

2019-2020

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

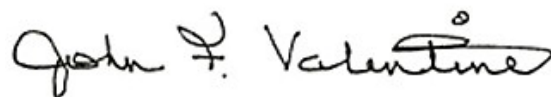
On behalf of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab students, staff, and faculty I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your continued support of our mission to become a national center for transformative marine research and education for students of all ages.

Achieving this goal has become one of our greatest challenges given the impacts of COVID-19 and Hurricane Sally on both our finances and our infrastructure. Recovery from both of these major disasters will challenge the limits of our finances and capabilities.

At a more granular level, donations from this past year will be used to support our ongoing efforts to educate our state's citizens on the remarkable importance of our coastal resources in their everyday lives. In the coming year, goals articulated in our new strategic plan will require us to find new and more creative ways of achieving our mission.

While we have experienced sustained growth in grantsmanship, enrollment in our classes has dropped precipitously due to COVID-19. As a result, our needs remain great and it is our hope that you will continue your support of our programs. Without this support, little of what we currently have planned for the future will be possible.

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



Dr. John F. Valentine
Executive Director, Dauphin Island Sea Lab



FROM THE DISL FOUNDATION

As the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation (DISLF) has struggled to manage a fast-moving, constantly changing situation in recent months, the coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the fact that this is not an isolated incident and that ALL of us are in this together. In that spirit of community, the DISLF has seen steady support from our donors especially since the world changed so suddenly back in March. It has been quite inspirational to know our donors are out there supporting us even in these challenging times.

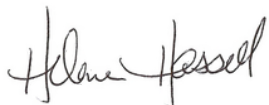
“Philanthropy is powerful—every gift is an act of optimism—and even in our darkest days we can remember that and take that with us when things get good again,” says Furman University’s Heidi McCrory, Vice President of Development.

We want to thank our community of supporters for continuing to stand with us even when the future feels so uncertain. The DISLF is continuing its important work of supporting the Dauphin Island Sea Lab during this storm and will come out better and stronger in the end because of you. Your gifts enable us to attract extraordinary students and faculty and to provide preeminent Marine Science education and research. I am grateful to count the alumni, friends, and employees listed here among our supporters.

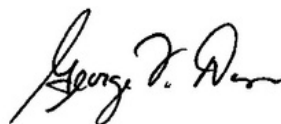
University Programs were offered virtually this summer and our talented faculty did a fabulous job of adapting to the student’s needs. The ability to go online was enabled by the new microscopes with cameras purchased with a grant to the DISLF. Discovery Hall was able to offer four of its week long camps. Gulf Island Voyager, Bay Voyager, Marine DeTECHtives, and the month-long Marine Science High School Course on campus. Through your donations, we were able to provide scholarships for three impressive students. The DISLF was able to offer in other areas including funding for the BayMobile and funding for a campus master plan which will improve the infrastructure of the campus, addresses student safety, and identify areas for future growth and modernization as the DISL continues to grow.

Your support makes the DISL accessible to the best of the best students. Through your generosity, the faculty and marine educators can give them exceptional educational experiences that will prepare them to be exemplary Marine Scientists.

Sincerely,



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



George Davis
Chair, Board of Trustees
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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 sincere 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.

Teaching Ocean Tech

Eighty percent of the world's oceans are unexplored. The desire to unlock the secrets of our world's oceans in the last century and the advances in technology has put a greater focus on ocean technology education and research. Programs at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab follow the need and are increasing each year to meet the demand of STEM learning. With this in mind, the DISL Foundation is launching a campaign in December 2020 to meet this need with a larger and deeper pool, along with an adjacent outdoor classroom.

In the last decade, Discovery Hall Programs added field classes, summer camps, and professional development workshops on remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). DHP marine educators show students and teachers how to build these robots and use them in current applications. They learn how to wire, enhance capabilities with 3D printed tools, and 'fly' the robots underwater. Each ROV program ends with a mini-competition, similar to the Northern Regional MATE ROV Competition hosted by DHP for the past eight years. Currently, the mission test is held off-campus; however, the new outdoor classroom and deeper pool will allow DHP to host the entire competition on DISL campus from start to finish.



Ocean exploration also relies on scientific divers to collect data for scientific or educational purposes. In 1992, DISL joined the American Academy of Underwater Science (AAUS) to offer University Program (UP) students and faculty training and certification in scientific diving. Enhancing the depth of the pool will allow UP to upgrade this program to better reflect the needs of this specialized underwater dive training.

An additional benefit of this outdoor classroom and pool, will be for UP to test and calibrate equipment and deliver the vessel training course which teaches critical water rescue techniques and safe operations for small boat users.

