From the Executive Director, Lissa Widoff

The past year was one of extremes, ranging from the appointment of climate deniers to President Trump’s cabinet to a series of natural disasters — hurricanes in Houston and Puerto Rico, and wildfires in California — that were undoubtedly made worse by a warming climate. On both of these fronts, Switzer Fellows have been vocal leaders using their positions in academia, government, non-profit organizations and the private sector to support pro-environment policies. They have written op-eds, conducted relevant research and spoken to public audiences. Fellows all over the U.S. participated in the science and climate marches, and continue to actively promote sound science and environmental policy in the U.S. and abroad.

The skills needed to address a rapidly changing natural environment, coupled with the shift in our political climate require more than adaptation and resilience. We need new movements for change, and leadership that reflects all communities and groups. Working across difference cannot be a cliché value. We must embed notions of equity in our efforts to reduce environmental harms that affect all of us. Skills of communication, compassion, listening, re-learning, and harnessing our collective knowledge, inspiration and passion is part of what we need for the future. Now, more than ever, we can count on Switzer Fellows to lead us through these challenges and we will do our part to prepare new leaders and seasoned alumni to find the tools, networks and skills they need.

From the Board Chair, Carol Tucker

As 2018 gets underway, I am humbled by the work of Switzer Fellows. Since receiving my Fellowship in 2001, I have seen our Network of expert environmental leaders mature and coalesce into a vibrant and focused force, tackling increasingly complicated environmental problems. I am proud to be a part of this group, both as a Fellow and as Board Chair.

The Switzer Foundation is supporting and advancing Switzer Fellows as environmental leaders who are at the forefront of the scientific, political and social dimensions of environmental concerns. With ever increasing threats to our environmental policies, programs and impacts on communities, the Switzer Foundation is called to continuously adapt our perspective on leadership to be in harmony with the needs and demands today. Switzer Fellows are true leaders who are teaching us that as environmental protections are challenged and communities and organizations across all sectors respond, we need to include a commitment to equity along with increased vigilance and activism. As Switzer Fellows we are using our expertise as well as our expansive Switzer Fellows Network to find collaborative solutions.

The Foundation is committed to supporting our Fellows doing critical environmental work in a changing political environment. In my position as Chief of Emergency Response for the U.S. EPA New England Region, it is my job to respond to crises as they arise, and to find ways to coordinate and collaborate with partners to quickly and safely resolve issues. This is the essence of what all Switzer Fellows do, across an astounding array of issues. They are problem solvers, and they are heeding the calls to action. In my position as Board Chair, I look forward to working with staff and trustees to ensure the Switzer Foundation continues to be a strong center from which our Network of Fellows can find support, sustenance and collegiality.
With over 600 Switzer Fellows across the country and around the world, we have awarded:

Over $7,900,000 in Fellowships

$6,525,000 in Leadership Grants

$109,000 in Professional Development Grants

$388,500 in Collaborative and Network Innovation Grants

Over the past year, the Switzer Foundation Board, staff and Fellows Advisory Committee have been developing a rationale for how the Switzer Foundation can more clearly embed equity into the work we do. We are joining our environmental funder and nonprofit colleagues who are stepping up to ensure that environmental outcomes benefit all people, that organizations create inclusive practices and leadership opportunities for people of color, and that the environmental movement increase focus and resources for communities on the front lines of new environmental challenges. Whether we are moving towards a low carbon energy system, reducing toxics in the environment and our bodies, or stalling fragmentation of habitat and the loss of species, we must ensure that the people, projects and organizations we support are able to integrate new perspectives and voices into their work. In the next year, we will publicly share new goals and actions to support these efforts.

