The Impact of Your Support

Report on Giving & Alumni Engagement
JULY 1, 2017–JUNE 30, 2018

COVER PHOTO: STACY ZHANG
Building on Your Success

As I begin to settle into my new position and familiarize myself with the rest of campus, I am inspired by the level of talent and energy that exists throughout Duke. As we embark on the next chapter of the Nicholas School’s evolution together, I am confident we are well-positioned to become even stronger in providing much-needed solutions to today’s many environmental challenges.

Please join me in extending a special “thank you” to Jeffrey Vincent for his outstanding leadership as interim dean over the last two years. During this time, Jeff initiated a strategic planning process for the School and put us on firmer ground financially. Jeff also helped secure a new, much-needed research vessel for the Duke Marine Lab, as well as funds to launch our new Natural Resource Finance Initiative. I am excited to now be at the helm of the School and build upon his accomplishments.

You too are deserving of my sincerest gratitude. Thanks to your generosity over the last year, we have replenished our resources for financial aid, experiential learning opportunities, and unrivaled innovative research. Your vote of confidence in our students, faculty and programs is the foundation for our success.

Our alumni community continues to grow stronger thanks to our alumni engagement program, Go·Grow·Give. As more alumni reconnect with the School, it is becoming increasingly evident how vital their role is for our future and the impact we can have on the planet. I look forward to engaging with you all as dean and as a fellow alumna.

Whether we are tackling the challenges from a warming climate, the crisis in our oceans, declining biodiversity or other issues, your commitment and support is vital. From volunteerism, to fellowship, to philanthropy, you make Duke Environment possible. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Toddi Steelman PhD’96
Stanback Dean, Nicholas School of the Environment
1,762 donors contributed $52,720,000 to the Nicholas School in fiscal year 2017–2018.

476 Nicholas School Alumni made gifts to the School.

240 new donors made their first gift to Duke’s environmental programs.

**Gifts & Pledges by Source**

*July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018*

- **Foundations**: $29,274,000
- **Corporations**: $820,000
- **Individuals**: $21,476,000
- **Other**: $1,150,000

*Photo by: Priya Ranganathan MEm’17*
Gifts & Pledges by Purpose

July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018

- **Programs and Other Needs**: $42,882,000
- **Sponsored Research**: $4,781,000
- **Annual Fund**: $1,832,000
- **Capital**: $3,040,000
- **Endowment**: $185,000

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PHOTO BY: ERIC RUSSMAN MEM’17
The Nicholas School has raised sufficient funds to create a new Executive-in-Residence faculty position in natural resource finance, thanks to a $250,000 contribution from the Reynolds Foundation and Board of Visitors member Scott Jones MF’81.

The new position will directly support the new Natural Resource Finance Initiative (NRFI) program, which the School has developed to address the evolving landscape of the natural resource finance industry. Through the support of the new faculty position and subsequent course offerings, students will learn in-demand skills including natural resource management, conservation management, financial analysis and investment management.

The School has recruited forestry alum Joe Bachman MF’95 to fill the position, who brings to the role his experience as Global Head of Asset Management at Global Forest Partners LP.
$5 Million for Environmental Research

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Duke University announced a $25 million gift from Jeff and Laurie Ubben, of which $5 million will support environmental research and education. The gift supports a partnership between WWF and the Nicholas School to identify novel solutions that support conservation and sustainable development, and make these new tools and approaches accessible to conservationists and environmental managers worldwide.

Jeff and Laurie Ubben, both alumni of Duke, say their gift is inspired by their love of nature and their desire to leave a better planet for their children.

“Jeff and I feel strongly about protecting the environment,” says Laurie Ubben. “We’re energized by the important work WWF and Duke are doing to safeguard our planet. Now more than ever, we believe these initiatives must be supported.”

Source: Giving to Duke, WWF

“This far-sighted gift from two of Duke’s most dedicated alumni will enable us to pioneer a new model of collaboration between a university and a global conservation organization. I am especially excited by the opportunities it will create for our students, to be part of research and practice coming together to devise solutions for our planet’s toughest conservation problems. I am grateful to Jeff and Laurie for this remarkable investment in Earth’s future.”

Jeffrey Vincent, Clarence F. Korstian Professor of Forest Economics and Management
$11 Million for a New Research Vessel

The Duke Marine Lab has received $11 million for the construction and operation of a new state-of-the-art ship that will significantly expand teaching and research capabilities.

The gift comes from the Grainger Family Descendants Fund and provides $5 million for the construction of the new 68-foot research vessel and $6 million to support operating costs.

The ship will function as an ocean-going classroom for oceanography students at the Duke Marine Laboratory in Beaufort, NC, and will include wet labs and dry labs, oceanographic equipment, a galley and sleeping quarters. Local K-12 teachers, students and community members will also make use of the vessel to support science outreach programs.

