2021-2022

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

The Impact of Giving







Alabama Center for Marine Education and Research

Thank you!

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, 2021, and September 30, 2022. 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 received a record number of gifts and surpassed half a million dollars. 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 MATE ROV Competition a regional competition attracting over 200 students
- A pavilion on the DI Sea Lab Campus for students and faculty to gather
- Much-needed microscopes for both University and Discovery Hall Programs
- Another inshore/near shore boat necessary for world-class research and education
- Support for the BayMobile which reached over 13,000 students around the entire state of Alabama

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 educational experiences that will prepare these students to be environmentally conscious citizens of the world.

Thank you!!!

Helene Hassell

Executive Director

Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation

Bob Collins

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P.S. If you would like 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.







The Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) was founded in 1971 to provide students of all ages across Alabama with educational opportunities that otherwise would not be possible if we did not exist. Additionally, DISL scientists and graduate students continue to conduct a diverse array of ecological studies that have led to our state's wise stewardship of these remarkable resources. What we have learned and shown is that the natural resources of Alabama's coastal waters are simply amazing and play a key role in determining our outstanding quality of life! The biological diversity of our habitats and species that live here are unrivaled in the continental United States and we feel that it is this diversity that drives much of the burgeoning economy of our region. That said, none of our programs would be successful if it were not for the contributions of our supporters.

While we have now weathered the COVID pandemic and Hurricane Sally, our state appropriation does not allow us to provide the types of modern educational opportunities our students deserve. It is only through your support, that we are able to deliver these learning activities for students from ages 8 to 80. Among the impacts of these contributions were new boats, microscopes, and scholarships for deserving students. Moreover, with your support we will be able to continue the BayMobile program which takes the show on the road and brings the Gulf to hometown classrooms throughout the state. There is much more that has been possible this past year thanks to your help!

On behalf of everyone down here at the end of the road I once again say thank you!

John 7. Valentine

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

Give Today, Support Tomorrow

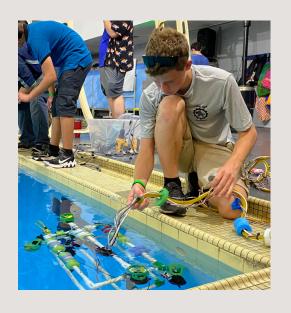
Each gift to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation is designated to provide opportunities and improve the accessibility to marine education and research at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab campus. Scholarships give students, who do not have the financial means, the opportunity to continue their education with University Programs. Scholarships also give high school students the chance to explore in depth what opportunities are available in the field of marine science during the month-long residential course each summer.

Your gifts are also vital to provide the tools and vessels necessary for a truly hands-on experience. Many students that attend programs at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab as elementary students, return as high school students, and as college students. We also see many return to the research labs to continue their dream of being a marine scientist and adding to our understanding of the world's ocean.

"The J. L. Bedsole Foundation continues to support the Dauphin Island Sea Lab because it serves not only Coastal Alabama as an education and tourism resource but the entire state of Alabama. Its partnership with 22 colleges and universities, including the University of South Alabama's newly inaugurated Marine Science degree, lends an unrivaled resource in hands-on academic pursuit. Just as importantly, its summer camps and youth programs serve as an excellent orientation for our young people on environmental stewardship"



-Chris Lee, J. L. Bedsole Foundation



"It is our responsibility as engineering professionals to inspire interest in STEM-related careers. As such, the Thompson Foundation prioritizes STEM-focused grant requests that engage students in and out of the classroom. One of the programs we support is the Discovery Hall remote-operated vehicle competition. This hands-on learning activity enables students to apply STEM-related concepts in a creative and fun manner and it also provides an excellent opportunity for our Foundation to fulfill its STEM-focused mission."

-John Baker, Thompson Engineering







"We choose to continue to support the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) because we recognize that our Gulf's unique marine environment needs to be studied and preserved for us, our children, and future generations.

We know that in order for the DISL to continue to advance its critical role in marine science research, education, and outreach programs, community support is essential. The DISL Foundation plays an essential part in raising funds for these programs.

Through its educational programs for children, we know the DISL helps build critical thinking skills that will raise awareness and encourage inquisitive young minds to learn about the precious marine life in our Gulf, teach them to value its importance, and encourage them to share this knowledge and appreciation with others.

We support the mission of the DISL so that our children, grandchildren and future generations will learn to appreciate, nurture and protect this important marine environment.

