OUR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST TO THE GALAPAGOS

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“This is an expedition, not a pleasure cruise!”

Our first encounter with National Geographic/Lindblad Expeditions was aboard the National Geographic Endeavor (https://www.nationalgeographic.com/expeditions/ships/national-geographic-endeavour-ii/) to the Galápagos. After consulting with a friend from Duke University, we booked our trip for the first week of November 2022. Our friend told us it would be an “active” vacation and he was right. The ship held about 100 passengers, small enough to provide beach landings using a zodiac or dinghy for snorkeling, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding.

The first week of November in the Galápagos was magical. It seemed as if all those animals decided to have their babies at the same time, and we got to see all of them—including the elusive albatross mating dance. (These birds spend as much as a year or more in the air without touching land.) Each of the eight islands we visited saw moose, caribou, Dall sheep, grizzly bears, black bears, mountain goats, and lots of salmon swimming upstream. If you are looking for a cruise where you can sit back, enjoy the sun and a sit by the pool, this isn’t for you. But if you’re into nature, history, science and want to be active, National Geographic/Lindblad is the one. One of the unique features of National Geographic/Lindblad is the inclusion of 6-8 trained and certified naturalists and at least one professional photographer who accompany each small group and also provide daily briefings, lectures, and special presentations. “An expedition, not a pleasure cruise,” is a perfect way to describe these incredible once-in-a-lifetime adventures.
The start of the 2023-24 academic year began on August 21, 2023, as Georgia State welcomed to its Atlanta and Perimeter College campuses more than 50,000 students. 15,000 were new enrollees, with more than 7,200 attending college for the first time.

Administration

Carrie Manning, professor of political science, has been appointed as the new Associate Provost for International Initiatives at Georgia State. Manning was appointed to the role in an interim capacity last March.

Sara Rosen, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will step down effective Dec. 31, 2023. Dr. Rosen joined Georgia State University in 2016, previously the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor at the University of Kansas. During her time at Georgia State, Dr. Rosen helped to craft the College’s strategic plan for 2018-2023, and helped to develop the university-wide strategic plan for 2023-2033. She was instrumental in establishing numerous research centers within the College, notably the Humanities Research Center and the Center for Studies on Africa and its Diaspora. Lindsey Cohen, Distinguished University Professor of Psychology and department chair, will become Interim Dean.

Michael White has been appointed as permanent director of the Emest G. Welch School of Art & Design after serving in an interim capacity. He previously directed the school from 2012 to 2018.

Grants and Awards

The U.S. News & World Report ranked Georgia State as the top Public University for Undergraduate Teaching for the fourth straight year, and No. 2 for Innovation for the third consecutive year in its 2024 edition of Best Colleges. These rankings are based on a survey of presidents, provosts and admissions deans at colleges and universities across the country. “It comes as no surprise to us that we’re once again at the top of U.S. News’ innovation and undergraduate teaching rankings,” said Georgia State President M. Brian Blake. “Our institution continues to be the national model in graduating students from all backgrounds at equal, high rates.”

Georgia State University recently received the distinguished 2023 Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization, an honor granted to a select number of institutions that demonstrate outstanding innovation and accomplishment in campus internationalization.

Healthcare UPDATE

- Open enrollment for pre-65 retirees and spouses, who are insured under the USG just like active employees, is October 23 – November 3, 2023, through OneUSG Connect.
- Medicare open enrollment for retirees and spouses 65+ is October 15 – December 7, 2023, through Alight to maintain the HRA benefit.
- That benefit has been reduced from $2736/person/year to $2640 for 2024 ($96 less per year).

Upcoming Events

HOLIDAY RECEPTION

The annual Emeriti Holiday Reception will take place at the Rialto Center for the Arts on Sunday afternoon, December 3. Parking, refreshments, and entertainment are free, thanks to the GSU Foundation’s support for the Emeriti Association. They also provide us with tickets to the School of Music Holiday Gala, which follows at 3 pm.
Events & Activities

JUST IN TIME FUND RECIPIENTS

Marc Anthony Reyes • Scholarships and Fellowships Coordinator • Office of Undergraduate Research Fellowships (OURF)

This summer, two Georgia State University Honors College students, Linda Scott and Eshan Shah, received Just-In-Time grants that advanced their scholarly and professional development at meetings in their respective fields. Without this grant, they would not have been able to attend these national meetings.

