

# Newsroom

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Georgia Southern University

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# Georgia Southern offers archaeological field school at Confederate POW camp

FEBRUARY 8, 2019

Save



*Ryan McNutt, Ph.D., and some students work with a metal detector at Camp Lawton.*

Georgia Southern University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology will continue its spring and summer archaeological field schools held at Camp Lawton, a former Confederate prisoner of war (POW) camp, located in Magnolia Springs State Park in Jenkins County, Georgia. The spring session of the field school will meet every Friday until May 3, and the summer session will meet Monday through Friday from May 20 through June 20.

"Camp Lawton has become a time capsule, locking into the soil the stories and experiences of those who were guarded, and those who guarded them, in the lonely Georgia pines as war raged ever closer," said Ryan McNutt, Ph.D., assistant professor of anthropology at Georgia Southern and director of the Camp Lawton archaeological project.

The department was invited to investigate the archaeology of Camp Lawton in 2009 and has since made several discoveries including remnants of four stockade walls, a potential Confederate camp site and several POW shelters. Among some of the items recovered are picture frames, eating utensils and military items from guards and POWs.

Built in the summer of 1864, Camp Lawton reached a peak of more than 10,000 POWs before being closed down in December of the same year. The site is now managed by Georgia's Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

The project welcomes visits by members of the public, interested students and local school groups. Throughout the coming spring and summer, public days will be announced on Saturdays for those who are busy during the week. The Magnolia Springs State Park visitor's center can direct visitors to the excavations.

For more information, please visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/Camp-Lawton](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/Camp-Lawton).

# Georgia Southern's Armstrong Campus to host reading with acclaimed novelist Julianna Baggott

FEBRUARY 8, 2019

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Critically acclaimed fiction writer, poet and essayist Julianna Baggott is coming to Savannah for Georgia Southern University's Armstrong Visiting Writers Series. Baggott will give a reading at Savannah Coffee Roasters on March 7 at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

"Through hosting poets and novelists who teach in graduate programs at universities in the southeast and beyond, the Visiting Writers Series exposes students to great writing while providing them the opportunity to interact with writers to whose programs they might apply after graduation," said William Belford, Ph.D., director of the Visiting Writers Series and senior lecturer on the Armstrong Campus. "Furthermore, in hosting the readings at a centrally located

public venue, the series serves the local community and the campus community alike."

Baggott has published over 20 books under her name and her pen names Bridget Asher and N.E. Bode. Her novels *Harriet Wolf's Seventh Book of Wonders* (Little Brown, 2015) and *Pure* (Hachette, 2014) were New York Times Notable Books of the Year, and *Which Brings Me to You*, which she co-wrote with Steve Almond, was a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2006.

Baggott's work has appeared in *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, *The American Poetry Review*, *The Atlantic* and on NPR, among others. There are more than 100 foreign editions of Baggott's novels published or forthcoming overseas.

She is an associate professor at Florida State University's College of Motion Picture Arts where she teaches screenwriting. From 2013 to 2017, she held the William H.P. Jenks Chair in Contemporary American Letters at the College of the Holy Cross.

The event is presented by the College of Arts and Humanities on the Armstrong Campus. Additional support for the event is provided by the Department of Writing and Linguistics and the Department of Literature at the Armstrong Campus, as well as Gail and Mickey Rountree, in memory of their son Rhett Morgan Rountree, among other patrons of the series.

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