Support for the DISL begins with individuals. If we as a community fail in this support, we will miss the golden opportunity to encourage future generations to learn valuable lessons about our great natural treasure."

-Mary & Ken Ellingwood

Each gift impacts a student, a school, a research lab, and the community.

Scan the QR Code to make your gift today!



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.

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

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Without the scholarship paying for my room and board, I would have had to take all my courses in one summer instead of two. Being able to divide my total credit hours between two summers allowed me to work at a comfortable pace and I believe contributed to me making better grades in the courses.

The summer course also influenced my graduate school plans. While at DISL, I further developed my critical thinking skills and formed the basis of my knowledge of marine science. I am currently working on a Master's in Marine Science.'

-Chesna Cox Sediment Ecology Lab DISL, University of South Alabama

*indicates deceased

Lists included in this report reflect gifts from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. 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.

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

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Pictured Left to Right: Sarah Beth Smith, Mason Campbell, AnaCatherine Robinson, Ruffino Castro, and Sofia Hallman. These students attended the Residential Marine Science Class for high school students.

Two students received the Jenny Cook Scholarship to attend the Residential Marine Science Class this past summer, AnaCatherine Robinson and Mason Campbell. Robinson is a senior at Cold Springs High School in Cullman, Alabama. Without the scholarship, attending the four-week experience would have been difficult financially for her family.



"I got the chance to do something that I've always been interested in," Robinson said about the opportunity.

Mason Campbell of Gallatin, Tennessee attends Station Camp High School.

Dates for the 2023 Course are June 18 to July 14.

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Pictured Left to Right: Brooke Hutcheson (University of Mobile), Cadie Barnes (University of South Alabama), Amber Prescott (University of North Alabama), Saranda Blythe (University of Alabama Birmingham), and Abby Kennedy (University of Alabama) were five of the 12 University Programs students to attend summer courses with the support of DISL Foundation Scholarships. The scholarships covered room and board, lab fees, books, and field trips for these students.

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You choose the best way to support the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Here's how you can continue the impact of giving.

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Donating online is a simple, secure way to invest in DISL's future. Our new online giving form gives you the ability to donate easily.

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Recurring gifts are an easy and green 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.

PLANNED GIFTS

As you think about your future, consider leaving a personal legacy to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Planned giving allows you to leave a legacy while securing a bright future for the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.



The Boys & Girls Club of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians visited the Alabama Aquarium in July for a summer field trip for Kindergarteners through Second-graders.

The Alabama Aquarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab shares how the Alabama watershed connects the state from the mountains to the Gulf. The visual and interactive exhibits take visitors on a journey through the Mobile Tensaw-Delta and Mobile Bay, along the barrier islands, and into the northern Gulf of Mexico. The Aquarium was created to improve ocean literacy and enhance the public understanding and wise stewardship of our coastal resources.

Annually more than 85,000 people visit the official Aquarium of Alabama. Since opening in 1998, more than one million students and visitors have walked through the doors of the Aquarium.

The Aquarium is open to the public seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m

Ocean on the Road

In the fall of 2002, our traveling classroom the *BayMobile* hit the road for the first time with Dr. John Dindo and Mendel Graeber.

Twenty years later, the BayMobile continues to make the rounds bringing the ocean to Alabama schools and community events. The *BayMobile* was created to reach students in schools that may not have the means to travel to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Campus.

On average, the *BayMobile* reaches more than 13,000 additional K-12 students throughout the state. The *BayMobile* is also highly visible at environmental events held throughout the region with its colorful marine-themed wrapped van.

This year, the *BayMobile* brought the ocean and the experience to more than 30 schools. Age doesn't seem to matter when it comes to curiosity about our ocean and the animals that live in it. Some students approach the experience unsure, but find that the 'yucky' animals on display are fascinating. Our educators also overhear teachers getting excited about the visit as we set up in auditoriums and classrooms.

In September, Educator Kyle Halstead brought the ocean to students at Houston County Schools and Crenshaw County Schools. These counties are not far from the coastline, however, many students told Halstead they had never been to the coast.

Students get excited about seeing an octopus or a starfish up close. They ask questions about the sea cucumber, the sharks, and the different types of fish. They learn why some fish have teeth and some do not.

This curiosity has not changed since the first school trip to Kitty Stone Elementary and Anniston Middle School.

Thank you to the All In Credit Union for underwriting the entire program for 2022-2023.









For more information on *BayMobile* or to make an inquiry, visit disl.edu/dhp/baymobile or email BayMobileVisit@disl.edu.

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