2017 Fall Retreat Keynote Speakers on environmental justice and leadership

This year’s fall retreats, at which we welcomed our new 2017 Fellows and re- connected with returning alumni, featured two keynote speakers with powerful stories of their unique leadership paths. In New England, we were honored to have Sherri Mitchell, Executive Director of the Land Peace Foundation, and activist, lawyer, and member of the Penobscot Indian Nation. In California, Fellows were fortunate to hear from Parin Shah, Senior Strategist with the Asian Pacific Environmental Network. In California, our fall retreat happened amidst the terrible wildfires in northern counties, which directly affected a number of our Fellows who live and work in the burned areas and indirectly affected many others because of the unhealthy air quality which drifted south into the Bay Area. The fires, and the hurricanes which afflicted the east coast this past fall, are a stark reminder of the impacts of our changing climate and the increasing urgency of our collective work. Our speakers offered inspiration and strong models of new voices of leadership in the environmental field.
“Hot Topic”
Networking Calls added to our Network offerings

Switzer Fellows regularly participate in networking calls on topics of interest throughout the year. This year, given the increasingly challenging political climate on environmental and social issues, we added space in our networking call schedule for “hot topic” issues where Fellows can bring a current issue or topic on which they would like to connect with others. In 2017, we invited Fellow Jason Grumet, President of the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington, DC, to address the Network shortly after the presidential election to offer his take on how the Trump agenda would impact environmental work in the coming year. Other hot topic calls included how to build alliances with the labor movement, and Standing Rock and pipeline issues. Fellows are working at unique intersections of activism, policy, and science, and these calls provide a forum for interdisciplinary thinking and problem solving.

Switzer Fellows go to Capitol Hill

As an added investment in Fellow leadership, we have provided grants for the past several years to our spring retreat training partner, COMPASS, to work individually with Fellows who are poised to contribute to ongoing policy discussions, or who wish to build relationships with policy makers. Through this individual coaching, Fellows have contributed needed expertise to policy makers and expanded their networks of policy contacts. In FY 2017, Fellows met with policy staff in 40 different offices, including with U.S. Congressional staff, federal agencies, NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, and others. Fellows are providing ongoing expertise on regional and national scales on wide-ranging issues, including aquaculture and marine resources, climate science, biodiversity conservation, and on the importance of national estuarine research reserves.

A vibrant community of environmental leaders • www.switzernetwork.org
2017 Highlights:

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

$65,000 in Leadership and Network Innovation Grants Awarded
In Fiscal Year 2017, the Switzer Foundation awarded $50,000 in Leadership Grants. These grants were made to organizations working with Switzer Fellows to create a position or lead an initiative in their field of expertise:

- **$25,000** to the Environmental Health Coalition in National City, California, to support Carolina Prado in the new position of Senior Research Scientist. Carolina is leading two new initiatives focused on air quality and environmental justice in San Diego, and Tijuana, Mexico.

- **$25,000** to Manomet in Brunswick, Maine, to hire Marissa McMahen as its new Senior Scientist, developing a new, long-term applied science program helping Maine fishing communities adapt to a changing climate.

In addition, the Foundation awarded $15,000 under the Network Innovation Program to the Association of State Wetland Managers, based in Windham, Maine, for a team of Switzer Fellows to provide expertise in a project to improve how state wetlands regulators engage in the permitting process for oil and gas pipelines.

- **$25,000** to the Environmental Health Coalition in National City, California, to support Carolina Prado in the new position of Senior Research Scientist. Carolina is leading two new initiatives focused on air quality and environmental justice in San Diego, and Tijuana, Mexico.

Switzer Fellows in Action
This past year, Fellows wrote 27 op-eds for state and national publication. Thirty-eight Fellows were quoted in national or international press. Fellows contributed to national-level policy discussions and took to the streets for the Science and Climate marches. It was a year of action!

- **Ayana Johnson**, founding director of the Ocean Collectiv consulting group, was national Co-Director of Partnerships for the March for Science.

- **Maria Fernandez-Gimenez** received the Order of the Polar Star from the government of Mongolia, the highest civilian honor that Mongolia presents to foreign nationals, for her research on Mongolia's rangelands and how natural and human communities are adapting to ecological and economic change.

- **Yesenia Gallardo's** Poda Foods, Inc., was the winner of 2016’s Pitch Oregon competition for its work producing edible crickets as a source of food protein.

- **Sumit Kadakia’s** start-up, Renewal Mill, won first prize at a business competition hosted by Yale and New York University. Renewal Mill turns waste into nutritious, environmentally sustainable food.

- **Jisung Park’s** work examining the effects of a warming climate on productivity was featured in a New York Times op-ed by Nicholas Kristof.

- **Asa Bradman**, Associate Director of the Center for Children’s Health Research at UC Berkeley’s School of Public Health was appointed to the National Organics Standards Board.

