

Review of: *Life Quest: Building the Gerace Research Centre, San Salvador, Bahamas* by Donald T. Gerace.

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Life Quest is an easy to read account of the history of the Gerace Research Centre and an autobiography of Donald Gerace. The stories of the Gerace Research Center and Don Gerace are so completely intertwined, they are one and the same.

Don Gerace begins by describing his family's emigration from Italy at the turn of the century and his upbringing in New York. He discusses his "luck" of getting scarlet fever which led to his entering the academic world rather than having to go to work when he finished high school. After completing his doctorate in geology he joined the Finger Lakes College system and headed the development of a small local field station, conducting biology and geology field courses for the colleges.

After a number of years teaching in upstate New York, the cold winters led him to seek out a warm-weather location to take students and faculty to continue their research. After reading a newspaper advertisement about an abandoned United States Naval Base in the Bahamas for sale for only one dollar, Don visited Sal Salvador Island in 1971 and went on to establish the College Centre of the Finger Lakes (CCFL) Bahamian Field Station near Graham's Harbour.

From there begins the story of the field

station. Over the last 40 years the field research station has evolved from a winter inter-semester-abroad location to one of the foremost locations in the Bahamian archipelago for teaching and conducting research year round. The Centre's geology, natural history and archaeology conferences regularly provide a showcase for research conducted on San Salvador. The Centre is now part of the College of The Bahamas and continues to attract students, faculty and researchers internationally.

Don leads the reader through the events, trials and tribulations of establishing the field station: from enduring sunken boats and hurricanes, to scary and exhilarating adventures flying the skies above the islands. Don had adventures that most of us can only dream of.

The book is not written in a timeline but as a series of overlapping vignettes. Life in the islands is both simple and exceedingly complex and is best told as a series of stories. This style creates a picture in the reader's mind - much as if one had been there at Don's side watching events play out.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Gerace Research Centre and this book is a chronicle of the life and work of Don Gerace.

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