



Dear Friends,

April 22nd was Earth Day, and we invite you to celebrate the Earth with us as we reflect on our last several months of work in both Chapel Hill and the Galapagos! We've been busy with events on campus, such as the annual GiveUNC event where we joined other UNC departments and schools to fundraise beneath the Bell Tower and the annual UNC Science Expo at Morehead Planetarium where we introduced adults and kids alike to the Galapagos. We're also excited to announce the creation of a new fellows program that was made possible due to a grant from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust! Read on to learn more about the incredible impact of this new grant, recent events, and three new seed grant-funded research projects that will start this summer. Enjoy this trip to the Galapagos!

Support UNC Center for Galapagos Studies

Kenan Galapagos Fellows Program launches this fall



We are so excited to announce that the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust awarded \$1.5 million to the UNC Center for Galapagos Studies to create the [Kenan Galapagos Fellows Program](#), which will support three graduate students per year for three years and one post-doctoral fellow per year for two years. The first graduate fellowships will begin in fall 2024! The grant also supports expanding the Galapagos Science Center's footprint to enhance research capacity in areas such as clean oceans, biodiversity, and ecosystem and human health. Thanks to the support of the Kenan Charitable Trust, more students will have opportunities to form the basis of their graduate and early career

research, which they will bring to their future careers in research, government, and industry, and the GSC will be equipped to continue tackling pressing issues and making a positive impact in the Galapagos and beyond. Learn more in [this recent announcement](#).

Thank you for a successful GiveUNC 2024!



For the first time, the UNC Center for Galapagos Studies took part in the University's Bell Tower event on campus during GiveUNC. Our team engaged with hundreds of students on campus to share more about our Center and fun facts about the Galapagos. We even appeared three times in the [official UNC coverage of the event](#); see if you can spot the sea turtle in the video! Thanks to the support of everyone who came out for GiveUNC,

we raised over \$10K to help continue creating the scientists of tomorrow, equipped and ready to address the complex challenges of the future.

The Center for Galapagos Studies awards three new Seed Grants



Thanks to the support of private donors and the Office of Research Development at UNC, [the Center for Galapagos Studies has awarded 3 new seed grants](#) to researchers from the Gillings School of Public Health, the Carolina Population Center, and the College of Arts and Sciences to launch new projects in the Galapagos this summer. Heather Wasser, an assistant professor in the department of nutrition, will study factors contributing to the dual burden of malnutrition in local Galapagos communities; Janet Nye, an associate professor in the department of Earth, marine, and environmental sciences, will research upper trophic level production in the Galapagos oceans as it relates to different oceanographic features; and Alfredo Rojas, a postdoctoral student at

the Carolina Population Center, will investigate the presence of anemia in communities and how that relates to both diet and farm access.

International Women's Day: Celebrating the women behind the Galapagos Science Center



March 8 was International Women's Day, a global day to celebrate the achievements of women everywhere, raise awareness about continued discrimination based on gender, and take action to promote gender parity. The Galapagos Initiative is home to incredible female leaders and scientists at UNC, USFQ, the Galapagos Science Center (GSC), and collaborators through our International Galapagos Science Consortium. Since the GSC was founded in 2011, over 50 women have led research across more than 74 research projects! We [interviewed five of these talented women](#) to highlight their work and experiences within the Galapagos Initiative.

Celebrating another successful UNC Science Expo



The UNC Science Expo is an annual celebration hosted by the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center and allows the community to get up close and personal with the cutting-edge science taking place at the University. This is the third year in a row that the

UNC Center for Galapagos Studies has participated in the in-person expo. Check out some of the videos we made for the 2021 virtual edition of the celebration, including a [reading of Marti the Hammerhead](#) for the kids and [a discussion of our Galapagos Barcode Project](#), explaining how this citizen science project impacted so many in Galapagos. This year, we offered coloring pages and trivia questions about some of the endemic animals, such as the Galapagos sea lion and blue-footed booby, and even hosted a “Baby sea turtles’ race to the sea” game to teach kids about the importance of protecting the islands’ beaches!

**Support UNC Center
for Galapagos Studies**

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
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UNC Center for Galapagos Studies

