

2022-2023

Impact of Giving



Honor Roll of Donors





It is with pleasure that the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation (DISLF) presents the annual Honor Roll of Donors. On behalf of the students and faculty who benefit from your generosity, thank you for making a gift to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab this year. The Honor Roll of Donors lists all donors who contributed to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation between October 1, 2022, and September 30, 2023. Your gifts enable us to attract extraordinary students and faculty, and to provide preeminent Marine Science education and research.

Thanks to you, this year, the DISL Foundation has exceeded all our goals. As you know, your gifts are vital to the strength of the Sea Lab and the impact has been unprecedented. Your generosity allowed the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation to provide the following:

- Scholarships to High School and College Students
- Funding for the Northern Gulf Coast Regional MATE ROV Competition – a regional competition attracting over 200 students
- Completely replaced all computers in the DHP Computer Lab
- Microscopes for both University and Discovery Hall Programs
- Funding for the BayMobile which reached more than 10,000 students around the entire State
- Sea Stars Camp
- Funding for a new Birding Class

Once again, I want to express my gratitude for you. Because of you, the faculty and marine educators have been able to provide the best experiences that will prepare these students to be environmentally conscious citizens of the world.

Thank you!!!

Helene Hassell
Director of Development
Executive Director
Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation

Ben King
Chair, Board of Trustees
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P.S. If you would like a peek at the new classroom and pool, as well as, a behind-the-scenes tour of the DISL, please contact Helene Hassell at 251-307-5903 to set it up.

P.P.S. We are so grateful for the loyalty demonstrated by those who are listed in the Honor Roll of Donors. If your name appears in the Honor Roll, you have our heartfelt thanks. If you are not included this year, this is a great time to become a part of the exciting, boundless potential of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Every gift is powerful and strengthens the Dauphin Island Sea Lab now and into the future.

To our donors,

The impact of your continued support is evident when you walk around the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) campus. The completion of the construction of a new pool, the renovations of our Aquarium exhibits, new microscopes and computers, and BayMobile have all helped us expand the reach of our growing educational and research programs and renew our aging campus!

Additionally, your support for this year's Marine Environmental Sciences Luncheon and Cocktails for the Critters allowed DISL to promote our message of wise, community-driven, environmental stewardship to record audiences!

This year is just the beginning of our planned efforts to expand the DISL's capacity to deliver the message about the remarkable resources that can be found throughout coastal Alabama. In the coming year, we look forward to breaking ground on two new outdoor classrooms, bidding the construction of a new 65-foot research vessel, completing the design for a new dormitory, and the expansion of our undergraduate and K-12 programs.

Each of your contributions plays a vital role in our efforts to protect the delicate balance of our local marine environments, promote the importance of the marine sciences in this effort, and inspire future generations of ocean stewards.

You are making a real difference and we can't begin to thank you enough for your support!



Dr. John F. Valentine

Executive Director, Dauphin Island Sea Lab

Impacting Futures Through Scholarship



"The ocean as a whole is important to the lives of everything on the planet. Getting to come here with people that are passionate about it and get into the field and work to maintain that is super important."

Claire Marchant
Troy University

Fourteen students focused on a career in marine science had a little less pressure for their summer studies with the support of scholarships funded by the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation. These scholarships are not possible without your support.

A dozen of the students completed their degree requirements during the University Programs Summer Session. They represented the University of Alabama, Auburn University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of South Alabama, Troy University, Jacksonville State University, University of North Alabama, and University of West Alabama. Their scholarships covered room and board needs.

The scholarships also provided full tuition for two students to attend the Discovery Hall Program's Marine Science Residential High School Course. This course is the perfect stepping stone to higher learning in marine sciences. We often see many of these students return for their undergraduate and graduate studies.

A group of students are gathered around a pool deck. One student is kneeling and working on a small, blue and black remotely operated vehicle (ROV) in the water. Other students are standing around, watching and talking. The pool is blue and has a black metal fence in the background.

Diving In

The recently completed scientific pool is expanding possibilities for ocean technology classes and research programs. It's a captivating classroom for all ages. The highlights of the pool design offer more space around the pool for students to gather and more depth for diving students to work together.

