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The Impact of Your Support

Report on Giving & Alumni Engagement
JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017

Cover Photo: Duke Marine Robotics and Remote Sensing Laboratory
This has been a year of milestones for the **Nicholas School of the Environment**!

Fiscal year 2016-2017 began with the Nicholas School’s 25th anniversary celebration and concluded with the closing days of the Duke Forward campaign. In between, we set new records for donor support and alumni engagement. Thank you for helping to make this such a wonderful year and laying the groundwork for the Nicholas School’s future success.

Throughout the seven years of Duke Forward, all gifts to the Nicholas School have counted toward the university campaign. We are proud that the Nicholas School DOUBLED our original campaign goal of $55 million, bringing in over $114.9 million for student scholarships, professorships, buildings, research and programs. And last year, our Annual Fund – which also counts toward the campaign – surpassed $1 million. What a testament to the strength and generosity of the Nicholas community!

This fall, thanks to robust recruitment efforts and new scholarship offers, we welcomed our largest-ever class of professional environmental master’s students. To continue attracting the young leaders our world needs to respond to environmental challenges, we must continue to grow the pool of financial aid dollars that we invest in them and their futures.

The best way to judge a program is by its alumni – and our alumni are spectacular. Your accomplishments inspire our students and demonstrate that a Nic School education is worth it. I am grateful to you for helping us achieve our mission through your professional success.

Thank you for your commitment and the many ways you engage with us, from volunteering to philanthropy. Together, we are Duke Environment.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey R. Vincent
Stanback Dean, Nicholas School of the Environment
1,176 donors contributed $41,282,000 to the Nicholas School in fiscal year 2016-2017

383 Nicholas Alumni made gifts to the School

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

Corporations $13,314,000

Foundations $11,311,000

Other $2,173,000

Individuals $14,484,000
Gifts & Pledges by Purpose

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

- Programs and Other Needs: $18,783,000
  - Capital: $16,400,000
  - Sponsored Research: $4,659,000
  - Annual Fund: $1,301,000
  - Endowment: $139,000
Endowments

Endowments provide essential long-term support for the Nicholas School's work in education, research, policy and practice. This past year, we received $139,000 to support new and existing endowment funds for scholarships, fellowships, faculty chairs, research and educational programs.

**Joe Saldutti**, a 1988 graduate of Duke's Pratt School of Engineering, had his first glimpse of the Nicholas School’s Marine Lab just last year through a Duke alumni program he attended with his youngest son.

“It was amazing to see the research and initiatives underway,” he says. “My son couldn't stop talking about the mantis shrimps that he studied.”

Saldutti was so impressed, he decided to help with one of our biggest challenges: making the Marine Lab experience accessible to busy Duke students. In February, he established the **Duke Marine Lab Undergraduate Enrichment Endowment**, which will support programs that **help more Duke undergrads experience the Marine Lab and the unique educational opportunities it offers**. Because the endowment will take a little while to begin generating spendable income, he also made an immediate cash gift to get things rolling.

“The Marine Lab is a beautiful place with really interesting work going on,” Saldutti says. “While I’ll always be proud to be a graduate of Pratt, helping to promote broader experiences will hopefully help Duke students explore and engage in ways that they may not have considered before.”

“I’d always thought of an endowment as a huge commitment, but I learned that there are endowment levels that are reachable and realistic for normal alumni and other donors. It’s definitely worth asking about and getting the facts if you are thinking about giving to Duke.”

Joe Saldutti E’88
Sponsored research grants awarded by government agencies, corporations and foundations help the Nicholas School faculty seek answers to critical environmental questions and provide hands-on learning opportunities for our students. In 2016-2017, our faculty members were awarded 67 grants and received more than $4,659,000 to shed light on the most important environmental issues of our time.
Amid concerns about the health impacts of consuming food irrigated with wastewater from nearby oilfields, two Nicholas professors received seed funding from the Duke Energy Initiative and a $500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study these impacts in California’s water-scarce Central Valley.

Avner Vengosh, professor of geochemistry and water quality, and Erika Weinthal, professor of environmental policy, along with researchers from the Research Triangle Institute, Pacific Institute and California State University-Bakersfield, are monitoring water, soils and crops on farms with a history of using water from nearby oil wells for irrigation. They will use modeling and risk assessment techniques to determine likely impacts on human and environmental health. Their findings could be used to inform future policies and practices in California and other areas where water is scarce.

The Marine Robotics and Remote Sensing Laboratory at the Duke University Marine Lab – aka the Drone Center – is the only university-based marine drone facility in the country that focuses on both research and education. Executive Director Dave Johnston and colleagues use the drones for everything from mapping and measuring coastal erosion, to counting gray seals and sea turtles, to collecting mucus from the blowholes of right whales to gauge the health of this endangered species. The center also tests and develops new drone platforms and sensors that could help make the technology more affordable and adaptable, and trains Duke students, scientists, conservation professionals and local K-12 students to use this exciting technology.

