



FIU News Release

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John Hope Franklin Inaugurates FIU's African-New World Studies' Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture

MIAMI, FL (August 26, 1999) World renowned scholar John Hope Franklin will deliver the inaugural Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture at Florida International University, as part of the African-New World Studies Program Distinguished Africana Scholars Lecture Series.

"Dr. Franklin is a distinguished scholar who has provided analyses of some of the major events of 20th century African-American history," said Dr. Carole Boyce-Davies, director of FIU's African-New World Studies Program. "FIU will provide the community this rare opportunity to witness the work of one of the era's most beloved teachers."

John Hope Franklin's lecture on "Runaway Slaves: Rebels on the Plantation" will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, September 17, at the Ryder Business Building, BA-120, University Park, 112 Avenue and Southwest Eighth Street.

Franklin, who holds the Medal of Freedom and honorary doctorates from 105 universities, has established himself as one of the preeminent American scholars of his generation. A native of Oklahoma and a graduate of Fisk University, Franklin received his MA and Ph.D. degrees in history from Harvard University. He has taught at a

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number of institutions, and for seven years was Professor of Legal History at Duke University's Law School.

Of Dr. Franklin's numerous publications, perhaps his best-known book is *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans*. Franklin has also served on many national commissions and delegations, including the advisory board for One America: The President's Initiative on Race, which he chaired. His latest work, *My Life and an Era: The Autobiography of Buck Colbert Franklin*, is about the author's father.

The memorial lecture is named after Trinidad and Tobago's first Prime Minister Dr. Eric E. Williams. As a world-renowned scholar and international statesman of the twentieth century, Dr. Williams was a man of noted vision, who forged the destiny of the twin-island British territory of Trinidad and Tobago from colonial dependency, to the modern independent nation it is today.

A consummate academic and historian himself, and author of several books, Dr. Williams is known for his seminal work, *Capitalism and Slavery*, first published in 1944 and cited in 1997 in the *New York Times Book Review* as continued to be on the "cutting edge of slave trade research in academic circles." He was also a friend and colleague of Professor John Hope Franklin.

Admission to the lecture is free and open to the public. For more information please call the African-New World Studies Program at 305-919-5521.

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