



Dear Friends,

We have had an extremely busy spring and summer and are excited for the start of another productive academic year! This year, to celebrate the 10 Year Anniversary of our Galapagos Initiative, we hosted a World Summit on Island Sustainability in Galapagos to bring together thought leaders on island sustainability as well as [acknowledge all the accomplishments](#) the Galapagos Initiative has had in its first decade.

Learn more about the World Summit as well as our cutting-edge Galapagos Biobank Project, the inspiration behind the sustainable sculptures of Galapagos animals on UNC's campus, and the incredible ongoing research our faculty and students are conducting in Darwin's living laboratory. It is time to whisk yourself away to the Galapagos in our latest newsletter!

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for Galapagos Studies**

GSC Hosts World Summit on Island Sustainability



The World Summit on Island Sustainability was held from June 26-30, 2022 in San Cristobal, Galapagos to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Galapagos Science Center and brought together voices from around the world to discuss challenges to island conservation and ways to ensure

healthy island ecosystems for future generations. Learn more about this impressive event in [this article](#) and immerse yourself in the Summit by watching this comprehensive [video](#)!

Preserving the Galapagos One Sample at a Time



The Galapagos Islands are a unique ecosystem of biological interest for all humanity, and our Galapagos Science Center is leading the way to store samples and collect the history of life from the Galapagos. The GSC Biobank Initiative is creating what will be one of seven biological centers in Ecuador, to guard the genetic resources of existing biodiversity. The Biobank will allow preservation of natural resources and opportunities to study different aspects of evolutionary biology, population and ecosystem health, and analysis of environmental contaminants. Learn more [here](#)!

Up Close with Carolina Researchers in Galapagos



Carolina researchers may be conducting research more than 2,600 miles away from home in the Galapagos Islands, but their findings are helping to better understand global issues, such as climate change and freshwater security. In [this article](#) you will learn more about the inspiring researchers looking into topics that affect us all, and what motivates them to choose Galapagos as their research location!

On the Origin of Sculptures



A creative collaboration between UNC Center for Galapagos Studies and Arts Everywhere has meant Carolina's community has enjoyed upcycled/recycled art of Galapagos animals on campus since April! The blue footed booby sculpture (Coker Arboretum) and marine iguana (Morehead Planetarium) will still be showcased for the near future, and a local Galapagos artist even created a permanent marine iguana outside our Galapagos Science Center on San Cristobal. Learn more [here](#)!

UNC & USFQ Receive \$1M NSF Grant



UNC researcher Dr. John Bruno and Dr. Margarita Brandt of USFQ are partnering on a three year, [\\$1M grant from the National Science Foundation](#) to untangle the interactive roles of temperature, nutrient flux, and predation in structuring the Galapagos marine food web and, in turn, help determine how temperature influences marine ecosystems.

UNC & USFQ Reaffirm Commitment to Strategic Partnership



Diego Quiroga, president of Carolina's long-time strategic partner USFQ, visited the UNC's campus this Spring to join Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz and other UNC leaders in reaffirming their commitment to the [UNC-USFQ partnership](#) and to the institutions' joint activities in the Galapagos Islands!

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I hope you enjoyed reading these impactful stories from Galapagos and look forward to sharing more with you in the future! If you would like to support our Center to allow us to continue making an impact in this way please click [here](#) or feel free to reach out to me at weaverk@email.unc.edu to arrange a phonecall or Zoom to learn more!

Kind regards,

Kelly Weaver
Director of External Affairs & Communications
UNC Center for Galapagos Studies



CONTACT US

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
CENTER FOR GALAPAGOS STUDIES
100 Europa Drive Suite 450, Campus Box 1155
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
weaverk@email.unc.edu
919.445.0763
galapagos.unc.edu

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