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Georgia Southern historians awarded contract for study at Fort Pulaski National Monument

JANUARY 31, 2019

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A contract to conduct a special history study on African-Americans at the Fort Pulaski National National Monument, located on Cockspur Island between Savannah and Tybee Island, Georgia, has been awarded to Georgia Southern University historians. Fort Pulaski was used as a prisoner-of-war camp during the Civil War and was the site where the Union Army tested rifled cannons.

Georgia Southern history professors Julie de Chantal, Ph.D., and Anastatia Hodgens Sims, Ph.D., are principal investigator and consultant, respectively, on the research team along with Georgia Southern alumnus Heidi Moye.

The project, which is sponsored by the National Park Service (NPS) in cooperation with the Organization of American Historians, is designed to uncover the previously unknown history of African-Americans on Cockspur Island, Hilton Head Island, Savannah and other Sea Islands.

The team will explore the history of African-Americans in the Low Country from colonial times through the 20th century. Fort Pulaski was recently designated an NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site, and this study will be used by park staff in interpretation, education and resource management initiatives.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving nearly 26,500 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities.

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