



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State

For Immediate Release
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Mission San Luis Hosts Grand Opening of Military Complex

~Public invited to experience military life in the 17th century during a day long celebration~

TALLAHASSEE, FL—Secretary Kurt S. Browning invites the public to the grand opening of *El Castillo de San Luis*, the re-created 17th-century fortification at Mission San Luis, on Saturday, May 5. Visitors can explore Florida's past through costumed living history, self-guided site tours and exhibits from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The free event will also include activities for children, 17th-century military drills and weapons demonstrations and a book signing from award-winning historian Dr. John Hann. Please see the attached schedule for event details.

Mission San Luis has been reconstructing the military complex, which was dedicated in December 2006, over the past 18 months. The Spanish built the original complex in the 1690s to withstand attacks from other European powers and to provide sanctuary for the community during assault.

Mission San Luis was the western capital of Spanish Florida from 1656 to 1704. Today the Mission brings the 17th century to life through costumed interpreters, period buildings, exhibits and archaeological demonstrations. The site is a National Historic Landmark and recipient of a 2006 *Preserve America* Presidential Award. Mission San Luis is located at 2021 West Mission Road in Tallahassee, Fla. The site is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and admission is free. It is managed by the Florida Department of State's Bureau of Archaeological Research. For more information on Mission San Luis, call 850.487.3711 or visit www.missionsanluis.org.

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Office of the Secretary

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What: **Grand Opening of *El Castillo de San Luis***

- Free admission
- Open to the public
- Complimentary beverages from Tallahassee Coca-Cola

When: Saturday, May 5, 2007
Site is open from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Scheduled Activities

8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	Historical Happenings—Learn about San Luis during this monthly meeting for everyone interested in history, archaeology and the Mission!
11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.	Military Drills and Weapons Demonstrations
11 a.m.-3 p.m.	Colonial Crafts—Make Mexican-inspired crafts in celebration of <i>Cinco de Mayo</i>
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Book Signing by Dr. John Hann—Meet the winner of the 2007 Florida Historical Society’s Rembert W. Patrick Award for the best book on Florida history. Copies of his latest book, <i>The Native American World Beyond Apalachee</i> , will be available for purchase.

Where: Mission San Luis
2021 West Mission Road
Tallahassee, FL 32304
850.487.3711
www.missionsanluis.org

Why: The military complex at Mission San Luis is now open to visitors. San Luis has been reconstructing the fortification, which was dedicated in December 2006, over the past 18 months. The Spanish built the original complex in the 1690s to withstand attacks from other European powers and to provide sanctuary for the community during assault.