The vessel will also allow researchers and other institutions to conduct research along the Atlantic seaboard in a wide range of vital fields, including marine ecology and conservation, biological oceanography, and renewable ocean energy development.

With several projects in development for the Beaufort campus, the vessel is a significant contribution towards the School’s efforts to rebuild the infrastructure at the Marine Lab over the next five years.

Construction for the vessel is scheduled to be completed by summer 2019.

The Duke Marine Lab’s new research ship will be similar to the R/V Fulmar, a 65-foot catamaran research vessel built for NOAA by All American Marine, Inc. of Bellingham, Washington.

“[Unlike our current vessel], the new boat will be able to operate in waters up to 100 nautical miles from shore and stay at sea for days at a time. We’re very excited by the prospect.”

Andrew Read, Director of the Duke Marine Lab and Stephen A. Toth Professor of Marine Biology
Sponsored research grants awarded by government agencies, corporations and foundations help our Nicholas School faculty explore important environmental issues and provide hands-on learning opportunities for our students. In 2017-2018, our faculty received 59 grants totaling $4,781,000 to advance all aspects of their research and educational efforts.

**New Applications With Drones**

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has provided Duke researchers with a $954,000 grant to determine how drones could help the military more effectively combat storm damage and monitor forest fires at training facilities and installations along the coast.

According to David Johnston, Associate Professor of the Practice of Marine Conservation Ecology and Director of the Marine Robotics and Remote Sensing Laboratory (DMRRSL) at the Duke Marine Lab, the project will help the DoD implement reliable unmanned aircraft systems—or UAS—in fire and coastal zone management, which will increase the speed, ease and safety of obtaining useful monitoring products for a fraction of the cost of traditional operations.
“Taking such an interdisciplinary and holistic approach allows us to evaluate the risks of early-life exposures to these chemicals, and try to identify approaches for reducing these risks. We are deeply appreciative to NIEHS for this support, and are happy to know they share our commitment to our vital work.”

Heather Stapleton, deputy director of the Superfund Research Center and Dan and Bunny Gabel Associate Professor of Environmental Ethics and Sustainable Environmental Management

The Duke University Superfund Research Center was awarded a five-year grant for nearly $10.2 million this year from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), which will support five research projects investigating the later-life consequences of early-life exposures to hazardous chemicals. It will also fund six outreach and training programs designed to augment and support the center’s research.

“This renewed funding will support our center’s work to shed light on the long-term effects exposure to chemical pollutants can have on human and ecological health, and to develop approaches for reducing these exposures,” says center director Richard T. Di Giulio, Sally Kleberg Professor of Environmental Toxicology at the Nicholas School.

“It will also support efforts to share our research results with governmental, industrial and public stakeholders, engage communities in Superfund Center activities, and provide superior training for graduate students and postgraduate researchers.”

Consequences of Hazardous Chemical Exposure
Every year, gifts to the Nicholas School Annual Fund provide critical, flexible support for all areas of the School. The Annual Fund is fueled by the passion and commitment of all of us in the Nicholas community who believe in the value of the Nicholas School experience and generously contribute to carry our mission of environmental leadership and stewardship forward. For our students and graduates, many of their most memorable and significant moments started with support from the Annual Fund.

The Nicholas School is proud to introduce

**The Summit Society**: a new leadership program that recognizes friends of the School who endeavor to help us reach new heights and share our vision to surpass the challenges facing our environment and to summit those that lie ahead on the horizon.

The program includes members who make annual cumulative gifts of $1,000 or more to the Nicholas School during Duke’s fiscal year (July 1–June 30). Members who support Financial Aid, the Nicholas School or Marine Lab Annual Funds, or other restricted program areas at this leadership level will receive annual updates on the impact of their philanthropy, as well as invitations to exclusive events. The program will serve as an additional opportunity for some of the School’s most dedicated supporters to earn recognition and show their commitment and support the school’s mission of forging a more sustainable future.

*Donors who met this leadership level for FY18 will receive recognition as Summit Society members. For more information on The Summit Society, please visit nicholas.duke.edu/summit-society.*
**FY18 Annual Fund**

**Total Dollars Raised** from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018: **$1,309,000**

- **Friends ($1–$999)**: $237,000
- **Summit Society Level ($1,000–$9,999)**: $284,000
- **Blue Sky and Vanguard Level ($10,000+)**: $788,000

**Total Number of Donors** from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018: **2,355**

- **Friends ($1–$999)**: 2,186
- **Summit Society Level ($1,000–$9,999)**: 135
- **Blue Sky and Vanguard Level ($10,000+)**: 34

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**Endowments & Planned Giving**

**Endowments** continue to provide much needed support in perpetuity for a variety of programs throughout the Nicholas School in addition to ensuring continuation of faculty positions. This past year, the Nicholas School received $185,000 to support new and existing endowment funds for scholarships, fellowships, faculty chairs, research and programs.

