

*FY 2018 Annual Report
of the Robert & Patricia
Switzer Foundation*

SWITZER
FOUNDATION

The Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation was formed in 1985 in Cleveland, Ohio. Its core giving program is the Switzer Environmental Fellowship program, which supports talented graduate students who are dedicated to environmental problem solving. Beyond the Fellowship program, the Foundation offers a variety of professional and leadership development grants and resources to Fellows throughout their careers. The Foundation intends its grantmaking to be instrumental in creating a cadre of highly motivated, trained, and committed individuals who will be the environmental leaders of tomorrow. All grant programs are administered through the Foundation's office in Belfast, Maine.

From the Board Chair:

It has been a momentous year for the Switzer Foundation as we prepare for the transition of our long-time leader, Lissa Widoff, whose program innovations and mentorship have been so influential in making the Fellowship such a valued and impactful program. The board is preparing for Lissa's departure with a clear vision for the future of our work.



We will continue our two-year effort to embed equity fully into our programs in a way that builds on our success and prepares for the future. This framework has three parts—Environmental Leadership, Equity, and Impact.

- The Switzer Foundation will continue to invest in environmental leaders through academic fellowships and project grants, with a focus on intersectional approaches, collaborative leadership, scientific integrity and policy impact
- We acknowledge the historic and ongoing unfair burden of environmental impact placed on low income and communities of color. We will contribute to an inclusive environmental sector by ensuring that future leaders are engaging on issues of social equity as well as environmental improvement.
- Switzer Fellows are leaders across many disciplines and sectors. They bring high-level expertise; we offer a network to support and grow their leadership.

In today's political climate, we can't take independent science in the service of a clean and healthy environment for granted, especially as we see the impacts of climate change becoming more dangerous. We will support Switzer Fellows to have an impact at all scales.

As we look toward new leadership, I'd like to express on behalf of the entire board and decades of Switzer Fellows our deep appreciation to Lissa for her tremendous leadership and the intelligence, warmth, and thoughtfulness she has brought to her work for the Switzer Foundation. We offer Lissa our warmest congratulations on this transition, and our best wishes for success in all her future endeavors.



From the Executive Director:

It has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve the Switzer Foundation for the past 20 years. This will be my last letter to you as Executive Director, but as a 1992 Fellow I am sure this is not my last word as part of this vibrant network of environmental leaders! The search for

my successor is underway and the board will finalize its decision by spring.

The heart and soul of the Foundation is the Switzer Fellows program and the supportive Network that fosters shared learning, collaboration and advancing our respective fields. I am proud of the successes of all of our Fellows and how the Foundation responds to the emerging issues of our time.

In climate change action we were among the first signatories to commit to fully divesting from fossil fuels. We reached that goal in 2016, the first foundation in Maine to do so. In turn, we increased our stake in clean energy and climate-sustaining solutions while seeking

investments that support our mission, rather than acting counter to it.

Over the last two years we also committed to embed equity into our programs and operations. We adjusted our guidelines, selection process and leadership training for a more racially and socioeconomically diverse leadership cohort. We continue to learn and are grateful to our Fellows who are truly the ones leading us.

I am profoundly grateful to have led this community. Thank you all for helping these 20 years fly by with great joy.

In gratitude,

Lissa

2018 Highlights:

OUR VALUES

Belief in Individuals

Environmental Stewardship

Sustainability and Systems Thinking

Interdisciplinary and Innovative Problem-solving

Maximizing Impact

Accountability and Results

Staff Transitions

In 2018, our longtime Administrative Director, **Don Brackett**, left the Switzer Foundation to begin his well-deserved retirement! Don was with the Foundation for 14 years and was part of the staff team that oversaw tremendous growth in our programs and Network of Fellows, playing a key role in managing our finances and administrative processes. They say that one door closes and another one opens, and this was certainly true for us in this case, as we were able to welcome our newest staff member, **Laine Kuehn**, to the team!



Laine, our new Administrative Coordinator and Office Manager, comes to us from the Maine Humanities Council. Laine looks forward to putting her energy into environmental work.

News from our 2018 Leadership and Network Innovation Grants

■ Putting science to work in the rapidly-warming Gulf of Maine:

Our \$25,000 Leadership Grant to Manomet in Brunswick, Maine, assisted with the hiring of Fellow **Marissa McMahan** as Senior Scientist. Marissa has grown the applied fisheries science program for the organization, assisting coastal Maine fishing communities adapt to a rapidly warming Gulf of Maine. Among Marissa's many accomplishments for the year: developing a new fishery for invasive European green crabs which are voracious predators of Maine's lucrative soft-shell clams—protect the clams by eating the crabs! [Read more](#) about Marissa's innovative work under this grant.



