The Impact of Your Giving

Philanthropy Report

JULY 1, 2013–JUNE 30, 2014

PHOTO: CHRIS HILDRETH
Greetings, and Gratitude

It’s an honor for me to write you as the new Dean of the Nicholas School of the Environment. The School and Duke are known far and wide for world leadership in environmental education, research and practice. Now that I’m here, I’m not surprised to find that a pillar of that success is the tremendous support and generosity of alumni and friends. Thank you all.

We all face an extraordinary challenge: charting a more resilient, sustainable and environmentally sound future. Achieving that goal means we must both innovate and inspire. At the Nicholas School, our remarkable faculty members are doing just that. In addition to groundbreaking research, they have created pioneering new educational programs in energy, entrepreneurship and other fields that prepare our students for leadership, whatever career paths they choose.

It’s been a big year for the Nicholas School, from the opening of extraordinary new education and research facilities in Durham and Beaufort, to the passing of the deanship torch. Former Dean Bill Chameides did a wonderful job advancing the School’s mission, and we will continue to build on the foundation he has laid.

It has also been a year of achievements, ones made possible with the support of philanthropy. This report highlights just a few of the many generous gifts we received last year. Philanthropy is vitally important to the Nicholas School, allowing us to be bold and remain a world leader, and I’m thrilled to see that we continue to expand our community of contributors.

Again, I thank you for your past support, and hope we can count on your continued friendship and philanthropy as we embark on this new chapter.

Alan Townsend
Dean, Nicholas School of the Environment
Gifts & Pledges by Source

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

1,800 donors to the Nicholas School in fiscal year 2013-2014 contributed $13,625,000

380 Nicholas School Alumni made gifts

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

Corporations $2,375,000

Foundations $1,860,000

Individuals $8,425,000

Others $965,000
Gifts & Pledges by Purpose

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

- Sponsored Research $4,650,000
- Programs and Other Needs $3,860,000
- New Buildings $1,550,000
- Endowments $2,070,000
- Annual Fund $1,495,000
Endowments

As permanent investments in the School’s future, endowments continue to provide a vital stream of income for the Nicholas School, supporting a wide range of important areas that underpin our work. In 2013-2014, the Nicholas School received $2,070,000 to support new and existing endowment funds for scholarships, fellowships, faculty chairs, research and programs. While some endowments are directed by donors to fund a specific area, others are established as unrestricted funds to provide much-needed, flexible support.

Dr. Bryan Simmons (Trinity ’72) and Barbara Simmons of Memphis, Tennessee have established an endowment that will fund the study of climate change, particularly global warming, and its impacts on climate, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, health, and energy and economic systems.

The Simmonses have always been believers in climate change; during extensive travels, they have witnessed firsthand the impacts of global warming and air, soil and water pollution around the world.

Bryan, a math major at Duke who went on to a successful career in medicine, had been looking for a way to “give something back” to his alma mater. “I was trained in science, and it is the science that drives my support of the Nicholas School, and research into climate change,” he says. “The Nicholas School is a unique institution, and its climate change research can create ways to ‘cure’ the many aspects of the world’s environmental problems and change our world for the better,” Barbara believes. “If more of us financially support climate change research, then perhaps more people will believe that this truly is a major problem that we must now address.”
Sponsored research grants enable our Nicholas School faculty to partner with government agencies, foundations and corporations to explore important environmental topics at every scale, from answering global questions like *What is impacting worldwide climate change?*, to illuminating the role of tiny microbes in helping ecosystems adapt to environmental change. This year, Nicholas School faculty members spanning all of our divisions were awarded 57 grants totaling more than $4,650,000 million to support and advance their research efforts.
The National Science Foundation awarded a grant for a Duke-led study to explore how centuries of soil erosion from human land use is affecting Earth’s life-supporting outer skin. The five-year study, a collaboration between seven universities and government agencies, is being conducted in South Carolina’s Sumter National Forest. Nicholas School Professor of Soils and Forest Ecology, Daniel Richter, the principal investigator, says: “To sustain food production, stabilize the carbon cycle, and provide clean air and water and other ecosystem services for future generations, we need to better understand the land’s sensitivities and thresholds, and how degraded land can recover and begin once again to provide these vital services.”

