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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE APRIL LEARNING LUNCH PROGRAM AT THE HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE WILL
FEATURE DR. AMY MITCHELL-COOK, THE INTERIM DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS, SOCIAL
SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA**

The History Museum of Mobile's Learning Lunch Program is on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 12pm and will feature Dr. Amy Mitchell-Cook. The title of her presentation is ***The Shipwreck and Excavation of La Belle, a 17th-Century French Attempt to Colonize the New World.***

Dr. Cook is the interim dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of West Florida. She is also a professor of history and specializes in maritime history, Atlantic world, early American and 19th century women. She graduated from East Carolina University with a M.A. in maritime archaeology and spent 10 years as a maritime archaeologist before returning to school at Penn State University for a Ph.D. in History.

Dr. Cook has written numerous chapters, articles and book reviews on maritime archaeology and history. Her book, *Sea of Misadventures: Shipwreck and Survival in Early America*, is based on more than 100 accounts of shipwreck narratives from 1640 to 1840, and explores the issues of gender, race, religion and power, and how it reflected on Americans in Anglo-American society. She co-wrote the chapter, "The Maritime History of Florida," in the book, *The New History of Florida*, which is the first comprehensive maritime history of the state to be written in a quarter of a century. She also co-wrote a chapter in a book titled *Methodology in La Belle: The Archaeology of a 17th Century Ship of New World Colonization*. Her more recent research focuses on Pensacola's redlight district in the early 20th century.

The History Museum of Mobile invites the public to attend the free Learning Lunch lecture series. Guests are encouraged to bring their lunch and enjoy a presentation on an historical or cultural topic. For more information on Learning Lunch, contact Jennifer Theeck, Curator of Education, at (251) 301-0270 or by email at theeckj@historymuseumofmobile.com.

HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE: The History Museum of Mobile is where Mobile's story begins. Over 117,000 objects weave together the rich, diverse, and often turbulent histories of Mobile and the surrounding area, from the prehistoric past to the present. Located in the heart of downtown, the History Museum is in the Old City Hall - Southern Market building at 111 South Royal Street. For more information, please visit: www.historymuseumofmobile.com

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