George Greenia awarded the XXIII International Prize Grupo Compostela–Xunta de Galicia

Santiago de Compostela, 10 April 2019 – The jury of the XXIII International Prize Grupo Compostela–Xunta de Galicia, which met in Santiago de Compostela, decided to award the honour to the academic and researcher George Greenia for his “prolific academic trajectory, connection with Galicia and contribution to the dissemination of the Jacobean phenomenon”.

When informing him of the decision, the awardee explained that he accepted this “generous sign of recognition of the individual and institutional efforts” made through the Institute for Pilgrimage Studies of the institution of higher education William & Mary. An institution based in the American city of Williamsburg and focused on the “scientific research of personal transformation journeys in all territory, times and traditions”.

The award ceremony will take place on 4 June within the framework of the XXV General Assembly of the Compostela Group of Universities, which this year will be held at the University of Guadalajara (Mexico). At this ceremony, Greenia will receive a golden shell, the symbol of the Compostela Group of Universities.

Profile of the awardee

George Greenia is the founder of the Institute for Pilgrimage Studies and the president of Alpha Delta Gamma National Honorary Society for Medieval & Renaissance Studies, both established at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg (U.S.A).

Author of several Spanish language textbooks and numerous articles on Hispanic Medievalism. He is currently editor of the medieval newsletter and journal La Crónica sobre lengua y literatura españolas of the Division on Medieval Spanish of the Modern Language Association and member of the advisory board of Cuadernos de Estudios Gallegos of the Instituto de Estudios Gallegos Padre Sarmiento of CSIC, as well as the Scientific Committee of the journal of Jacobean studies and pilgrimage Ad Limina of the S.A. de Gestión del Plan Xacobeo.

Among the more than twenty distinctions and awards he holds, the Encomienda de la Orden de Isabel la Católica granted by S.M El Rey de España and the Ángel del Camino award conferred by the Enxebre Orden de la Vieira, a confraternity of Galician expatriates who support the Camino de Santiago.

George Greenia is Professor Emeritus of Modern Languages, PhD in Romance Languages by the University of Michigan (1984) and Director Emeritus of the Program in Medieval & Renaissance Studies of the College of William & Mary.
Members of the jury 2019

The meeting of the jury of the XXIII International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia was chaired by the Regional Minister for Education, University and Professional Training of Xunta de Galicia, Carmen Pomar Tojo. The following authorities are also members of this jury:

- The General Secretary for Universities of the Xunta de Galicia, José Alberto Díez de Castro.
- The General Technical Secretary for Education of the Xunta de Galicia, Jesús Oitavén Barcala.
- The President of the Compostela Group of Universities, Marek Kręglewski.
- The Rector of the University of Santiago de Compostela, Antonio López Díaz.
- The Rector of the University of Seville, Miguel Ángel Castro Arroyo.
- The Vice-Rector for Higher Education of the University of Monterrey, Carlos Basurto.

The Executive Secretary of the Compostela Group of Universities, María Teresa Carballeira Rivera, acted as a secretary to the jury.

International Prize Grupo Compostela–Xunta de Galicia

The International Prize Grupo Compostela–Xunta de Galicia, since its creation in 1997, has recognized individuals and institutions from different fields. In previous editions, the prize has recognized the work of personalities such as Jacques Santer (1997), Vaclav Havel (1998), Mohamed AlBaradei (2010), the College of Europa (2012) and Marcelino Oreja Aguirre (2017).

Compostela Group of Universities

The Compostela Group of Universities (CGU) is a non-profit international organisation that works for fostering cooperation and promoting dialogue in all areas of higher education. The CGU took its first steps in 1994 and since its creation, the network has grown to unite more than 60 universities from all over the world. All the pilgrims of the Compostela Group of Universities share the values of cooperation and integration developed around the Camino de Santiago.