The Drone Center has received a $310K grant from the National Science Foundation to modernize teaching and engineering spaces, purchase new aircraft and upgrade computing capabilities, and another from Oak Foundation to support a postdoctoral fellowship and hire an engineer.
Programs & Faculty

Gifts to Nicholas School programs help bring students and faculty together to explore the environment through hands-on learning and research. This year, donors contributed $18,783,000 to advance school programs and fund new faculty positions.
Nicholas School wildlife conservation researchers have partnered with SAS to develop a user-friendly interactive software tool called ConservationFIT. This innovative, easy-to-use technology can “read” digital images of animal footprints captured from smartphones, cameras or drones and accurately identify the species, sex and age of the animal that made the tracks – and even match tracks to individual animals. With ConservationFIT, anyone with a smartphone can upload digital photos of an animal’s footprints and help scientists monitor and map the world’s most elusive and endangered species. To start, the ConservationFIT team is focusing on three endangered species of big cats: jaguars in the Americas, snow leopards in Asia, and cheetahs in Africa and the Middle East.
Gifts to the Nicholas School Annual Fund provide critical, flexible support throughout the school. Annual Fund contributors 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 the moments that have meant the most at the Nicholas School have started with support from the Annual Fund.

Planned and Memorial Giving

Planned and memorial gifts enable donors to harness their passions or cement the legacy of loved ones, to make a lasting impact on the people and places important to them. A gift made through a will, retirement account designation, or some other type of planned gift may allow you to provide meaningful support for the Nicholas School while achieving your own personal and financial goals. To learn about supporting the future of the Nicholas School through a planned or memorial gift, please visit: nicholas.duke.edu/giving/waystogive
As an undergraduate at another college, Boyd Carnal MEM’14 took a summer course at the Duke Marine Lab and returned to Duke’s coastal campus for an entire semester as an exchange student. His passion for marine science led him to the Nicholas School’s professional environmental master’s program, and he spent an entire year at the Marine Lab while completing his concentration in Coastal Environmental Management. He now works at the North Carolina Aquarium.

Boyd’s parents, Mimi and Landers Carnal, were so impressed with their son’s experience at the Duke Marine Lab that, starting in 2012, they made a gift to the Nicholas School’s Marine Lab Annual Fund — and they have given annually to the Nicholas School ever since.

“We are very grateful for the many opportunities that the Marine Lab provided to Boyd. As parents, we are strong believers in supporting our children’s passions and thus doing our small part to assist the ongoing mission and programs of the Marine Lab.”
The university’s Duke Forward comprehensive fundraising campaign officially ended on June 30, 2017. With your support, the Nicholas School raised more than $114.9 million over the seven years of the campaign – more than doubling our original goal of $55 million and showing our university colleagues that the strength and generosity of the Nicholas School community are unrivaled!

Thank you for being an important part of our success!

Your support for the Duke Forward campaign has helped us:

• Build Environment Hall, the new home for the Nicholas School, and the Pilkey Research Lab at our coastal Marine Lab campus.
• Create four new endowed professorships to attract and retain world-class faculty to the school.
• Establish three new endowed scholarships and fellowships for deserving students.
• Launch programs in Environmental Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Natural Resource Finance and more, to prepare our students for success in a wide range of fields.
• Secure 77 new planned gifts designating over $30.7 million that enable us to plan for the future with greater certainty.
• Catapult annual giving over the $1 million mark – for the first time ever – providing much-needed support for everything from financial aid to student enrichment to program development.
Duke Environment celebrates 25th anniversary coast-to-coast

From Durham to DC to San Francisco, the Nicholas School community came together this year to celebrate the school’s 25th anniversary as an interdisciplinary program.

The festivities kicked off in April 2016 with a celebration of the Stanback Internship Program, which has been a pivotal part of the Nicholas School’s efforts to prepare our students for environmental leadership. In October, we held an anniversary party at the Newseum in Washington, DC. A month later, we gathered at the Washington Duke Inn for the 25th Anniversary Gala, where we were thrilled to celebrate alongside leadership philanthropists Pete and Ginny Nicholas and Fred and Alice Stanback, whose steadfast and visionary support has meant so much to the school. In March, we held our final celebration in San Francisco at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. All told, more than 500 members of the Nicholas community came together to raise a glass and hear from faculty, students and alumni about their current ventures and the impact of the school on their lives.

As a Nicholas School community member, you are an important part of our past success and our future excellence. Here’s to the next 25 years of environmental leadership!

Be on the lookout for more events coming to a city near you!
The Nicholas Scholars Program is the most prestigious merit award offered by the Nicholas School — and the largest. Students selected for this award receive scholarships that cover two-thirds of their tuition. That’s the highest level of financial aid the school has ever offered. In addition, Nicholas Scholars benefit from a special program designed to foster their environmental leadership skills, including mentoring and networking opportunities with alumni and local environmental leaders.