Overall, the facility marks a significant step forward in the Sea Lab's commitment to providing cutting-edge resources and facilities to support its academic programs and research initiatives.

Discovery Hall Programs uses the pool frequently with the 'ROVing the Gulf' classes. Students in these classes learn how to build and drive underwater remotely operated vehicles, also known as ROVs. The added depth and space allows students to be more creative with their design.

"Students seem less likely to spend time untangling themselves from other ROVs and more time focusing on ROV operation and improvement," Discovery Hall Programs Educator Angie Dixon shared. "This makes the engineering design process come full circle in their minds through experiential learning and makes this learning experience fun for our students."

The expanded space will also allow for the regional underwater robotics competition hosted by DISL for the last decade to be held solely on campus. These competitions put the students in charge of designing and building their own underwater robots to take on a variety of missions that mimic real-world jobs.

DHP Educator Greg Graeber shared, "It really has been fascinating in the last 10 years to see the changes and not only the ROVs and the numbers of students, but just the complexity of the missions that these students have to complete to compete."

In 2023, nearly 100 students from three states competed with their custom-built remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). The pool missions addressed marine renewable energy, monitoring water quality and ecosystem health.

Thompson Holdings Foundation and the Munson Foundation supported the 2023 competition.



Lowndes Robinson of Gadsden Middle School, Gadsden, Alabama, reaches for the team ROV during the 2023 Northern Gulf Coast Regional MATE ROV competition.



Dr. Kenneth Hoadley with the help of Marine Technical Support created a tool to determine the thermal tolerance of a species of coral in the field as opposed to in the laboratory. Instruments like this submersible algal phenotyping (SAP) fluorometer can be tested in the scientific pool before going into the field.

Many research projects conducted by DISL faculty and students require scientific diving to gather data and deploy instruments. Marine Technical Support will use the scientific pool to evaluate and train scientific divers, practice underwater operations, and test new instruments. They also routinely deploy instruments in 30 feet to 90 feet of water on offshore moorings.

“It is often difficult to predict offshore underwater conditions, so our divers sometimes must conduct these deployments with high currents or very low visibility,” Marine Research Operations Supervisor Josh Goff explained. “The new pool allows us to recreate these moorings so our divers can practice before we go offshore.”

The increased opportunity to teach basic scuba skills and elevate those skills can also help to diversify STEM programming on the Sea Lab campus.

Designs are being completed to build an open air classroom adjacent to the pool. This addition will offer space to house diving equipment, marine technology tools, as well as enhance the applicability of ocean technology classes.

The scientific pool and outdoor classroom together will provide a unique learning experience, and spark enthusiasm for science, technology, engineering, and math. Students will be able to build, test, and adjust their designs without losing time between each stage.

The Pool and Classroom Capital Campaign was supported by the following generous supporters: Alabama Power Foundation, the Mobile County Commission, John Adams Steely Foundation, J.L. Bedsole Foundation, the Ben May Charitable Trust, Crampton Trust, The Daniel Foundation, C. D. Helen & Jeff Glaze Foundation, The Hearin-Chandler Foundation, the Dr. Monte L Moorer Foundation, the DISL Foundation Board of Directors and many individuals.

The Sonny Middleton Legacy Society



Regional boating industry legend Sonny Middleton was an avid supporter of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab during his lifetime. Sonny spent more than six decades servicing the boating industry and growing the Dog River Marina, Middleton Marina, and A&M Yacht Sales.

He understood the importance of protecting our water resources. After his death in 2017, he left a legacy gift of his home on Dauphin Island to benefit the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Sonny's bequest realized a significant sum that came at a special time of need for the Sea Lab.

The Sonny Middleton Legacy Society will serve to recognize individuals who demonstrate a long-term commitment to the Sea Lab, and to promote and encourage lifetime philanthropy. These gifts ensure the Sea Lab's tradition of transformative marine education and research for generations to come.

Those who join by September 30, 2024, will be a member of the Charter Class Year of the Society. Charter Year Members will be invited to attend a special "Breakfast with the Critters" at the Alabama Aquarium.

After providing for family and loved ones in your estate plans please consider a legacy gift for the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. These gifts can also provide for naming and memorial opportunities. If you are interested in making a commitment, contact the DISL Foundation.

