

DISL Foundation Annual Report

2010-2011

This has been a very exciting year with a lot of firsts for the Foundation. Our focus has expanded from solely raising money for the endowment to securing grants for special projects and doing more to raise community awareness of the Sea Lab's research and educational value.

Executive Director

In May 2010 the Foundation hired Helene Hassell as the new Executive Director. Helene replaces Janie Vann who served as acting director when Freda Roberts became ill.

Trustees

New trustees for 2010 were Russ Ford, Neil Kennedy, Bryan Thames and Rick Courtney, Kinley Bell with John Goodloe returning.

Advisory Committee

A new Advisory Committee was developed. Erin Wheeler was appointed to serve as the chair. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to retain and secure the availability of expertise for the Foundation by involving appropriate outgoing trustees and others who are committed to assist the Foundation in its roles of fundraising, education and support for the DISL.

FUNDRAISERES

Oil Spill

The Deep Water Horizon oil spill, April 2010, had a significant impact on the DISL Foundation. People wanted to reach out and help the Gulf Coast. The Sea Lab Foundation, as a respected entity, was the recipient of many generous donations and fundraisers.

The largest of these was an art sale "Funds for Fishes" held in Brewton. It was the brainchild of eleven-year-old Lyons Jernigan. Over 200 pieces of art from around the country were donated and sold in a silent auction that raised \$19,000. The money was used for a display documenting the history of the spill at the Estuarium with an interactive component.

In addition to this there were lemonade sales, motorcycle rides, bicycle rides and company fund drives.

Friends of the Sea Lab

Friends of the Sea Lab (FOSL), formerly friends of the Estuarium, was begun in September 2010. At years end there were 94 friends.

Christmas Appeal

Letters (750) for the Christmas appeal went out in late November and raised \$6650.

Cocktails With Critters

Cocktails with Critters was held May 5, 2011 at Tacky Jacks. The theme was Cinco de Mayo. Tomi Sue Mayer chaired the event, Mary Ellingwood chaired the silent auction, Lisa Goodloe served as decorations chair and Chuck Stapleton helped on all the committees. Artist Stig Marcussen donated artwork, which was incorporated into the invitation and posters. The band Roman Street played. There were 270 in attendance. The net profit was \$41,365.73.

DISL Foundation Annual Report

2010-2011

Grants

Helene with the help of Tina Miller Way and John Dindo applied for and was awarded a \$25,000 grant from Crampton Trust. The grant was used to equip a new computer lab for the Discovery Hall Program.

Helene with the help of John Dindo and Robert Dixon applied for and was awarded a grant from the Hearin Chandler Foundation for \$50,000 to be distributed over a two-year period. This grant will be used to help build a Ray Tank at the Estuarium.

Endowment

\$80,000 was added to the George Crozier endowment fund at the end of the Fiscal year.

Administration

- Opened a new PO box in Mobile
- Established new website...Thank you Richard Tremayne
- Set up a Facebook page
- Closed Bay Bank Account
- Regions Bank-Friend Account
- Iberia -Primary Account