

**RETIREMENT OF JAMES P. WHITTENBURG
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

James P. Whittenburg received his A.B. from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 1969, his M.A. from Wake Forest University in 1971, and his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia in 1974. He joined the faculty of William & Mary as an Assistant Professor of History in 1977, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1980, and to Professor in 2007.

Professor Whittenburg has transformed William & Mary into a leader in the field of early American history and culture, building critical partnerships with Colonial Williamsburg. Two congressional awards enabled him to create the renowned National Institute of American History & Democracy (NIAHD) in 2005, which foregrounds material culture and public history. He directed NIAHD during its formative years, and its stunning success is a testament to the devotion he and Carolyn Whittenburg, herself a long-time NIAHD Director, invested in William & Mary.

A dedicated member of the History department for decades, he served as department chair for four years, coordinated the Program in Historical Archaeology for nearly two decades, and twice served as Director of Graduate Studies. He generously lent his expertise to many state and local historical organizations.

Professor Whittenburg's research interests and publications have focused on colonial American history and the early national period, especially on the Carolina backcountry and the Regulator Movement, a harbinger of the Revolutionary War. He authored numerous articles and book chapters on historical archeology, material culture, and the historical landscape. He co-edited a history of Charles City County, Virginia, and presented his work at numerous conferences.

An abiding love for students earned Professor Whittenburg a prodigious array of teaching awards. Princeton Review named him among the 'Top 300 College Professors' in 2012. He received the Arts & Sciences Award for Teaching Excellence in 2011. The Virginia Historical Society recognized him in its 'Greatest History Teacher Salute' in 2007. He held the University Chair for Teaching Excellence from 1999-2001, won the Thomas Ashley Graves Award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching in 1995, and received the Society of the Alumni Award in 1986.

The travel courses Professor Whittenburg offered were his most popular, bringing eighteenth-century Virginian history alive at sites across the Commonwealth. His passion for teaching has shaped generations of scholars who remain in touch with him to this day. Professor Whittenburg directed a breath-taking 23 honors theses, 50 Master's theses, and 30 doctoral dissertations. This level of sustained engagement is unprecedented, as is the enduring legacy Professor Whittenburg has bequeathed to early American history at William & Mary.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Visitors acknowledges the retirement of James Whittenburg; expresses its deep appreciation for his 46 years of service; and approves a change in status from Professor of History to Professor of History, Emeritus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board and a copy delivered to Professor Whittenburg with best wishes from a grateful Board for his years of dedicated service to William & Mary.