

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS




Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Alabama Center for
Marine Education and Research



2020
- 2021

Thank you!

In this 2020-2021 issue of the Honor Roll of Donors, we recognize, celebrate, and, above all, thank everyone who has stepped up and given at a time when the Dauphin Island Sea Lab needed you most. As you know, your gifts are vital to the strength of the Sea Lab.

The summer of 2021 was markedly better at the DISL than in 2020. All the University Programs' classes and Discovery Hall Programs' summer camps were able to be in person on campus. Even though things had to be done differently, in order to be done safely, students and campers alike were delighted to be together.

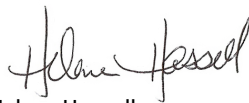
I am gratified by all the good things that have not changed, especially the uplifting dedication of friends like you. At a time of truly unprecedented demands on the Sea Lab, its faculty, and students, you have risen to the challenge with extraordinary generosity. Thanks to you, gifts to the DISL Foundation have surpassed a half-million dollars for only the second time in the DISL Foundation's history.

Due to your commitment to the Sea Lab, we were able to provide two scholarships for high school students and 13 partial scholarships for University Programs students. By supporting the Sea Lab, you have helped these deserving students continue their education. Fourteen new microscopes were added to the University Program which were used in teaching Marine Biology, Marine Invertebrate Zoology, Marine Vertebrate Zoology, Marine Ecology, and Marine Botany. Your generous donations allowed us to update the BayMobile, underwrite the camp for children with disabilities, underwrite the regional remotely operated vehicle (ROV) competition, and provide funding for a very special interactive teaching aid for the Discovery Hall Programs.

Best of all and for what we are most thankful is successfully completing the capital campaign, Building Spaces for a Brighter Future, for the new outdoor classroom and new scientific pool. Both of these will significantly improve the campus and the ability to provide robust, experiential marine science instruction.

Once again, I want to express my gratitude for you. All of your support throughout the pandemic has been exceptional and has made a huge impact. Because of you the faculty and marine educators have been able to provide the best educational experiences that will prepare these students to be environmentally conscious citizens of the world.

Sincerely,



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



Bob Collins
Chair, Board of Trustees
Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation



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.



Despite the challenges we continue to experience due to COVID-19, your ongoing support of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab has made it possible for us to deliver world-class lessons and research in the marine sciences. Without your support, this would not be possible.

Moreover, through your support we continue to improve infrastructure on our campus that will ultimately allow us to also improve the educational opportunities we provide for our students. As a result of your donations, we were able to complete our first capital campaign and allow us to construct a new Outdoor Classroom and Pool complex. This upgraded facility will allow us to expand opportunities offered by Discovery Hall Programs and University Programs for ROV and scientific diving programs.

In the coming year, and with your continued support, we look to achieve our goal articulated in the strategic plan to bring our public aquarium into the modern age with new and updated exhibits and messaging. It's an exciting time on the Dauphin Island Sea Lab campus and we look forward to having you join us on this adventure.

Again, on behalf of everyone here, I say THANK YOU.

John F. Valentine

Dr. John F. Valentine

Executive Director, Dauphin Island Sea Lab





Building Spaces for a Brighter Future

The possibilities of marine education and research are expanding on the Dauphin Island Sea Lab campus. The DISL Foundation broke ground on a new outdoor classroom and a larger, deeper pool on the DISL campus on October 29. This upgrade will expand teaching opportunities, allow more students to participate simultaneously, and provide a teaching location adaptable to times of pandemics.

"This project has been a vision of the DISL educators for a long time. We're really excited to see this project move forward. Everybody's support and contributions helped make this a reality" DISL Foundation Director Helene Hassell said.

The scientific diving program at DISL is one that will greatly benefit from the larger pool.

"There are some research projects that include the need for scientific diving, so, having somebody with this ability enhances the level of science at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab," DISL Safety Dive Officer Grant Lockridge explained. "Being able to teach the basic scuba skills and elevate those skills to scientific diving would also help in the efforts to diversify STEM programming on campus."