**Planned and memorial gifts** enable donors to harness their passions, or celebrate the legacy of loved ones, to make a lasting impact on the people and places important to them. Long-range planning—whether by including Duke in your will or through a life-income gift that provides you with quarterly payments—can provide lasting support for the School while achieving your own personal, financial and philanthropic goals. To learn more about supporting the future of the Nicholas School through a planned gift, please visit giving.duke.edu/ways-to-give/gift-planning.

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*[Photo by: Lees Todd]*
Over the past year, the School has continued to add ways for alumni to connect with their peers at events nationwide (Go), share their wisdom and experience with current students (Grow), and invest in the areas of the school that matter to them most (Give).

This year...

...More than 600 alumni attended a total of 18 Nicholas School-hosted events, and even more went to Duke events!

...Over 220 alumni volunteered to reach out to prospective students, shared job and internship opportunities with current students, visited classes as guest speakers and more!

...476 alumni gave a gift to the Nicholas School this year!

Want to grow your connection to the Nicholas School? To learn how you can get involved as an alumni volunteer, visit nicholas.duke.edu/giving/alumni and fill out our alumni volunteer interest survey.
A series of programs called “Climate Change: US Pulls Out, Blue Devils Dig In” proved to be a huge hit for Nicholas School and Duke alumni this year, with programs being held in San Francisco, Chicago, Stamford, Boston and Washington, D.C. The programs, which were conceptualized and named after the United States’ withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord, provided an opportunity for attendees to discuss the policy and business challenges surrounding climate change. Discussion was led by panelists at each location who offered their expertise from companies including PG&E, ClimateWorks Foundation, Nestle Waters North America, The Alliance for Water Efficiency and Cyclone Energy Group.

“The panel discussion in Washington, D.C. was engaging and even-handed. Hearing Duke and Nicholas School alumni talk about our planet’s largest environmental issue within the context of their careers was an inspiring demonstration of the knowledge and skills that I am gaining, and the opportunities I will have to make an impact once I graduate.”  Tim Singer MEM’19
Engaging With Current Students

The School launched two new programs this year to help alumni get involved with Nicholas School Students:

The Alumni-Student Mentorship Program initiated relationships between student mentees and alumni volunteer mentors who work in the student’s field of interest. The program was administered by the 2017-2018 Alumni Council Fellows, all three of whom received the Forever Duke Student Leadership Award from the Duke Alumni Association for their outstanding work and commitment.

The Home for the Holidays pilot program paired alumni participants with students who would be in their hometown while “home for the holidays.” In its first year, 23 students got together with an alum while they were home for the holidays and shared updates about the School, while the alums had an opportunity to offer valuable career advice.

“It was a pleasure to connect with a coastal student from Colorado. I was able to assist her with making some connections for her research, and she was able to fill me in on what’s new in Durham. She was even able to connect me with someone who’s now working with me; I love the way Duke connections continue well beyond our days on campus! Needless to say, ‘Home for the Holidays’ was a great benefit to both of us.”

Rebecca Beavers PhD’99, Home for the Holidays alumni participant
Creating a Legacy

The retirement of one of the Nicholas School’s most revered staff members inspired the launch of a one-of-a-kind fundraising campaign this year.

Karen Kirchof, long-time Assistant Dean of the School’s Career & Professional Development Center, retired earlier this year and invited alumni and friends to make a donation in her honor to the Environmental Internship Fund so she can continue to have an impact on students as she begins the next chapter of her life.

The Nicholas School community honored Kirchof by holding a recognition ceremony for her at the school’s Alumni Reunion Picnic in April, which included a presentation of a check for the money she helped raise with her campaign.

“I look back at my two years at the NSOE as the most impactful time in my educational journey. As such, I feel a responsibility to do my small part to support the School and its mission so that future students will have the same or even better opportunities than I had. Only with better trained environmental professionals can we begin to solve our planet’s many environmental challenges.”

Boyd Carnal MEM’14
YOU CONQUERED THE QUAD.
NOW, THE UNIVERSE.
FIND ALUMNI AND START YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE.

Thank you for being part of our generous community of alumni, friends and partners who support the important work the Nicholas School of the Environment.

For more information on any of the giving opportunities highlighted in this report, or to learn how you can make a difference through a gift to the Nicholas School, contact:

**Nicholas School of the Environment**
Office of Development and Alumni Relations
Phone: 919-613-8003
Email: duke-environment@nicholas.duke.edu
http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/giving

On the DAA alumni network, you have access to over 160,000 Duke alumni with which you can:

- Join special interest groups or regional groups
- Search for alumni by industry, employer, or job title
- Post and read personal and professional updates

To get started, update your profile at alumni.duke.edu today.