
Lobby Area

12:45pm **Welcome**
Michael Halleran
Provost

1:00pm – 2:15pm

Nikki Giovanni in Context Roundtable

Moderator: Jacquelyn McLendon
William & Mary Professor, English, Emerita

- **Jody L. Allen**, *William & Mary, Lemon Project Director*
- **Jamel K. Donnor**, *William and Martha Clairborne Stephens Distinguished Associate Professor of Education, William & Mary School of Education*
- **Barbara Watson**, *James City County, Assistant Director Social Services*
- **Hermine Pinson**, *William & Mary, Professor, English*
- **Anthony Conyers**, *Interim Director of Head Start, Williamsburg Resident*

3:00pm – 6:00pm *Andrews Hall Foyer*

Workshop: The Lemon Revival with Artist Steve Prince.

In this exciting, unique, hands-on workshop participants will create a communal artwork under the guidance of artist Steve Prince.

Prince will teach participants how to create artworks utilizing the ageless process of woodcuts. The artwork will commemorate the contributions of Mr. Lemon to the Williamsburg community. Each person will create a thematic piece that will connect like a giant jigsaw puzzle to create one harmonious image. Participants do not have to have previous art experience to participate. Come and join the art revival!

Limited to 40 participants: Requires separate registration at: <https://forms.wm.edu/36146>

7:00pm – 8:00pm *Sadler Center -Commonwealth Auditorium*

“The New Gatekeepers”

a performance by **Valarie Gray Holmes**



Saturday, March 17

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION | 301 MONTICELLO AVE. WILLIAMSBURG, VA

8:30am – 9:15am **Continental Breakfast**

Matoaka Room

9:15am – 9:30am **Welcome**
Taylor Reveley, President

9:30am – 9:45am **Introduction of Nikki Giovanni**
Dr. Hermine Pinson

Leah Glenn Dance Theatre Performance
Stifled, Sorrowed... Sustained

Choreography: Leah Glenn

Poetry: Nikki Giovanni - Choices, Woman, A Poem of Friendship
(Copyright © Nikki Giovanni. Used by permission of HarperCollins Publishers)

Music: Philip Glass

Dancers: Olivia Armstrong, Kayla Moore, Arisa Smith

9:45am – 10:30am **Professor Nikki Giovanni**
Keynote Address

10:30am – 10:45am **Break**

10:45am – 12:15pm

“Seeing the Unseen and Telling the Untold: Institutions, Individuals, and Desegregating the University of Richmond”

Moderator: Nicole Maurantonio, University of Richmond,
Professor, Rhetoric & Communication Studies

- **Dominique Harrington**, University of Richmond, undergraduate student
- **Madeleine Jordan-Lord**, University of Richmond, undergraduate, student
- **Elizabeth Mejía-Ricart Guerra**, University of Richmond, undergraduate student
- **Jennifer Munnings**, University of Richmond, undergraduate student
- **Destiny Riley**, University of Richmond, undergraduate student

12:15pm – 12:45pm **Lunch**

12:45pm **Unveiling the “Lemon Revival”**

1:00pm – 2:15pm

Desegregating Higher Education: Placing W&M in Historical Context

This roundtable will provide an overview of the desegregation of higher education in Virginia and then invite discussion with those who experienced the early days of desegregation at W&M.

- **Moderator: Jamel Donnor, William and Martha Clairborne Stephens** Distinguished Associate Professor of Education, William & Mary School of Education
- **Lynn Briley**, '71 William & Mary, retired educator
- **Janet Brown Strafer**, '71 M.Ed. '77 William & Mary, retired Department of the Army Civilian
- **Lillian Ashcroft-Eason**, Bowling Green State University Professor, History, Emerita
- **Michael Engs**, '69 Historical Consultant for Pima County, Arizona, Tucson Museum of Art and Tucson Presidio Trust for Historic Preservation
- **W. Samuel Sadler**, '64; William & Mary, former VP for Student Affairs

2:30pm – 3:45pm

Building on the Legacy: Where Do We Go From Here?

Panelists will consider and invite discussion on issues such as the role universities, generally, and William & Mary, particularly, should play in striving to move more successfully toward reconciliation. Questions such as what is working well and what needs to change are central to this discussion.

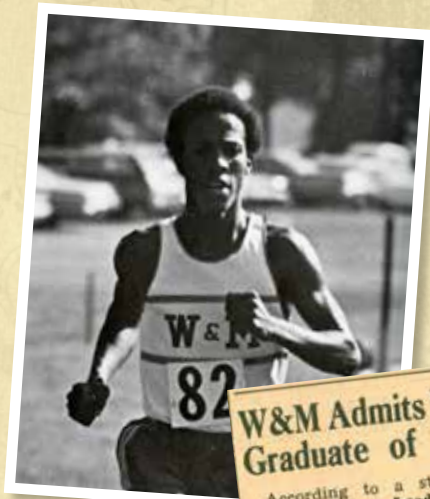
- **Moderator: Phyllis Slade Martin**, Independent Scholar and owner, Slade & Associates, LLC
- **Logan Chappell**, William & Mary Music Department, Fiscal Manager
- **Karen Ely**, '71 William & Mary, Health Physicist, Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center
- **Fanchon Glover**, William & Mary, Chief Diversity Officer
- **Taylor Jasper**, William & Mary Undergraduate

3:45pm **Concluding Remarks, Acknowledgements**
Jody L. Allen, Lemon Project Director

7:00pm – 9:00pm Small Hall - 300 Ukrop Way, Room 110

Open Mic hosted by Students of Hip-Hop Legacy (SoHHL)

Lemon Project & 50-Year Commemoration Symposium



W&M Admits Negro, Graduate of VSC

According to a story in the Richmond News Leader, a Negro instructor in the Norfolk public schools has been accepted for graduate work in the physical education on the Williamsburg campus of the College of William and Mary.

He is Hulon L. Willis, a native of Pittsburg and a 1949 graduate of Virginia State College in Petersburg.

Willis will be the first Negro ever to be enrolled at the Williamsburg school, a college spokesman said today.

Admission of Willis is in line with a policy of the William and Mary Board of Visitors to admit qualified Negroes who apply for graduate work not offered at a State-supported school for Negroes.

This policy was adopted following a Federal court order that the University of Virginia admit a Negro to its law school last fall. Virginia has no State-supported law school for Negroes.

Willis is a veteran of World War II. He played football at Virginia State. Since his graduation from that institution he has taught physical education at Booker T. Washington High School. He is assistant football coach there.

He has been accepted for classes starting in June, William and Mary said.



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Acknowledgements

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a journey of reconciliation

The Lemon Project
 The College of William & Mary