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Discovering the History of POWs

MARCH 11, 2013

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The Georgia Southern Museum, Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Department of History have partnered to present "Captive Warriors: The History and Archaeology of POWs" at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12 at the Performing Arts Center, 847 Plant Drive.

The mini-conference will focus on the experiences of prisoners of war from the Civil War through World War I and will include presentations from Georgia Southern historians Brian Feltman and Michael Van Wagenen and archaeologist Lance Greene. Special guests include David Bush of Heidelberg College, the lead archaeologist from Johnson's Island, Ohio which is the location of a Union prison camp for captured Confederate officers and historian John Derden, the author of *The World's Largest Prison: The Story of Camp Lawton*.

"This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in history or archaeology, or anyone learning about the major wars, especially the Civil War," said Peggy Hargis, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. "We're very excited to be able to bring John Derden to campus. He was working on the history of Camp Lawton before Georgia Southern archaeologists uncovered the site, and he is a wealth of information about the prison camp."

In between presentations, people can buy copies of Derden's book along with Van Wagenen's *Remembering the Forgotten War: The Enduring Legacies of the U.S.-Mexican War* and Bush's *Fear I shall Never Leave This Island: Life in a Civil War Prison*. Those interested in buying books are asked to bring cash or check.

After the presentations, a book signing and reception will be held at the Georgia Southern Museum along with tours of the Camp Lawton exhibit. All events are free and open to everyone.

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Georgia Southern Creates Center to Help Youth-At-Risk

MARCH 11, 2013

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Georgia Southern University announces the creation of the National Youth-At-Risk (NYAR) Center at the College of Education (COE) to train educators to help boys and girls overcome bullying, violence and other challenges in their local schools.

"Once again, Georgia Southern University is answering the call to address issues that face our region and nation," said University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D., in announcing the Center's creation.

"Educators serving youth placed at-risk in our service area, in Georgia and throughout the United States need professional development, research support and resource assistance to reduce or eliminate the harmful effects of problematic conditions threatening youth in our schools and communities."

The NYAR Center will develop, coordinate and extend the ongoing efforts of COE to provide professional development, research support and resource assistance for educators serving youth placed at-risk within the geographical service area of Georgia Southern and beyond, according to professor and NYAR Conference co-chair Dan Rea. The 24th annual conference wrapped up last week in Savannah with more than 1,100 attendees from throughout the U.S. and the world.

"The NYAR Center is an important addition to the College of Education and our mission," said Tom Koballa, dean of the College of Education. "It places COE in the forefront of fostering research and providing professionals with the latest educational programs and strategies to assist youth in overcoming at-risk conditions."

The Center will extend three of COE’s current efforts to address the needs of educators to serve youth placed at-risk: the annual NYAR Conference, the annual Southeast Conference on Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports and the Closing the Achievement Gap for Educators website. Through cutting-edge research efforts, the Center will also make it possible for Georgia Southern and the College of Education to play important roles in enabling educators to find research-based solutions to regional and national educational problems.

Youth-at-risk signifies the urgency and seriousness of societal “risks” faced by today’s youth and is distinct from “at-risk youth.” The NYAR Conference and new Center focus on the conditions that threaten the well-being of youths which include poverty, racism, drugs, gangs, negative peer pressure, negative school climate, unqualified teachers, passive instructional strategies, disregard for individual learning differences, ineffective discipline systems, low teacher expectations, inadequate counseling, teen pregnancy, sexual harassment and dysfunctional home life.

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