Overall, the larger, deeper pool and outdoor classroom will expand opportunities for teaching, allow for more students participating simultaneously, a larger area for recreation, and provide a teaching location adaptable to times of pandemics.

If you would like more information on the Capital Campaign, please contact the DISL Foundation office at 251-307-5903.



Supporting Adventures



Students sink deep into the world of marine science during Discovery Hall Programs' four-week residential high school course. Some students use the course to adjust their college and career path. Others just have an interest in the marine world. Whatever the reason, the experience leaves a lasting impression. For some students, donation and grant-supported scholarships make the experience possible. This summer the DISLF funded three scholarships for the program.

"The scholarship has given me the opportunity to see if I wanted to pursue a career in marine science," Diamond Contee of Maryland shared. "I want to thank those that funded the scholarship because I know now I want to do this for the rest of my life."

Contee benefited from the newly established Mike deGruy Scholarship funded by the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation and the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program.

As the class is also open to recent high school graduates, Diamond will begin working towards a career in marine science at Coastal Carolina University this fall. She's interested in working with marine mammals after college.

The Marine Science High School Course isn't just about learning marine science, it's more about doing it. Students spend a lot of time in the field seeing organisms firsthand and learning how to use common equipment.

Longtime DHP Marine Educator Jenny Cook believed in the need to expand students' appreciation and awareness of our ocean planet and enjoyed watching the students grow during the high school course. After she passed away, a scholarship fund was established in her honor. Wyatt Stanley, a homeschool student, and Emma Graves, a Thompson High School senior, were recipients of the Jenny Cook Memorial Scholarships this year, funded partially by Austal USA.

"The scholarship means the world to me," Wyatt said. "I want to be a marine veterinarian so being a part of this course allowed me to get up close and personal learning about all of the animals."



Graves isn't a stranger to DISL. This is her fourth year participating in summer programs at DHP, and was one of the most fulfilling experiences.

"It just means so much to me when I got the scholarship. It made me think about how my future will be impacted by this community of people," Graves said. "They believe in me and believe that I can do what I want to do in the marine science field."

For some like Graves, the path ahead includes a desire to return to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab as a University Programs student.

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.

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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, 2019 through September 30, 2020. 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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Diving Deep: The Life and Times of Mike deGruy

Mike deGruy's family premiered the documentary of his life as a benefit for the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation in May 2019.

deGruy's wife, mother, and two children attended the event.

Proceeds from the benefit funded a scholarship for the Marine Science High School Course in 2020.

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Celebrating our Alumni

In 2019, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation established an Alumni Connection for the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. In a year's time, the Alumni Connection has linked more than 100 former high school course, undergraduate, and graduate students. These connections are a driving force to continue the DISL's campus mission in being a center for transformative oceanic and coastal research and education. We introduce you to several who have shared the impact DISL had on their stories.

Stan Beasley



From my first summer at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab in 1986 through graduate school in the 1990s, DISL has profoundly impacted me. My experiences at DISL have taken me within the walls of the high schools and colleges to serve as a science instructor. I went from knowing very little about the marine environment to traveling halfway around the world as a researcher, taking part in science trips on the beloved RV A.E. Verrill, scouring the waters as a Sea Turtle Observer, exploring and discovering a new species from deep sea submersible dives, and forging friendships with scientists at the Smithsonian Institution. All of these opportunities I have taken part in over course of my life which are attributed to my educational experiences at DISL. These past 25 years, DISL's excellence in marine science education and hands-on approach have offered annually unique opportunities and adventures for my students from Alabama, Virginia, and Tennessee, including my two sons.

Ryan Parker

I currently work at the Kansas City Zoo, bringing animals and conservation activities to schools. I also lead the zoo's homeschool program for their oldest age group. My Master's at DISL helped me appreciate the need for translating marine science (and other fields of science) to broad and narrow parts of the general public. Every time I put together a presentation or video, I use Dr. Dorgan's lessons on how to make your work easy to understand and engaging. I get praise for being a good science educator, and that comes from having good professors and fellow students critiquing my work and freely offering advice.



Become a part of our Alumni Connection today by visiting disl.edu/alumni. Let's continue to make waves in education, research, and outreach around the world.

Overcoming Microscopic Challenges



Teaching virtually presented new challenges for University Programs summer faculty this year. Field trips, labs, and classes all went online for the more than two dozen courses offered this summer.

With the support of Regions Bank, students in several classes still had a close up look at the microscopic world of marine science. The donation allowed for the purchase of four high-powered microscopes, two Accuscope compounds and two Unitron 2850 dissectors. One of each included cameras. These cameras made virtual viewing and virtual teaching more dynamic.