■ Air Quality and Environmental Justice on the U.S./Mexico Border:

The Environmental Health Coalition, National City, California, hired Fellow **Carolina Prado** as Senior Research Scientist with support from a \$25,000 Switzer Leadership Grant. Carolina led two community-based studies on air quality and public health in Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego, California. The data collected by Carolina and citizen scientists resulted in San Diego's first truck ordinance, regulating where large trucks can and cannot go in an effort to keep air quality in residential neighborhoods cleaner. Data collected in Tijuana will be used to inform the process of phasing out certain land uses deemed unhealthy in Tijuana neighborhoods. [Read more](#).



■ Fracking moves closer to sensitive areas in the Marcellus Shale region:

Fellows **Evan Hansen**, President of Downstream Strategies in Morgantown, West Virginia, and **Lara Cushing**, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Education, San Francisco State University, teamed up to study whether fracking operations are moving closer to places where people live, work and play in West Virginia. The results of their study indicated that fracking operations are expanding in closer proximity to living spaces, and that roughly 20% of the chemicals found in water supplies in these areas are identified as toxic to human health. [Read more](#).

■ A \$3,125 Professional Development Grant to **COMPASS** supported individual policy communications coaching for two Fellows, **Josh Stoll** and **Kristen Goodrich**, following their completion of our annual Policy Communications training. Kristen Goodrich works with the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve; with coaching from COMPASS she arranged meetings with Congressional staff to advocate for continued funding of the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) system in the 2018 federal budget. Josh Stoll, Assistant Professor in Marine Science at the University of Maine, also received coaching in anticipation of meetings on Capitol Hill in which he shared his research findings, made important policy connections, and learned much about how his research can inform marine policy in the near- and longer term.

2018 Highlights:

OUR VISION

By 2026, Switzer Fellows will be recognized leaders driving positive environmental change for the benefit of natural and human communities.

Fellow discussions on Race and Equity in the environmental movement

In 2018, we launched a new Fellows' reading and discussion group that focuses on issues of race and equity in the environmental field. Members of this group share readings and hold regular networking calls and webinars with speakers whose work encompasses issues of environmental justice or who are leaders in the movement to make the environmental field more inclusive. Topics have included environmental justice along the U.S./Mexico border; Breaking the Green Ceiling: building equity, inclusion and justice for the environmental movement; and the linkages between public/environmental health disparities and social and economic inequity. We look forward to continuing these important conversations in the coming years.

With over 630 Switzer Fellows across the country and around the world, we have awarded:

Over \$8,105,000 in Fellowships

\$6,500,000 in Leadership Grants

\$401,500 in Collaborative and Network Innovation Grants

\$116,000 in Professional Development Grants



Fall Retreat training focuses on equity and leadership

Our annual fall retreats, which welcome new Fellows and bring alumni together to connect with each other, staff, and the new Fellows, took place in **Ashland, MA**, and **Sausalito, CA** in September 2018. The focus of the fall retreat is a leadership- and cohort-building training, and this year we worked with **Angela Park** who led a workshop on "Equity as a 21st Century Leadership Competency." In addition, Fellows in New England heard from David Queeley, **Director of Eco-Innovation** at the Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corp. in Dorchester, MA, about his leadership path and his work bridging environmental justice and sustainable development to underserved neighborhoods in the Boston area. In California, two Fellows who are affiliated with California Native Tribes spoke about bringing traditional ecological knowledge into environmental policy.



Spring Retreat and Policy Communications

In conjunction with our 2018 Spring Retreat Policy Communications Training, Fellows arranged and attended 35 meetings with 26 different offices in Washington, DC, including with U.S. Congressional legislative staff from the offices of Senators Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren, Dianne Feinstein, Kristen Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and many more; with federal agency staff (including the National Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, EPA); the U.S. Agency for International Development; and policy-oriented NGOs like Earthjustice. Important connections were made, Fellows learned the policy context of their work, and were able to share important information with decision makers.

A vibrant community of environmental leaders • www.switzernetwork.org

2018 Highlights:

OUR STRATEGIES

To accomplish our mission and carry out our vision, the Foundation awards academic fellowships and project grants, supporting a continuum of environmental leadership from graduate school through professional careers, and nurturing leaders who will be instrumental in driving environmental change. The Foundation sponsors professional development activities, facilitates collaboration and communication among Fellows, and fosters a growing Network of Switzer Fellows, environmental practitioners and organizations.



Grants awarded in Fiscal Year 2018:

The Switzer Foundation awarded three Leadership Grants in our 2018 Fiscal Year, for a total of \$72,000. **Leadership Grants** bring a Fellow together with an organization to address a critical issue, elevate the Fellow's leadership on the issue, and increase the organization's capacity to address the issue. The three grants awarded were as follows:

- **\$25,000** to the **New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association** (Concord, NH) to hire 2016 Fellow Henry Herndon as its first Director of Local Energy Solutions, leading a network of policymakers, businesses, municipalities, and individuals to advance clean energy solutions for New Hampshire.
- **\$25,000** to **California Native Plant Society** (Claremont, CA) to hire 2016 Fellow **Nick Jensen** as Southern California Conservation Analyst, taking charge of this statewide organization's conservation and advocacy efforts in Southern California.
- **\$22,000** to **Silent Spring Institute** (Newton, MA) to hire 2017 Fellow **Lauren Richter** as Research Scientist to lead a community-based participatory research project on drinking water contamination, which will inform the organization's regional and national advocacy efforts on chemicals regulation.

