



Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2018

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Historian Presents Lecture on “1619 and the Problem of Slavery in Early America” At the Hampton History Museum on May 7

Hampton, VA - As a prelude to next year’s events commemorating the 400th anniversary of the first Africans being brought to these shores at Point Comfort in Hampton, history professor and author Dr. Michael Guasco presents “1619 and the Problem of Slavery in Early America” as part of the Hampton History Museum’s Port Hampton Lecture series on Monday, May 7, 7:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.

In his lecture, Guasco will place the significance of what occurred in Hampton into the larger context of what was going on in the Atlantic world at the time. 1619 is recognized as when the first people of African descent were brought, enslaved, to colonial North America and is a definitive moment in early American history. For people interested in the histories of race, slavery, and the origins of African-American society and culture, the story of the arrival of a small shipload of recently captured Africans seems to set the

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stage for so much that would soon follow, not only in Virginia but throughout the broader English Atlantic world. What is often overlooked is that while the arrival of Africans in 1619 may have been something new for the handful of English colonists in Virginia, it was a commonplace and rather unsurprising event in the broader context of English endeavors throughout the Atlantic world.

“If we want to understand developments in Virginia during the 17th century, we need to treat the events of 1619 less as an origin story and more as a link in a long chain of events dating back to at least the middle of the previous century. Only by doing so can we fully appreciate the extraordinary significance of both slavery and African peoples to early English colonial endeavors,” says Guasco.

Michael Guasco is Professor and Chair of the Department of History at Davidson College, in Davidson, North Carolina. Professor Guasco arrived at Davidson in 2001, soon after receiving his Ph.D. in history from the College of William and Mary. He has authored numerous reviews and essays concerning the broader history of race, slavery, and early English colonialism in the Americas. His book, *Slaves and Englishmen: Human Bondage in the Early Modern Atlantic World* (Penn Press, 2014), was a finalist for the Frederick Douglass Book Prize.

Admission to the lecture is free for museum members, \$5.00 for non-members. The Hampton History Museum is located at 120 Old Hampton Lane in Downtown Hampton. There is free parking in the garage across the street from the museum. For more information call 757-727-1102 or visit www.HamptonHistoryMuseum.org.

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton

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At the Hampton History Museum on May 7- Page 3**

Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.

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