

**Additional comments on the 2007 Joint Conference from Ron Hoffman,  
Director, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture**

**THE MOTHER OF ALL CONFERENCES**

Following the SEA's joint conference in June 2007 with the Omohundro Institute of History and Culture, at Williamsburg and Jamestown, Ron Hoffman described that event, in his "From the Director's Desk" column in the OIEAHC's Fall 2007 Uncommon Sense, like so:

We came home from California to make the final preparations for the event that has now taken its place in Institute lore as the mother of all conferences but is more formally known as the Institute's Thirteenth Annual Conference and the Society of Early Americanists' Fifth Biennial Conference. Nearly five hundred people attended this joint venture, held June 7-10 at the College of William and Mary, with a Saturday afternoon excursion to Jamestown. The photographs displayed in this newsletter's Scrapbook offer glimpses of the activities but do not effectively convey the excitement and energy the meeting's seventy sessions generated, in spite of a couple of meltingly hot summer days. The cross-disciplinary dialogue that characterized the presentations and discussions reflected the diversity of interests that account for the vitality of scholarship across the broad field of early American studies. The success of this collaborative effort required many months of hard thinking and hard work by a group of dedicated individuals. The Institute's Fredrika J. Teute and SEA president Dennis Moore (Florida State University) ably and creatively chaired the program committee, assisted by Rhys Isaac as the representative of the Institute's Council. The members of the committee who so willingly invested considerable time and energy in shaping the program include Stephen Carl Arch (Michigan State University), Wendy Bellion (University of Delaware), Holly Brewer (North Carolina State University), Mendy C. Gladden (OIEAHC), Mark Kamrath (University of Central Florida), SEA vice president Thomas Krise (University of Central Florida), Edward Larkin (University of Delaware), Sally M. Promey (Yale University), Jeffrey H. Richards (Old Dominion University), Marion Rust (University of Virginia), Mark Valeri (Union Theological Seminary), and Karin Wulf (College of William and Mary). We thank them all for the memorable experience they organized for us.

For full text and those photos, visit <http://oieahc.wm.edu/uncommon/124/index.cfm>.

Dennis Moore  
President, Society of Early Americanists (2005-2007)