“They were absolutely invaluable. I could not have taught my Marine Invertebrate Zoology class effectively without them,” Dr. Ruth Carmichael, DISL Senior Marine Scientist and University of South Alabama Department of Marine Sciences Professor, shared. “They were essential to show just about everything.”

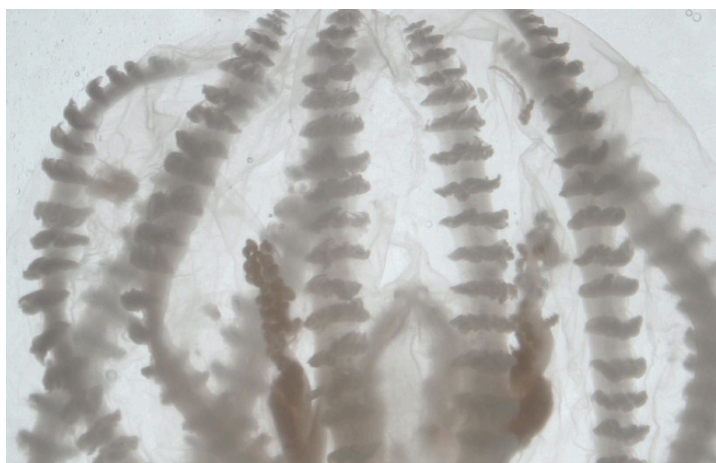
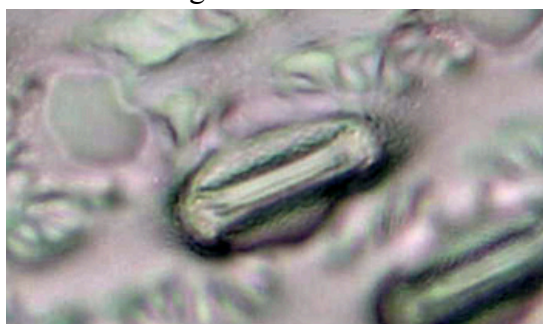
This course is taught each summer and explores the morphology, natural history, and evolutionary relationships of these animals, which include cnidarians, sponges, marine worms, lophophorates, mollusks, arthropods, echinoderms, and the hemichordates.

With the challenge of teaching remotely, the microscopes allowed Carmichael to show live specimens and dissections, take measurements, and capture photos all while the class was watching.

“Clearly, it is not the same as students physically being able to collect their own samples and stare down the microscope to learn algae, but access to these microscopes made it possible to get as close as we could, given limitations of remote learning,” Dr. Jeremiah Henning said.

Henning, a University of South Alabama Biology Department Assistant Professor, taught Marine Botany during the first session of summer courses. His experience echoes that of Carmichael’s.

“In the age of remote teaching, having access to high quality microscopes was critical to the success of my course,” Henning explained. “It was amazing being able to generate high resolution figures of leaf surfaces or diatom communities that students could then process and perform analyses to understand the response of stomata size across a salinity gradient or changes in algal communities in response to nutrient addition and light limitation.”



“Teaching online provided a host of challenges, but the microscopes and cameras were certainly instrumental in making the summer program a success despite all the challenges,” University Programs Chair Dr. Lee Smee expressed in his appreciation of the donation.

University Programs 2020 summer of virtual courses served students from 17 of 23 MESC Schools with 1,386 credit hours.

DISL's Traveling Classroom



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. The BayMobile gives people the chance to touch the arms of an octopus, see the teeth of a shark, and feel the scales of native fish species.

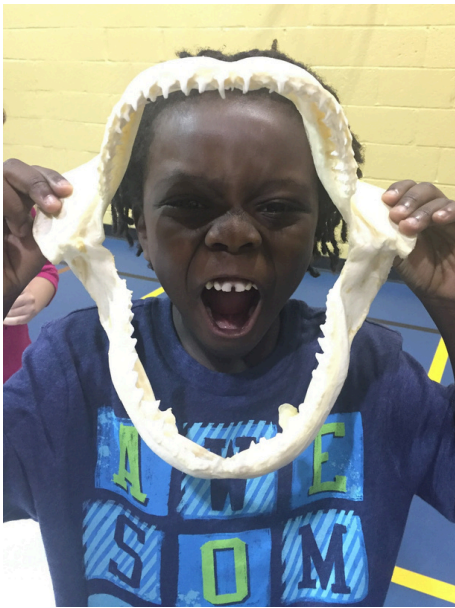
The BayMobile has visited every county in the state of Alabama since it first started traveling the state. The traveling classroom program is free to Title 1 schools in the state of Alabama thanks to the help of our generous donors.



For more information on BayMobile or to make a visit request, visit disl.org/dhp/baymobile or email BayMobileVisit@disl.org.



THANK YOU



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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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