The DISL Foundation wrapped up the Capital Campaign for the new pool and outdoor classroom in October, which included funds awarded by the Mobile County Commission.

"The County Commission is always excited when we're presented with an opportunity to support the Sea Lab. The many things they do, not only for the young people and the students in our community but for students all over the United States," Mobile County Commissioner Randall Dueitt added

Commissioners Dueitt and Connie Hudson joined the DISL Foundation, Dauphin Island Mayor Jeff Collier, and supporters of the DISL for the groundbreaking ceremony.

The Pool and Classroom Capital Campaign was also supported by the following generous supporters: Alabama Power Foundation, J.L. Bedsole Foundation, 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 next step in the construction of the new outdoor classroom and pool is securing a contractor to begin construction.

Scholarships Put the Focus on Education

The financial challenges facing many families at this time could be a barrier to allowing young minds to explore the world of marine science. Scholarships supported by you break down that barrier. This year the DISL Foundation, through your donations, the Mike deGruy Scholarship, the Jenny Cook Scholarship, and the annual employee campaign, was able to provide scholarships for Discovery Hall Programs and University Programs.

Discovery Hall Programs residential marine science course delivers a unique four-week experience for 9th through 12th-grade students. Just recently, students gained the option to sign up for biology credit through the University of West Alabama. The students live on campus and gain a better understanding and appreciation of the various disciplines in marine biology and oceanography.

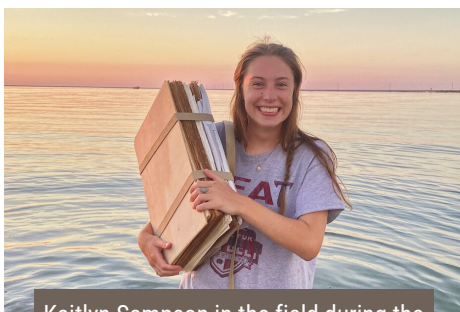
Maia Goveia earned the chance to take part in the course thanks to the Jenny Cook Scholarship. She is a senior at Baldwin Senior High School in Baldwin, New York, and plans to major in marine science. The course was a perfect fit before heading off to college.



Maia Goveia examines her specimens for her research project.

"Being in the field, just seeing those things up close, it's way different from seeing it in a textbook or seeing it in a documentary," Goveia shared about the course. "You can truly think about how it impacts other things. The field experience mixed with what I learned in class was very cool and it definitely helped me decide what I want to do in college."

The DISL Foundation also provided 13 partial scholarships for University Programs summer session students. The scholarships were a helping hand with room and board, tuition, and books. The scholarships were funded by the Mike deGruy Scholarship, donors, and the annual employee campaign. The scholarships allowed the students to focus on their studies, instead of finances, which created a richer experience during their summer courses at the DISL.



Kaitlyn Sampson in the field during the UP 2021 Summer Session.

"The scholarships allowed me to take on the full experience of DISL. I am very grateful for all the money to allow me to have the best summer. As well as taking some stress off my parents," University of West Alabama student Alayna Collins said.

"It was a way to lift some of the financial burden off of my family, and I am very grateful. It also gave me confidence that I was in the field that was right for me," Troy University student Kaitlyn Sampson said.

University of Alabama Student Thomas Penta said, "The scholarship and work-study allowed me to focus on my course and without having to worry as much about money or finding employment on the island.

You can continue to deliver a summer focus on education with a donation to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation.



Honor Roll of Donors

The DISLF 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 DISLF Honor Roll of Donors is one way of recognizing our donors. The Honor Roll is organized into a system which represents a hierarchy of levels of current and cumulative giving.

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

Platinum Society: \$5,000,000 or more

Silver Society: \$100,000 to \$999,999

Gold Society: \$1,000,000 to \$499,999

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The DISLF Legacy Society recognizes donors who have confirmed their gift of a minimum of \$10,000 to the DISLF through a will, trust, insurance policy, or other deferred giving instrument.



