



# AMERICA'S 400<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*The Journey That Changed the World*

*Sandra Day O'Connor, Honorary Chair*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NATIONALLY RENOWNED JOURNALIST GWEN IFILL TO HOST AMERICA'S 400<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY'S 'JAMESTOWN LIVE!' WEBCAST**

*Thousands of Educators and Students Nationwide  
Will Participate in a Virtual Field Trip through Time*

**Williamsburg, VA** – Jamestown 2007, the organizers of America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, today announced that renowned journalist and national correspondent Gwen Ifill will host "**Jamestown Live!**," a nationwide educational webcast and signature event commemorating America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The webcast will air live at 1 – 2 p.m. EST on Thursday, November 9, 2006, and is intended for elementary and middle school students, their teachers and homeschoolers. It is available free on the Internet through registration at [www.JamestownJourney.org](http://www.JamestownJourney.org).

Developed in partnership with leading educational organizations, "**Jamestown Live!**" will tell the story of the nation's birthplace through creative programming focused on three of Jamestown's enduring legacies -- democracy, cultural diversity and the spirit of exploration.

Coming live from the sites where these legacies first took root in the Americas, the webcast will combine elements of a television news magazine, musical interpretation of historic themes, and a town hall meeting with participation by a live student audience that includes representatives from all 50 states and the District of Columbia as well as students from several hundred Virginia schools. Students and teachers nationwide will be able to email questions as well as participate in surveys prior to and during the webcast.

Ms. Ifill will be joined by student reporters aged 10 – 17 as they interview a roster of historical experts for an engaging look at how representative government, the convergence of European, Native American and African cultures, and exploration began to shape our country and our society. Historical experts include Dr. James Horn, author of the best-selling "A Land as God Made It: Jamestown and the Birth of America," Stephen Adkins, Chief of Virginia's Chickahominy Indian Tribe; Dr. William Kelso, director of archaeology at Historic Jamestowne; Dr. Rex Ellis, vice president of the Historic Area at Colonial Williamsburg and co-chair of the Jamestown 2007 African American Advisory Council; Captain Eric Speth, maritime programs manager for the Jamestown Settlement living-history museum; and Kathryn Thornton, former NASA astronaut.

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“Ms. Ifill is an accomplished journalist whose commitment to in-depth news analysis is evident in every story she covers,” said Colin Campbell, president of Colonial Williamsburg and vice-chair of the Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee. “As a leading news correspondent and moderator on politics and public affairs, she is the ideal host for ‘**Jamestown Live!**,’ which will spark discussion among young people about our nation’s beginnings. We are honored that Ms. Ifill has agreed to participate in this America’s 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event,” said Mr. Campbell.

“‘**Jamestown Live!**’ encourages young people to connect in a meaningful way with the foundations of democracy, cultural diversity, exploration and free enterprise, which began at Jamestown,” said Ms. Ifill. “By commemorating the events of the past, we can help the leaders of the future set the stage for active participation in the democratic process for years to come.”

Ms. Ifill, a native of New York City, is a graduate of Simmons College in Boston and the recipient of 15 honorary degrees. She is moderator and managing editor of “Washington Week,” and senior correspondent for the “News Hour with Jim Lehrer.” Ms. Ifill was moderator of the vice presidential debate during the 2004 election. She serves on the boards of the Harvard University Institute of Politics, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Museum of Television and Radio and the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism.

The “**Jamestown Live**” webcast is particularly relevant for students in Grades 4 -8. While registering for the webcast at [www.JamestownJourney.org](http://www.JamestownJourney.org), teachers also can maximize their students’ participation in “**Jamestown Live!**” by exploring the free curricula and history, social studies, and civics lesson plans available at the Web site. Compiled by the University of Virginia Center for Politics, these comprehensive lesson plans align with educational standards. More than 70 lesson plans at [www.JamestownJourney.org](http://www.JamestownJourney.org) provide resources for teachers in Grades K-12.

“**Jamestown Live!**” was developed in partnership with NASA, the National Council for the Social Studies National Education Association, National History Day, U.S. Department of Education, The History Channel, the Jamestown 2007 African American and Virginia Indian Advisory Councils, Jamestown 400<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Commission, Colonial Williamsburg, Historic Jamestowne and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

*Jamestown 2007, a sub-agency of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, is coordinating events to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, Va., the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. Jamestown is where the nation’s traditions of representative government, free enterprise and multi-cultural society were established. State, national, and international commemorative events to salute these legacies began in May 2006 and continue into 2008. Major corporate sponsors of America’s 400th Anniversary include Norfolk Southern Corporation (NYSE: NSC), The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and Verizon (NYSE: VZ). Other supporters include Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. (BUD), AirTran Airways (NYSE: AAI), Dominion, James City County, Philip Morris USA (NYSE: MO), SunTrust, Wolseley PLC/Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. and Towne Bank. More information about the commemoration is available at [www.Americas400thAnniversary.com](http://www.Americas400thAnniversary.com).*

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