Dana Hunt, Assistant Professor of Microbial Ecology at the Duke Marine Lab, received a three-year grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to study the importance of micro-scale interactions between bacteria and phytoplankton in marine environments. Marine microbes are responsible for cycling of carbon, nutrients and energy, and produce about 50 percent of the oxygen in Earth’s atmosphere. Yet, scientists still know surprisingly little about these tiny organisms, explains Dr. Hunt, who is collaborating with a colleague at the University of Rhode Island. “We are using model organisms to examine how interactions between these two groups affect physiology and gene expression under a range of environmental conditions. Determining the importance of these microbial interactions is key to developing a deeper understanding of both ecology and carbon cycling in marine environments.”
Gifts toward Nicholas School programs support a wide range of exciting opportunities that bring together faculty and students to explore a variety of environmental subjects.
This summer, through the generosity of Oak Foundation, the Nicholas School launched the Marine Conservation Summer Institute (MCSI), an intensive five-week program that immerses international scholars in the world of marine conservation biology and policy and gives them tools to understand and address issues of conserving marine biodiversity in the context of 21st Century society. MCSI marks a huge step forward in Duke's commitment to prepare tomorrow’s global marine conservation leaders. After completing the summer program, scholars return to their home countries, equipped with the knowledge and skills to effect meaningful change. What’s more, they possess the resources and connections to help them achieve their goals through mini-grants provided by MCSI to help launch conservation efforts in their home countries, and through a robust support network comprised of Duke faculty and alumni around the world.

When Nicholas School leaders heard about the international nonprofit ChangeALife Uganda (CALU), they wondered if there was a way for Nicholas students to apply their science and field-based interview skills to a real-world problem, hone their problem-solving and communication skills, and gain on-the-ground international experience while helping the organization achieve its goals. They asked Nicholas School Board of Visitors Member Jeff Chandler (Trinity ’82), whose wife Kerry has served on the CALU board, to connect School faculty with CALU leaders. As a result of this connection and the Chandlers’ generosity, three Nicholas students spent this past summer in rural Uganda researching available sources of water, water collection methods, purification and storage to help CALU determine how to help families access potable water and adopt healthier water-related behaviors. This life-changing experience has become the basis for the students’ group master’s project and helped prepare them for careers in international development.
Annual Giving

Annual support for the Nicholas School continues to provide essential, flexible funds that touch all aspects of life at the School. School leaders can immediately allocate Annual Fund dollars in ways big and small to cover *everything* that goes into providing an unrivaled environmental education, from financial aid, to faculty retention and research, to field trips, internships and other educational opportunities for our students.

### Annual Fund Commitments

**Dollars Raised**
From July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014: **$1,000,000**

- **Friends** ($1 - $999)
- **Supporters** ($1,000 - $9,999)
- **Blue Sky and Vanguard Level** ($10,000+)

**Number of Donors**
From July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014: **1,560**
Percentage Increase over Fiscal Year 2013: **7%**

- **Friends** ($1 - $999)
- **Supporters** ($1,000 - $9,999)
- **Blue Sky and Vanguard Level** ($10,000+)

**Giving Highlights**

- **10% increase** in the number of donors who renewed their giving from Fiscal Year 2013
- **6% increase** in the number of new donors
- **7% increase** in the number of Nicholas School Alumni who donated to the Nicholas School Annual Fund
Each year, leadership contributions represent more than 50 percent of the Nicholas School Annual Fund cash total. These gifts provide the Nicholas School, the Duke Marine Lab, and all of its programs with flexible resources to support a wide range of important needs. In recognition of these generous contributors, the Nicholas School has established two leadership gift clubs. Blue Sky members have given a total of $10,000 or more and our Vanguard members have given $25,000 or more.

In 2013-2014 we recognized 35 Blue Sky members and 13 Vanguard members, a 10% increase over last year’s donors.

Planned Giving

Many alumni and friends have decided to include the Nicholas School in their wills, or through a planned gift that provides them with guaranteed income today, while also ensuring a generous gift to the School in the future. And when the ultimate gift is designated toward endowment, it can guarantee a lasting legacy by providing ongoing, long-term support for the School.

To find out how to include the Nicholas School in your estate plans, please visit us online at nicholas.duke.edu/giving/waystogive

“I donate to the Annual Fund as a way to say ‘thank you’ for all that the Nicholas School has done for me. I would not have the job and career I have today if it weren't for the Nicholas School, and donating is my small way of giving back. Additionally, I donate to support the current students. I had a lot of amazing opportunities while at the Nicholas School, from valuable internships to once-in-a-lifetime field trips, and I want to make sure that the current students have those same experiences, and hopefully better ones.”

Nick DiLuzio, MF’10
Project Manager, Newfields
Atlanta, GA
In spring 2014, the Nicholas School celebrated the grand openings of Duke Environment Hall and the Dr. Orrin H. Pilkey Research Laboratory: two extraordinary facilities that promise to transform environmental education and research on our Durham and coastal campuses. Both milestones were made possible by the tremendous generosity of so many in our community, who have given at all levels to support building construction and to sustain the programs that will live inside.

