

Newsroom

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Georgia Southern University

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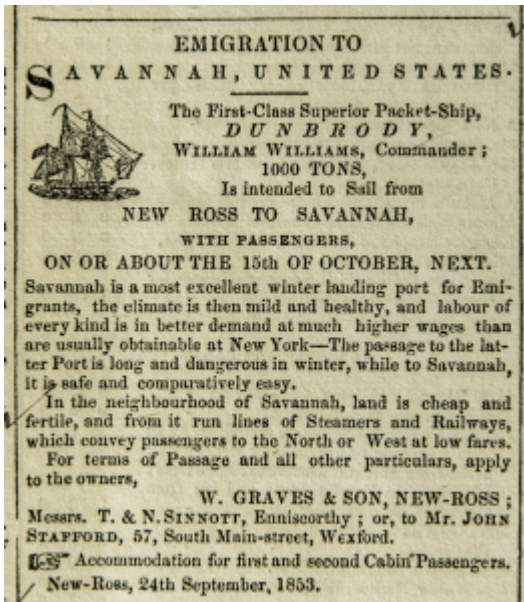
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Georgia Southern students to bring Savannah to Ireland in new Dunbrody Center exhibit

MARCH 12, 2019

Save



Visitors to the Dunbrody Emigrant Experience Center, a world-class visitor center in the historic river port of New Ross, County Wexford, Ireland, will soon be able to experience a taste of Savannah, thanks to several Georgia Southern University students.

The students conducted primary-source research at archives in Savannah and in Ireland, and a permanent exhibition based on their discoveries is now being developed for the Dunbrody Center, which welcomes more than 110,000 visitors annually. The facility's principal attraction is a full-scale reproduction of a three-mast, transatlantic sailing ship, the Dunbrody, which operated out of New Ross between 1845 and 1869.

"Our students determined that the Dunbrody's first ever commercial voyage was to Savannah, seeking Georgia timber and that subsequent voyages by it and its sister ships brought immigrants from southeastern

Ireland to the Hostess City," said Howard Keeley, Ph.D., director of Georgia Southern's Center for Irish Research and Teaching (C.I.R.T.). "That multifaceted story is what the exhibition will convey, providing Irish, European and other international visitors with compelling text and images about Savannah, a city that may not have been on their radar."

Undergraduate honors student Noelle Anderson, a native of Fortson, Georgia, was part of the research team that identified and analyzed documents at such repositories as the city of Savannah Research Library and Municipal Archives and the National Archives of Ireland.

"One artifact useful for the exhibition is an invoice, dated Feb. 8, 1847, from the Savannah factory, Andrew Low & Co., for various kinds of timber," Anderson said. "We discovered the invoice in an uncatalogued box of papers in an Irish archive, and it helps bring the trading link to life."

Seán Connick, director of the Dunbrody Emigrant Experience Center, is thrilled with the detailed work conducted and curated by the student-researchers from Georgia Southern.

"The students are providing a new and much more nuanced narrative about the original vessel," said Connick in a video link from aboard the Dunbrody reproduction. "We had almost no knowledge of the complex trading and human links that existed between our port and Savannah during the mid-19th century."

“Until now, we thought of the Dunbrody primarily as a famine ship: a means of escaping Ireland during our Great Hunger or potato famine,” he continued. “ We knew a great deal about its conveying passengers to Québec and New York, but the students’ work is demonstrating that Savannah-bound passengers, while distressed, were not destitute and that Georgia timber enjoyed high demand from brewers, railroad-builders and others in our region.”

Recent graduate Bernadette O’Donnell (‘18) was also a part of the student research team that made some of these discoveries.

“We used the Dunbrody Emigrant Experience Center as a case study in my capstone International Studies course, and I was also was a member of the archives-based undergraduate research program that, working in Savannah and Ireland, discovered and assembled the material now being used for the permanent exhibition,” O’Donnell said. “It’s great to have our work educate and excite people about Savannah. The exhibition will encourage tourism from Europe to Savannah.”

Keeley said the project promotes tourism, economic development and further bridges a gap between Savannah and Ireland.

“We secured more than \$40,000 in funding for this project, with half of it as a matching grant from stakeholders in Savannah,” said Keeley. “Such entities as Visit Savannah and the Savannah-Hilton Head Airport Authority see real worth in the exhibition. It’s a way of placing Savannah’s rich history and its heritage-tourism assets before large numbers of discerning Europeans.

“It also augments the TradeBridge initiative, a collaboration between C.I.R.T., the Savannah Economic Development Authority and Ireland-based partners that, in its first 10 months, has secured major European distribution deals for several Savannah companies and has seen an Irish maritime company establish its U.S. headquarters in Savannah,” Keeley added. “We’re gratified that our students’ work is not only getting deployed in a real-world situation but is also advancing the economic vitality of Savannah and our region.”

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. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern sport management students compete in case study competition

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Georgia Southern University seniors and sport management majors Gabriel Anderson, Stacie Anderson and Jenna Kniss, were selected by faculty to represent Georgia Southern at the 2019 Applied Sport Management Association (ASMA) Conference Case Study Competition in February.

The conference, held in Nashville, Tennessee, tasked students with finding a location for the next Major League Soccer expansion team, writing a report about their recommendations and presenting their findings to a panel of experts in the soccer industry. Georgia Southern came in second of the seven undergraduate teams.

In addition to the competition, students were able to visit with alumni, CJ Berthelsen ('15), Zack Taylor ('11) and Michael Schetzel ('94), who are currently employed with the Nashville Sounds, Nashville Predators and Nashville Soccer Club respectively, and meet with other leading industry professionals.

Georgia Southern faculty member selected as co-editor for personal training textbook

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Georgia Southern University Assistant Professor of health and kinesiology, Ron Snarr, Jr., Ph.D., was recently selected as the co-editor for the 3rd edition of the National Strength and Conditioning Association's (NSCA) *Essentials of Personal Training* textbook.

Snarr will also author two chapters in the book; one on resistance training programming and one on proper exercise techniques. The textbook serves as a resource for individuals looking to become certified as a personal trainer through the NSCA.

The NSCA is one of the leading organizations in the field of exercise science dedicated to advancing the strength and conditioning profession.

Georgia Southern faculty member serves as guest lecturer in Sweden

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Amy Chall, MLS (ASCP), a lecturer in the Department of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Sciences, recently visited Kalmar, Sweden, to serve as a guest lecturer at Linnaeus University. Chall provided a lecture on blood diseases and her current research on targeted anti-cancer ablation therapy to second-year students at Linnaeus University. Chall also gave a presentation on Georgia Southern and the Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) program that is currently offered on the Armstrong Campus.

“During my visit, I was able to collaborate with other faculty members to develop a joint, web-based assignment that University students on both campuses could participate in to learn more about each other’s healthcare systems,” Chall said. “During the last week in March, junior level students in the MLS program will present to the first-year Linnaeus students on how the blood supply is managed in the United States. In turn, the Linnaeus students will give a presentation on the healthcare system in Sweden.”

Chall’s trip was sponsored by the Linnaeus University Strategic Grant for Teacher Mobility, awarded to Maria Mattson, senior lecturer of the Department of Chemistry and Biomedical Sciences at Linnaeus University.