We also awarded two **Network Innovation Grants** over the 2018 Fiscal Year, for a total of \$13,000. Network Innovation grants provide the means (up to \$10,000) for Fellows to work together across sectors and expertise areas, focusing on a specific current issue. Network Innovation Grants awarded were:

- **\$5,000** to **American Bird Conservancy** (Santa Cruz, CA) for three Fellows (**Brad Keitt, Jonathan Scheuer, and Jason Delborne**) to develop a strategy to engage communities in Hawaii on solutions to stemming the spread of avian malaria in Hawaiian forest birds.
- **\$8,000** to **Manomet** (Brunswick, ME) for three Fellows (**Marissa McMahan, Josh Stoll, and Caitlin Cleaver**) to lead a statewide effort in Maine to develop a long-term vision for aquaculture, an industry which is quickly taking hold in Maine.

In addition, we awarded \$5,100 in Professional Development Fund grants, which provide direct support for professional development opportunities for Switzer Fellows. Fellows attended important conferences where they presented research, made critical networking connections, and increased their individual skill sets.

Switzer Fellows in Action

In our 2018 Fiscal Year, Fellows were busy writing and presenting their work to local, regional, state, national and international audiences. Four Fellows published books, and 35 were quoted in national or international press.

- **Natalya Gallo** was named one of the **Forbes List** top leaders in the Science category for Leaders and Innovators Under 30.
- **Kimberley Rain Miner** produced a **video** through the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute detailing her work assessing the threat of pesticides, including DDT, that have been trapped in glacial ice and are now entering watersheds as the glaciers melt.
- **Erin Satterthwaite** and **Erik Martinez** both received California Sea Grant State Fellowships. Erin is based at **NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center**; Erik is based at the **California Coastal Commission**.
- **Rachel Morello-Frosch's** work on segregation and pollution was **featured in the New York Times**.
- **Jonathan Moch**, PhD Candidate in Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard University, was **featured in the New York Times, CNN, and other outlets** for his groundbreaking work on smog in China.
- **Joe Aldy** was **quoted by CNN** on why red and blue states divide over environmental policies.
- **David Gonzalez**, PhD Candidate at UCLA in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, became the Co-Chair of UCLA's Organization for Cultural Diversity in Science.
- **Shaye Wolf** wrote an **opinion piece for The Hill** website about President Trump's rescission of a funding pool to assist climate-related disasters just days before Hurricane Harvey.
- **Sarah Myhre** was named one of the **Most Influential Seattleites** of 2017 for her work as a climate change scientist and social justice activist, working to close the gap between science and society.
- **Evan Hansen** won a seat in the **West Virginia House of Delegates**, representing Monongalia County.

Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation 2018 Annual Financial Report

(FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018)

This financial data is based on an annual compilation of financial statements.

SWITZER FOUNDATION MISSION

The Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation identifies and nurtures environmental leaders who have the ability and determination to make a significant impact, and supports initiatives that will have direct and measurable results to improve environmental quality. The Foundation accomplishes this by awarding academic fellowships and project grants, sponsoring professional development activities, and fostering a growing network of Switzer Fellows, environmental practitioners and organizations.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT	FY 2017	FY 2018
Assets (at market value)		
Common Stocks	\$ 6,961,243	\$ 10,419,925
Fixed Income & Alternatives	11,013,860	8,021,133
Liquidity	279,819	282,938
Other Assets (equipment)	951	445
Total Assets	\$ 18,255,873	\$ 18,724,441
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities	\$ 175,095	\$ 207,000
Equity (unrestricted net assets)	18,080,778	18,517,441
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 18,255,873	\$ 18,724,441

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND DISBURSEMENT		
Income From Investments		
Interest Income and Dividends	\$ 289,612	\$ 312,916
Capital gains distribution	0	0
Realized Gain/Loss	379,709	1,189,892
Other income	119	132
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 669,440	\$ 1,502,940
Disbursements From Income		
Grants Paid	\$ 366,675	\$ 396,833
Investment management expenses	152,337	119,945
Operating and Admin Expenses *	520,835	522,687
Total Expenses	\$ 1,039,847	\$ 1,039,465
* includes excise tax expense		

FISCAL YEAR 2018 SWITZER FOUNDATION TRUSTEES:

Carol Tucker (Chair)

Joe Aldy

Adrienne Alvord

Bruce Kahn

Elise Switzer

Jessica Switzer Green

Rachel Morello-Frosch

STAFF

Lissa Widoff, Executive Director

Erin Lloyd, Program Director

Laine Kuehn, Administrative
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