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The University of Georgia Retirees Association

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University of Georgia

<http://www.uga.edu/ugara>

May 2010

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SET SAIL FOR SAVANNAH IN JUNE!

The UGARA Travel Committee is offering a trip to Georgia's Mother City, historic Savannah, on June 23-25. Jam-packed with entertaining and educational activities, this trip includes transportation in a first-class motor coach, accommodations at the Courtyard by Marriott in the downtown Historic District and a sumptuous supper at the Olde Pink House Restaurant, one of Savannah's finest dining establishments. At \$315/person (double) and \$350 (single) this is an exceptional opportunity to enjoy the history, charm and beauty of one of Georgia's most popular destinations. Read on for details about this exciting adventure.

June 23: We'll leave Athens at 9 a.m. from the parking lot of the UGA softball/soccer complex on Milledge Avenue, riding in a comfortable motor coach complete with restroom and light snacks and drinks. We'll stop for lunch along the way and arrive in Savannah in mid-afternoon. Rooms in the Courtyard by Marriott, located on West Liberty Street, have Internet access and double or king-size beds, and the hotel provides a complimentary full country breakfast.

In the evening, we'll enjoy a performance by the McIntosh County Shouters, one of the last active practitioners of an ancient music tradition that originated in West Africa. Concentrated in African American communities in coastal Georgia and South Carolina, the "shout," also known as the "ring shout," is a spirited gospel-based musical form that includes call-and-response singing and dance-like movement accompanied by hand clapping and a stick beating a drum-like rhythm. The McIntosh County Shouters have performed at Wolf Trap in Virginia and New York's Lincoln Center, and in 1993 received the National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served afterwards. (For more about the McIntosh Shouters, visit <http://www.newgeorgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?id=h-520&pid=p-44>)

June 24: We'll spend the morning aboard the Dolphin Magic, a 41-foot excursion boat that will take us on a scenic cruise down the Savannah River to Tybee Island. We'll see notable coastal landmarks including the famous Waving Girl, Fort Jackson and Fort Pulaski and the Tybee Lighthouse and Cockspur Island Lighthouse. Off Tybee, we'll watch Atlantic Bottlenose dolphins cavorting alongside the boat. (<http://www.dolphin-magic.com>)

In the afternoon we'll get on our bus for a tour of Savannah led by Ardis Wood, a.k.a. The Victorian Lady. Dressed in a period costume, The Victorian Lady will show us historic sites and points of interest and entertain us with tales of Savannah's colorful characters. She's guided such visitors as the Travel Channel's Samantha Brown, the CBS "Early Show," Regis Philbin and the Australian ambassador to the U.S.

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SET SAIL FOR SAVANNAH IN JUNE! (continued)

Supper will be at the Olde Pink House Restaurant, one of the city's most elite dining venues. Housed in a 1771 mansion that was headquarters for one of William Sherman's generals, and furnished with Williamsburg-style antiques and fine art works, the restaurant is famous for elegant and delectable Southern cuisine. Our menu will feature a choice of pecan-crusted chicken breast with blackberry-bourbon glaze, shrimp and cheddar cheese grits cakes with country ham gravy, or bourbon-molasses grilled pork tenderloin, all accompanied by selected vegetables. Dessert will be either vanilla bean ice cream with praline crumb topping or raspberry sorbet. The restaurant is within easy walking distance of Savannah's Riverfront. (<http://www.frommers.com/destinations/savannah/D35841.html>)

June 25: In the morning we'll visit the UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium at Skidaway Island, and the UGA Extension Service's Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens. At the marine education center we'll learn about important research on coastal environments that can impact Georgia's economy and improve quality of life for coastal residents. We'll also view a fascinating array of sea life in the large saltwater aquarium and learn about marine ecology through dioramas and interactive exhibits. (<http://www.marex.uga.edu/aquarium/index.html>)

The 50-acre Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens is a descendant of clumps of giant timber bamboo originally planted more than a century ago. Private owners, and later government agencies, have conducted many research projects with the bamboo including its possible use in manufacturing rubber, paper and roofing material and as a cancer-fighting agent. UGA acquired the farm in 1983 and uses it for research, plant trials and education. The farm includes ornamental display gardens and a Xeriscape Garden. (<http://www.ugaextension.com/bamboo/AboutUs.html>) After lunch we'll board the bus and return to Athens, arriving around 9 p.m.

The \$315/person (double occupancy) or \$350 (single occupancy) cost of this trip covers transportation, lodging, entrance fees and the Olde Pink House supper. The trip is limited to 40 participants and the deadline for reservations is June 7. Because it is such an outstanding value this trip is expected to fill quickly so immediate reservations are recommended, using the form below! Checks will not be processed until after the trip. Instructions will be mailed to participants prior to the trip. Come join the FUN!

John Jeffreys, UGARA Travel Committee

Reservation Form

THIS FORM MAY BE DUPLICATED

NAME : 1) _____ 2) _____

ADDRESS: Each participant will receive a letter of information concerning bus loading and the final itinerary. _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ E-MAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Send form and check for \$315/person double or \$350/single to the UGA Alumni Association c/o Marcus Jennings, Wray-Nicholson House, 298 Hull Street, Athens, GA 30602-6372 by JUNE 7. Please note UGARA Savannah Trip on your check PAYABLE to the UGA Foundation.

E-mail us with your comments and suggestions, or subscribe to the UGARA-L listserv to stay informed. To subscribe, send an e-mail to ugara@uga.edu requesting that you be added to the list.

The UGA Alumni Association sponsors UGARA which is an official retirees' organization for faculty and staff. You can visit the Alumni Association's web site (<http://www.alumni.uga.edu/alumni>) to find out about other activities that may be of interest to you.

Pictures of the Spring 2010 Reception for New Retirees (and previous receptions) are found on the UGARA website (<http://www.uga.edu/ugara/album.html>). You can also find photos of UGARA trips at this site.