CHARTER YEAR MEMBERS

Dr. Joseph F. Busta, Jr.

Charlene & John Dindo

Billie F. and Dr. J. Russell Goodloe Jr.

Dr. John Valentine

Lists included in this report reflect gifts from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. The proper recognition of charitable gift donations to the DISLF is important. Please contact Helene Hassell immediately if your gift was not listed properly or has been omitted.

DISLF, PO Box 82151, Mobile, Alabama 36689 - 251-307-5903 - admin@sealabfoundation.org

Honor Roll of Donors

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation values each and every gift from alumni, parents, friends, and other generous supporters. Your charitable contributions make a difference to the students, faculty, and marine environmental research. The DISL Foundation Honor Roll of Donors is one way of recognizing our donors. The Honor Roll is organized into a system that represents a hierarchy of levels of current and cumulative giving.

THE GEORGE CROZIER SOCIETIES

Recognizes donors whose current gift or cumulative giving over the years is \$10,000 or more.

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Lifetime giving of \$100,000 to \$999,999

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Denise & John Valentine

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Wind Creek

**indicates deceased*

Student Opportunities



Dozens of students attended the Marine Environmental Awards Luncheon thanks to the generosity of our Table Sponsors.

Schools represented were Murphy High School (pictured), Fairhope High School, Barton Academy, and Clarke Shaw Magnet.

This annual event is a great opportunity for students to hear and ask questions about the opportunities in the marine science field.

The students enjoy the opportunity to meet the keynote speaker after the event.

If you are interested in sponsoring a table at the 2024 Marine Environmental Awards Luncheon, please let us know.

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Fresh Perspective

The renovation is complete at the Alabama Aquarium. The renovation included an improved visitor experience, a refreshed interior, and a deeper connection to the research led by DISL faculty and students.

Plans are underway to continue renovations in the Windows to the Sea exhibit and along the Living Marsh Boardwalk.

A Friend of the Sea Lab membership is a great way to share this experience with family and friends all year. Membership benefits include free admission year-round, guest passes, and a gift shop discount.

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Sessions-Brown Conservation Leadership Award



Alabama Representative Chip Brown, DISL Foundation Executive Director Helene Hassell, Alabama Senator David Sessions, and DISL Executive Director Dr. John Valentine.

The creation of the Sessions-Brown Conservation Leadership Award was announced during the Marine Environmental Awards Luncheon. The award honors Alabama Senator David Sessions and Representative Chip Brown.

"These Alabama lawmakers are champions for conservation in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta and Mobile Bay," Dr. John Valentine said during the announcement.

The award is environmentally focused on conservation efforts and recognizes advocacy for conservation in the State of Alabama.

The DISL Foundation will continue to present awards to recognize an individual and an organization for their outstanding contributions to marine environmental sustainability in the Alabama Gulf Coast Region.

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Via Emilia
Dr. Valerie Vick
The Visitation Shop
Vivian's Nails
West Mobile Dental Care
What A Stitch
Zimlich's Patio & Garden Center
Zundel's Jewelry

Sunshades Added to Outdoor Learning Spaces

Outdoor learning spaces are a favorite of students, faculty, and staff. Now, those spaces have some extra shade.

A grant from the Alabama Dermatology Society put the shades in place over the deck of the Endeavor Classroom and adjacent to the outdoor pavilion.



HOW TO GIVE

You choose your best way to support the Dauphin Island Sea Lab with a one-time gift or by leaving a legacy gift in your will or estate through the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation. Here's how you can continue the impact of giving.

PLANNED GIFTS

Become a part of the future with a planned gift to serve as a reminder of your appreciation and love for the DISL. These gifts can offer financial benefits through income and estate tax savings and arrangements that provide lifetime income.

RECURRING GIFTS

Recurring gifts are an easy way to make a big impact that works for your budget and schedule. Set your gift up one time for a monthly, quarterly, or annual pledge to have your gift automatically deducted from your credit card.

ONLINE GIFTS

Donating online is a simple, secure way to invest in the DISL's future. Our new online giving form gives you the ability to make a gift from anywhere at sealabfoundation.org.



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