

OUTREACH TO STUDENTS

- OUTREACH TO SCHOLARS AND EDUCATORS
  - OUTREACH TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

THE MAKING OF AMERICA

### ADDRESSING THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION: WHEN DID WE BECOME AMERICANS?

WWW.1619MAKINGOFAMERICA.COM

Led by Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Director of the Joseph Jenkins Roberts Center at Norfolk State University and Eric Claville, Director of the Civil Rights Institute at Hampton University, the 1619 Making of America program has spearheaded scholarly discussions about 1619 as part of the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration.

Our programming has been the recipient of numerous grants, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission, and the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.





Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Ph.D. Professor of History

Eric Claville, J.D. Assistant Professor of Political Science

The Roberts Center and the Civil Rights Institute have developed a well-established initiative and instituted important partnerships with a host of other affiliates including the Hampton History Museum, the City of Hampton, Fort Monroe National Monument, Virginia Wesleyan College, Old Dominion University, the Lemon Project at the College of William and Mary, Cox Communications, and WHRO, a local PBS affiliate.

Our broad-based project has already established an important **educational conference and roundtable series** focusing on the transformative power when three culture groups—Native, European, and African—intersected in America during the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Scholars have discussed how the political, social, cultural, and economic foundations of America can be traced to events beginning in 1619.









The Joseph Jenkins Roberts Center for African Diaspora Studies (Roberts Center) at Norfolk State University (NSU) and the Civil Rights Institute (CR Institute) at Hampton University (HU) have partnered to jointly host the 1619 Making of America programming series.

Since 2012, this series has commemorated early North American history and culture by focusing on the melding of European, African, and Native American societies. Gathering scholars from across America and Canada, the program has begun to explore how 1619 prompted the development of an American culture to teachers, students, and the general public.

#### Presentations by Main Speakers

Michael Gomez – Writng the History of Africa and Its Diaspora Lisa Brooks – Making Native Space in America's Literary Traditions Benjamin Bowser – The Cost of Gangsta Rap Paul Finkelman – Did God Bless Slavery?



**Civil Rights Institute** Hampton University Hampton, VA



HAMPTON UNIVERSITY & NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY







**1619 MAKING OF** 

**AMERICA CONFERENCE** 



# Presentation on **The Diaspora of Dance**

Scholars during this session discussed how cultures converged to create dance forms reflecting the major cultures that converged in America the methodology of performance and the role of African-American dance as an artistic medium for interpreting the complexities of race and culture in an increasingly globalized world.



FOR AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES

Norfolk State University 700 Park Avenue Norfolk, VA 23504





### 1619 MAKING OF AMERICA CONFERENCE



Presentation on Culinary Dynamics of Natives and Newcomers to America

#### Donna Gabaccia Harlold Caldwell

Three culture groups created a hybrid culture through foodways and the development of American cuisine. Native Americans raised corn, sweet potatoes, pumpkins squash, and beans when the Europeans arrived. The English brought with them pigs, cattle, chicken and sheep, as well as wheat flour, onions, carrots and a variety greens of and beans. African cuisine America transported to included peanuts, rice, yams, bananas, and peas. A special food presentation and sampling during the conference included hominy grits, turkey, turnip greens, and black-eyed peas.

# TOURS OF THE HAMPTON AREA

These tours introduced conference attendees and the general public to many of the events associated with 1619 and its aftermath.

SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2014 HAMPTON UNIVERSITY &

NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY



University of Toronto Scarborough

Professor of History

Harold Caldwell African American Interpreter Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Ionial Williamsburg Foundation

FIRST AFRICANS IN VIRGINIA





# Presentation on Literary and Music Traditions

Scholars during this session discussed how cultures converged to create music and literary forms reflecting the major cultures that converged in America. Native musical and African American literary traditions were featured including an "Echoes of the Diaspora Spoken Word" invitation that included high school and college students. "Constructing Citizenship From 1619 to the 1964 Civil Rights Act" Roundtable Discussion



The 2014 panel discussion that was broadcast on Cox Channel 11 was a follow-up to the 2013 conference panel, "Deconstructing Race in the American legal From 1619 to System: Trayvon Martin." Some of legal America's leading scholars at the 2013 Conference who discussed the topic included Henry L. Chambers, Jr. (University of Richmond School of Law), John Pierre (Southern University School of Law), Paul Finkelman (Albany Law School), and Alex Johnson (University of Virginia Law School).

### April 17, 2014 Broadcast on Cox Channel 11

- John Pierre, Vice Chancellor and Professor of Law, Southern University Law Center Panelist
- Eric Claville, Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor, School of Liberal Arts, Hampton University Panelist
- Barbara Hamm-Lee, Executive Producer and Host of Another View on WHRV Public Radio Moderator
- John Amos, Assistant Professor of Law at Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, Campbell University Panelist
- The Honorable John Charles Thomas, Retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia and Senior Partner with Hunton & Williams - Panelist

## Second 1619 Making of America Conference September 26-27, 2013



Scholars, historians, students, and observers convened recently at Norfolk State University and Hampton Convention Center to discuss the historic events of 1619. Preparing for the 400th anniversary of the nation in 2019, this was the second annual conference in a series to ask the important question: "When did we become Americans?"

The 2013 Conference was sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Norfolk State University, Hampton History Museum, Hampton University, and the City of Hampton.

Over 1,000 conference attendees heard experts speak on the topics related to law, medicine, history, political science, geography, genetics, and literature. Simon Ortiz, the Regents Professor of English and American Indian Studies at Arizona State University, and a leading figure in Native American literary renaissance, was specially invited by the VFH to discuss the topic, "The Future Is Not A Long Time Ago" as part of the panel, "Representing Native Peoples."

The role of race was also discussed in "Foodways and Emerging Diseases," the focus of a panel of medical experts led by Michael Blakey, professor of anthropology and anatomy and director of the Institute for Historical Biology, College of William and Mary, and Camellia Okpodu, director, Group for Microgravity and Environmental Biology, Norfolk State. Other panelists, who explored the complex topic of medical conditions and genome diversity that emerged after 16 19, included Keith Newby (founder, president, and chief cardiologist of Fort Norfolk Medical Plaza), Frederick Quarles (founder and president of Quarles Dermatology and former chair of National Medical Association's Dermatology), and Myron Williams (associate professor of chemistry at Clark Atlanta University's Center).

### First 1619 Making of America Conference September 21-22, 2012



This initial conference addressed the "Enduring Questions" of 1619 that included such topics as the impact of creolization and the Columbian Exchange on America. Scholars from Boston University, the College of William and Mary, Johns Hopkins University, Old Dominion University, Norfolk State University, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and independent scholars engaged with the community roundtable discussions.

The conference's reception by attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Comments included, "Enlightening;" "Interesting indeed;" "Great concepts and thoughts;" "More, more, more," "Very interesting discussion touching on global effects of the Diaspora and forgiveness for it;" and "Sessions were informative with a lot of new information for me. Enlightening and relevant."

The conference was a model for social networking and involved renowned scholars such as Linda Heywood, John Thornton, Peter Wallenstein, and Ben Vinson.