Lists included in this report reflect gifts from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. 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 it has been omitted.

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Microscopic Views of the Ocean



Not everything taught about the ocean can be seen by the naked eye. A single drop of ocean water can contain millions of small organisms, and being able to view these organisms is an important part of understanding how our oceans work.

Grants from the Edith and Curtis Munson Foundation and the Regions Bank Foundation supported the purchase of eleven microscopes for University Programs. These microscopes were used in teaching Marine Biology, Marine Invertebrate Zoology, Marine Vertebrate Zoology, Marine Ecology and Marine Botany.

One of the microscopes upgraded the view of the ocean for students when they are exploring Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico on the R/V Alabama Discovery. This microscope gives students the chance to see the minuscule marine flora and fauna during boat trips into Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. All programs benefit from this addition to the DISL's floating classroom.

"Recently, we put a squid under the scope and the kids got a close up of the chromatophores on a live squid," DISL's Discovery Hall Programs educator Angie Dixon shared. "Hearing the ohs and ahs and watching the light bulb go off in young minds is rewarding."

Some of the other cool things students have seen up close are the compound eye of a crustacean, comb jellies, and live marine leeches.

In 2020, a Regions Bank Foundation grant allowed for the purchase of four microscopes with cameras and projection capabilities. These microscopes were the sole reason classes were able to be taught virtually when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

The importance of the 11 new microscopes in 2021, lies in the fact that the DISL programs are replacing microscopes originally purchased in 2007. Vast improvements have been made to microscopes since 2007. Adding these new microscopes has had a tremendous effect on the ability to teach world-class marine science at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

Marine Education on the Road



The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Caring Foundation provided much needed funding to help support the BayMobile Program.

The BayMobile brings the ocean to all ages across the state of Alabama, especially to schools and communities without the opportunity or the means to visit the Dauphin Island Sea Lab on a field trip. Discovery Hall Programs' educators lead audiences on a journey through the northern Gulf of Mexico.

On average, the BayMobile reaches some 13,000 additional K-12 students through the state. The BayMobile is also highly visible at environmental events held throughout the region.

Sea Stars Shine Bright

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab's Discovery Hall Programs hosted an enthusiastic group of campers this fall. The three-day Sea Stars Camp designed for students with special needs and their adult companions brought new and old friends together for the weekend.

"It's such an amazing experience from my point of view to see these children and their families getting out and getting involved with learning about our oceans and the world they live in," DISL DHP educator JoAnn Moody said.

The campers were treated to a muddy adventure in the salt marsh, a chance to navigate Mobile Bay, and a private evening in the aquarium. On the first evening, the campers got acquainted with the beach and its evening inhabitants. While some preferred staying in the dry sand to look for ghost crabs, others waded in the shallow waters to look for fish and hermit crabs. The next morning campers boarded the R/V Alabama Discovery to explore Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. This gave them an up-close look at fish, shrimp, and other marine animals, but also how research is conducted at the DISL.

The pungent mud at the salt marsh was a bit overwhelming for some, but flopping fish and scurrying crabs brought their attention back to the important role the estuary provides as a nursery ground. A private evening tour around the aquarium was the perfect way to end an adventurous day. Before packing up and saying goodbye, the campers spent a relaxing morning back at the beach flying kites, building sandcastles, and fishing using seine nets.



Kendle Larson on board the R/V Alabama Discovery during Sea Stars Camp Weekend 2021.



This experience was enhanced by a donated beach chair for the weekend which allowed everyone to explore the beach and the water. The support of the counselors Marty Dunn, Philip Cosper, Rissa Stephens and Ashley Allen also contributed the the success of the weekend.

"We feel that every child should have access to the programs that help us understand our amazing coast and ocean," DISL DHP Chair Dr. Tina Miller-Way said. "We thank our Sea Stars sponsors that allowed us to include this wonderful group of ocean enthusiasts in our programs."

The camp is a biennial event supported this year by The Rotary Children's Foundation, Austal, the Krewe of Kindness, and individual donors.



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.

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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.

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