Launched with funding from five endowments and the Annual Fund, the program enables the school to award up to 15 Nicholas Scholarships each year to incoming environmental master’s students from diverse backgrounds and experiences who demonstrate exceptional leadership potential and academic excellence. The inaugural cohort of Nicholas Scholars, which just completed its first year, includes nine outstanding students from the Class of 2018. Twelve new Nicholas Scholars (Class of 2019) started the program this fall.
The Nicholas School is now focused on several fundraising priorities that will continue to propel the school forward. In November, we launched *Forging Future Leaders Together*: a multi-year effort to raise $25 million in graduate student scholarship and fellowship support to provide greater access and opportunity to master of environmental management and master of forestry students.

The Nicholas School’s #1 fundraising priority is to increase our financial aid resources (both endowments and immediately expendable gifts) to enable the best candidates to come to Duke and become environmental leaders and scientists who can graduate as unencumbered by debt as possible.

Our financial aid fundraising campaign has started strong with over $6.2M raised. Thanks to several generous donors, we have secured $1.85 million in endowment support for financial aid, including merit scholarships like our new Nicholas Scholars Program.
With our new alumni engagement program, more Nicholas School graduates are connecting with the school than ever before. Go • Grow • Give provides valuable, meaningful opportunities for our school's nearly 5,000 alumni throughout the world to:

• **GO** to events and activities to connect with your fellow alumni.

• **GROW** your connection to the Nicholas School and today’s students and faculty through volunteering time and expertise.

• **GIVE** back to the Nicholas community through your philanthropic support.

More than 490 alumni attended 14 Nicholas School hosted events – and even more Nicholas School alumni went to Duke events!

Over 260 alumni volunteered to reach out to prospective students, share job and internship opportunities with current students, visit classes as guest speakers and more!

383 alumni gave a gift to the Nicholas School this year!
The highlight of this year’s social calendar was the Nicholas School’s 25th anniversary — and our alumni showed up strong coast-to-coast. With events in Washington DC, San Francisco and Durham, over 190 Nicholas School alumni came out to mix and mingle with fellow grads and Nicholas faculty and students to celebrate the past and look toward the future. Alumni also came out for the annual reunion picnic, happy hours, educational programs and more — across the country and the world.
There are many ways for alumni volunteers to engage with today’s students, including being a guest speaker, representing your employer at a virtual career fair, recruiting prospective students or being a master’s project client. Opportunities and needs arise throughout the year, so please keep in touch — we bet there will be something that intrigues you!

“I think it’s important to give current students the opportunities I was given while at school. Alumni are fantastic resources; we can help ready another generation of Nicholas students to join the workforce and make productive contributions.”

Tim Foley MEM’09

While Tim Foley MEM’09 was working at the U.S. Forest Service headquarters in Washington, DC, he hosted Professor Dan Richter’s forestry class for a tour and discussion. Foley, now policy director for the Southern Group of State Foresters, continues to help the Nicholas School grow by volunteering his time and experience.

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, or contact Glenda Lee, Director of Alumni Engagement & Programs, at gslee@duke.edu.
When you make a gift to the Nicholas School, you can designate your support to any areas of interest such as financial aid or where the need is greatest through the Annual Fund. You can also establish an endowment or provide immediately expendable funds for professorships and programs. Wherever you choose to direct your support, Nicholas School students benefit immediately from a gift of any size as the funds you provide go to work immediately, helping to prepare them as emerging environmental leaders.

“At Duke, I was able to learn from the best in the field and build lifelong bonds with students and alumni from around the world. The skills and perspective I gained have helped immensely throughout my career. A gift supporting financial aid provides opportunity for students to study at the Nicholas School and become the environmental leaders of tomorrow.”

Patrick Bean MEM’08

Neeti Bathala MEM’95 answered our call for alumni to reach out to admitted master’s students to answer their questions and encourage them to come to the Nicholas School. When prospect Ryan Parks wondered about the value of an MEM degree for doctoral studies, Bathala shared how her time at Duke set her up perfectly for her career in academia. She told Parks that what sets the Nicholas School apart from other environmentally oriented graduate schools is “the opportunity to really explore interests and possibilities,” and shared some of her experiences, including a summer class at the Duke Marine Lab that formed the basis for the marine ecosystems course that she now (post-PhD) teaches in New Jersey.

Parks appreciated Bathala’s insight and was impressed by the Nicholas School’s “strong and supportive community” and the amount of outreach he received as an admitted student. The best news: Ryan just started his first semester in our MEM Class of 2019!

“give”

PHOTO BY: MICHAEL LEVINE MEM’00 JD’00
Thank you to our many alumni and friends that generously supported the construction of Environment Hall through their philanthropy and the vision of sustainability it encompasses.

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

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

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

PHOTO BY: AMY CHAPMAN-BRAUN

The world needs the Nicholas School — and we need you — now, more than ever.