

## George Greenia donates the economic amount of the XXIII International Prize Grupo Compostela–Xunta de Galicia to the Institute for Pilgrimage Studies of William & Mary

**Santiago de Compostela, 22 May 2019** – The XXIII International Prize Grupo Compostela–Xunta de Galicia laureate, George Greenia, announced today the donation of the economic amount of the award to the Institute for Pilgrimage Studies of 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”, he explained. After detailing some of the institute's research areas on various international pilgrimage routes, he stressed that the success of the Camino de Santiago “offers a model of hospitality, spiritual values and understanding that inspires everyone”.

During the introduction of the awardee and the International Prize Grupo Compostela–Xunta de Galicia, the Regional Minister for Education, Carmen Pomar, emphasised its relevance to strengthen the European project, and said that at this time “it is more important than ever to highlight the persons and institutions that achieved this recognition”. In this sense, she explained that the winners, “from the excellence they demonstrate in their particular disciplines, develop an intense work in favor of what is undoubtedly the most important of the values of Europe, the peaceful and cooperative coexistence among peoples”.

Reflecting on the prizewinner profile, the Executive Secretary of the Compostela Group of Universities, Teresa Carballeira, underlined that the awarding of this year's prize “perfectly symbolises the spirit of the Compostela Group of Universities by combining in the figure of George Greenia the culture of the old continent and the dynamism of the new world”.

The Rector of the University of Santiago de Compostela, Antonio López, thanked the awardee for his presence in Compostela and described him as “a profound connoisseur of the values of the Camino, values to be projected and which are an essential part of the success of this route”. In this sense, he affirmed that one could not “find a better ambassador to advance in the diffusion of the Jacobean phenomenon”.

### Award ceremony

The award ceremony of the XXIII International Prize Grupo Compostela–Xunta de Galicia will take place on 4 June in 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). In 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.

## 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 foundation, 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.

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