

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ISC Program Coordinator: Mikhaela Houston

Office – (919) 962-0977

Fax (919) 843-9407

Email – iaar@unc.edu

**INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS CONFERENCE TO EXAMINE THE WILMINGTON 1898 RACE RIOTS AND REPARATIONS.
MARCH 30 – APRIL 1, 2006**

Chapel Hill, NC – March 1, 2006 --- The Institute of African American Research (IAAR) will hold its annual International Scholars Conference entitled “Reparations Across the Americas” in Hyde Hall in the Institute for Arts and Humanities. The event is free and open to the public. *Lunch will also be provided.* IAAR is sponsoring the conference with the Center for the Study of the American South. This event is the eighth of its kind organized by IAAR. Previous conferences featured scholars from Germany, Japan, Cuba, Canada and Mexico. Keynote speakers will include Roy Brooks from the University of San Diego Law School and Melissa Nobles from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Capitalizing on the recent report on the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot, released in early December 2005 by North Carolina’s Office of Archives and History, we have invited the Race Riot Commission and LeRae Umfleet, the lead historian, to open our conference on Thursday March 30th to discuss their findings. The report, now available for public comment, will help to inform recommendations for community response that the commission will make to the state legislature in May 2006. Following a presentation of the commission’s report to start the conference, the Institute will present independent research on the economic impact of race riots on black businesses in Wilmington. To end the day’s discussion, we will have a panel entitled, *United States Race Riots Revisited and Policy Implications*. Scholars will discuss the devastation and political consequences of white riots in Danville, Virginia (1883), Wilmington North Carolina (1898), Atlanta, Georgia (1906), throughout Florida (1910’s, 1920’s) and Tulsa, Oklahoma (1921).

On Friday March 31st and Saturday April 1st, the conference will continue with a focus on the attitudes of reparations. Panels on these days will include *Attitudes, Politics and the Logistics of Reparations, Universities and the Legacy of Slavery, Diasporic Vision of Reparations, and Impact of Slave Systems*. Students also will be giving research presentations related to the history of the black presence at UNC.

The Institute of African American Research is a center for the study of black life. Its central mission is to promote and advance scholarly investigation of the history, social experiences, culture and thought of people of African decent through the diaspora, with particular emphasis on black Americans. The Center for Study of the American South honors the South’s legacy of cultural diversity and addresses the problems and contributions of all the region’s peoples, including those of European, African, native, Latino, and other origins. It seeks a future based on equality, prosperity, and democracy for all the South’s people, informed by the University’s highest standards of sound learning and critical thinking.

For more information about this conference and to register, please see the IAAR website: www.unc.edu/depts/iaar, or contact Mikhaela Houston at iaar@unc.edu.