Opening ceremonies for Environment Hall were held April 10, and almost all Nicholas School faculty, staff and students are now – for the first time ever – under one roof. And a solar-paneled roof at that! The prospect of creating this state-of-the-art home for the School’s education and research programs clearly spoke to our community of alumni and friends. As of June 30, 2014, more than $3.2 million dollars was received from Nicholas School alumni and friends, making this building, and the programs that will take place there, a reality. We look forward to recognizing you in a variety of ways throughout the building in the coming year.
For the **Field family**, supporting the Nicholas School through counsel and currency has been a multigenerational affair. Marshall Field V is former chair of our Board of Visitors, and his daughter Abby Field Gerry (Trinity ’02) is a current board member. Both have long championed our efforts to build a home for the Nicholas School on the Duke University campus.

“We’ve long believed that, to remain one of the top environmental schools in the country, the Nicholas School must have its own building,” the Fields say.

As dreams for Environment Hall became a reality, the **Field and Gerry families stepped forward with a significant leadership gift to name the Field Auditorium**, a state-of-the-art learning center that, for the first time, provides a space large enough to fit an entire Nicholas graduating class.

Marshall and Abby are thrilled with the building’s many features. “Nicholas students now have cutting-edge technology throughout, and the School finally has a place to call home.”

**Duke Forward Campaign: Making great progress**

All gifts toward the creation of Environment Hall and the Pilkey Laboratory – indeed, *all* gifts to support the Nicholas School’s programs, research, facilities, faculty and students – count toward the university-wide Duke Forward campaign. With the help of alumni and friends, the Nicholas School is closing in on our goal to raise $55 million during the Duke Forward campaign. With three years to go, we now stand at 95% of our goal, and we are hopeful to become one of Duke’s first professional schools to celebrate reaching this milestone. In fact, we have been so taken by the outpouring of generosity and support from the Nicholas School community that we are considering increasing our goal.

We appreciate all gifts that have helped us get to this point, and hope you will consider supporting us during this final stretch. Learn more about the Nicholas School’s campaign priorities by visiting [dukeforward.duke.edu/Nicholas](http://dukeforward.duke.edu/Nicholas)
Nicholas School alumni are a diverse lot. They reside all over the country – and the world – working in a wide variety of sectors, including business/industry, government/policy, conservation, law, academia and health care. The academic paths of our alumni vary as well: Some hold a Master of Environmental Management (MEM) or Master of Forestry (MF) degree, or joint degrees with other Duke programs; others are PhD graduates.

The Regional Alumni Networks were created through a collaboration between the Alumni Council, the Alumni Engagement Working Group and the Nicholas School. The goal of these networks is to help foster relationships between alumni living in densely populated regions around the U.S., and to allow for growth both personally and professionally.

The percentage of alumni engaged in various activities:
- Stay connected with Duke Environment eNews: 69%
- Engaged with Current & Prospective Students: 16%
- Attended an Alumni Social: 8%
- Participated in a Career & Professional Development Event: 7%

Get involved!

Opportunities for alumni to get involved exist even beyond the classroom. A strong alumni network, and alumni engagement with students, are important factors in motivating prospective students to choose the Nicholas School over competing institutions. To find out more on how to get engaged and stay connected, please visit www.nicholas.duke.edu/alumni or visit our Facebook and LinkedIn pages.
While a student at the Nicholas School, Dan Kolomeets-Darovsky, MEM ’10, was able to experience the value that alumni-student engagement offers through his interaction with Courtney Lorenz, MEM ’06 in a LEED certification class. Courtney helped to give Dan advice and knowledge that he couldn't get from a textbook, which in turn made his transition to graduate school a more seamless one.

Now an alum himself, Dan is paying it forward. He remains active in the Nicholas School community as a member of the Alumni Council, the Triangle Regional Alumni Network, and through the School’s Energy & Environment Program. “I’ve learned that giving time and experience to the School can be just as beneficial and valuable as monetary gifts,” he says. “And with so many ways to engage, there are opportunities for alumni to get involved, whatever your interests.”

To help our alumni stay connected to the School and to each other, we continue to expand our alumni engagement efforts, thanks in large measure to our very engaged Nicholas School Alumni Council. This year we have added a quarterly Duke Environment e-Newsletter, more regional alumni networks and events, and more opportunities for alumni to participate in career and professional development and mentoring with current Nicholas students.
Every success at the Nicholas School of the Environment is made possible by the generous philanthropic support of our alumni, friends and partners.

Thank you!

To learn how you can make a difference through a gift to the Nicholas School, contact

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Office of External Affairs
Phone: 919-613-8003
Email: duke-environment@nicholas.duke.edu
http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/giving