- **Linda Walker** was interviewed on the Diane Rehm Show about global deforestation and efforts to curb illegal logging.

- **Brian Bowen** was named to Midwest Energy News’s “40 Under 40” list

See our News page for comprehensive coverage and highlights of our Fellows’ work.

Staff and Board News
Carol Tucker, 2001 Switzer Fellow and Chief of Emergency Responses for the U.S. EPA New England, began her tenure as Chair of the Switzer Foundation Trustees this year. Carol has served on the Board of Trustees for six years and has provided critical perspective on Foundation operations and grantmaking. This year, we also welcomed Rachel Morello-Frosch to the Switzer Foundation’s Board. Rachel is a 2005 Switzer Fellow and Professor of Environmental and Public Health at UC Berkeley.

Fellows Advisory Committee
Each year, we invite a dozen or more Fellows to join the Switzer Fellows Advisory Committee (“FAC”). The FAC advises the Switzer Foundation staff and board on program and other matters. This year, we have 16 members who are assisting with our equity work, helping with program planning, and coaching younger Fellows.
In Memoriam

Fred Switzer, 1922-2017

In March, 2017, the Switzer community lost Fred Emmett Switzer, brother to Robert Switzer and inspirational leader in the early years of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation. Fred was a crucial trustee and visionary for the Foundation and was instrumental in the Foundation’s creation and the early development of its vision of supporting environmental leaders. Fred’s warm and sharp wit was always present in meetings and gatherings with Switzer Fellows, family or friends. He is missed by many, and his spirit of commitment to environmental leaders lives on in our Fellowship and leadership programs.

Friends and colleagues in Maine and beyond mourn the passing of Peter Vickery this year. A 1990 Switzer Fellow, Peter’s passion for birds was known throughout Maine and farther afield. His knowledge of avian history and conservation in Maine, his unparalleled skills in field identification and his commitment to conservation will be missed. He was known for his love of sharing his knowledge and supporting leadership in others.

Our community also mourns the passing of another 1990 Switzer Fellow, renowned ecologist, educator and illustrator, Elizabeth Farnsworth, former Senior Research Ecologist with the New England Wild Flower Society (NEWFS). She illustrated the Flora of New England (Yale University Press) and the Nature of New Hampshire with the NH Natural Heritage Bureau, and illustrated and co-wrote the award-winning Field Guide to the Ants of New England (Yale University Press). She was also senior editor of the botanical journal, Rhodora. Her love of native plants supported citizen science and conservation efforts New England-wide.

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.
This financial data is based on audited 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.

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<th>Assets (at market value)</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Common Stocks</td>
<td>$10,533,985</td>
<td>$6,961,243</td>
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<td>Fixed Income &amp; Alternatives</td>
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<td>Liquidity</td>
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<td>Other Assets (equipment)</td>
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<td>951</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$17,091,005</td>
<td>$18,255,873</td>
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<th>Liabilities and Equity</th>
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<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>$153,894</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equity (unrestricted net assets)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</td>
<td>$17,091,005</td>
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STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND DISBURSEMENT

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<tr>
<th>Income From Investments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Income and Dividends</td>
<td>$193,964</td>
<td>$289,612</td>
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<td>Capital gains distribution</td>
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<td>Realized Gain/Loss</td>
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<td>379,709</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
<td>1,211</td>
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<td>Total Operating Revenues</td>
<td>$881,475</td>
<td>$669,440</td>
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<th>Disbursements From Income</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Paid</td>
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<td>$366,675</td>
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<td>Investment management expenses</td>
<td>111,779</td>
<td>152,337</td>
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<td>Operating and Admin Expenses *</td>
<td>533,509</td>
<td>620,835</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$1,063,458</td>
<td>$1,039,847</td>
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* includes excise tax expense

TRUSTEES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017:
Carol Tucker (Chair)
Adrienne Alvord
Bruce Kahn
Elise Switzer
Jessica Switzer Green
Joe Aldy
Rachel Morello-Frosch

STAFF
Lissa Widoff, Executive Director
Erin Lloyd, Program Director
Don Brackett, Administrative Director
Lauren Hertel, Communications Manager

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