Eshan, a second-year neuroscience major, used the grant to help offset the costs of traveling to Boston for the American Society for Nutrition’s national 2023 conference, a leading conference in the field of Nutrition Sciences. It was his first conference; and he was able to meet new people, make valuable connections, and learn more about the field of Nutrition. He presented a poster, which gave him professional experience in public speaking. Attending the conference gave Eshan a deeper understanding of his field and its latest scholarship.

Linda’s Just-In-Time grant took her out west to Butte, Montana for the annual editorial meeting of UReCA (NCHC Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity), the official undergraduate journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council. Linda, a third-year journalism major, was introduced to the current and new student editorial staff. The meeting also served as a training session for the publication’s newest members. Linda said it was wonderful experience to meet and bond with the other members of the editorial team. She also was trained in the ways that the editors and staff operate the review process for submissions. For someone who plans to go into publishing, it was a great introduction to the field. Thanks to the Just-in-Time grant, Linda had the funding necessary to pay for her flights to and from the meeting.

Thanks to the support of the Emeriti Association, Just-In-Time awards are making it possible for Georgia State Honors College students to travel to national conferences, present award-winning research, and receive training for vital professional development. For more information on the grant, please visit the Emeriti Association website or contact the Honors College.

Christine Gallant • Professor Emerita of English (CAS) • cgallant@gsu.edu

Timothy Renick, Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies and Executive Director of the National Institute for Student Success, testified before the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee on June 14, 2023. He was on a panel of four education experts that was examining innovation in American colleges and universities.

Emeritus Renick discussed Georgia State’s transformative efforts over the past decade to boost graduation rates, close achievement gaps and ensure success for students from all backgrounds. Asked by U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.) about the data colleges need to help students succeed, Renick explained the prevailing problem isn’t a lack of data, but an inability to “operationalize” the data.

He discussed ways in which Georgia State helps first-year students get information on the marketplace for their given major so they can make earlier career decisions. He also discussed innovations such as micro-grants targeted at students in danger of withdrawing from the University for financial reasons, as well as artificial intelligence-enhanced chatbots that allowed Georgia State to reach students at scale.

REQUEST FOR JIT FUND DONORS

Donations to the Just-In-Time Fund for Honors College students are requested. Gifts can be made online at https://netcommunity.gsu.edu/make-a-gift or by check. For checks, make payable to Georgia State University Foundation and mail to: Georgia State University Foundation • P.O. Box 2668 • Atlanta, GA 30312-2668.

You may specify the student’s originating department.

The GSU Emeriti Association board has committed to match dollar-for-dollar, up to $3,750 total, every gift to the Emeriti Just-in-Time fund made on Georgia State Day. We still have a ways to go to meet the challenge. Every dollar helps and will help us toward our goal.
IN MEMORIAM

Charles A. Burden. Professor Emeritus of Organizational Behavior in the College of Business, died on June 1, 2023. He earned a bachelor of science degree at Clemson University, then trained as an investigator for the United States Dept. of Labor. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force and served in the Tennessee Air National Guard. As a national Defense Educational Fellow, he earned his doctorate from Georgia State University in 1970 and then began a 40-year teaching career, initially at Clemson University and then at Georgia State University. During this period, he often also worked as a contractor for the U.S. Department of Defense through the University of Maryland, European Division. Retiring, he continued to regularly give lectures abroad in many countries, including Germany, France, Great Britain, Poland and China.

Charles Williams. Professor Emeritus of Business, died September 5, 2023. While working in New Mexico as a physicist for the United States Air Force and later the Sandia Corporation, Charles became interested in the then-emerging field of computer science. He earned a doctorate in Computer Science from the University of Texas in 1966, then taught at Pennsylvania State University (1966-72), Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1972-75), and Georgia State University School of Business (1975-2001). He published numerous research papers on topics relating to data compression, pattern recognition and other problems in computer graphics.

He was a passionate rock climber in his 20s and 30s, and led mountain rescue teams in the Sandia Mountains for several years. He wrote The Crash of TWA Flight 260 (University of New Mexico Press, 2010), an account of a TWA plane’s crash into the mountains which killed sixteen people, the ensuing rescue operation, and the investigation into its cause. In his 50s, he took up competitive running and, later, race-walking. Within a few years, he was winning his age group in national events. He was an enthusiastic member of the Atlanta Track Club for many years.

Note from Emeriti Association

Please inform us if you learn of any emeriti deaths, for we receive no formal notification from the university: emeriti@gsu.edu or 404-413-3400.