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CAIRNS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Happy Monday!

We hope you all enjoyed getting to meet and connect with the graduate mentors during last week's Mentor-Mentee Speed Networking event. If you have not done so, please [fill out this Mentor preference survey](#) **by the end of this week** so that we can get you all matched with mentors as soon as possible. Please do not forget to fill out your name at the beginning of the survey so that we know who filled out the survey - if you already filled out the survey but cannot remember if you filled in your name or not, please fill out the survey again so that we can have your preferences.

If you are interested in sustainability and the coastal marine field, check out Dr. Xavier Basurto's Faculty Feature!

Today is Indigenous Peoples Day. We at CAIRNS acknowledge that the Nicholas School resides on Native land; what we call the city of Durham occupies Lumbee, Skaruhreh/Tuscarora, and Shakori land. You can visit native-land.ca to see what Native land you currently occupy. The Duke Native American Student Association currently has an ongoing petition and open letter addressing ways the university can provide more support to Native American students and North Carolina's Indigenous communities. Learn more about the [Native American Student Association's open letter here](#).

SAVE THE DATE: November Meeting - 7pm on Thursday, November 4

Please let us know if you have a time conflict with this date. The November meeting will focus on addressing and handling conflict that may arise in academic or professional settings (particularly conflict associated with diversity and inclusion).

[anonymous feedback here!](#)



FACULTY FEATURE



Who: Dr. Xavier Basurto (he/him)

What is your role at the Nicholas School? My formal title is Associate Professor of Sustainability and Science. My role is to think, design, facilitate and conduct research of relevance to local and global societies. Teach and mentor students about how to think critically about environmental issues in particular, and be of service to my colleagues and the university. I also play fundraiser and cheerleader.

frameworks have scholars come up with to understand complex problems related to the environment. Problems that all of us want to see solved (e.g., climate change) but that are hard to tackle for a number of complex reasons.

How is diversity and inclusion important in your work?

This question is very overwhelming. Diversity and inclusion are central to the issues I study. My work addresses some of the most marginalized producers of food in coastal marine areas. Artisanal fishers have long operated outside of the purview of the State, with very little regard to labor abuses, human rights, work safety, and environmental safeguards, and yet likely produce about half of the fish we eat. I strive to understand basic questions like why they organize in certain ways? Why is so difficult to incorporate them into management systems? What role can they play in decision-making processes? What role they play in local seafood consumption and poverty alleviation?

How have diverse perspectives advanced your work?

They allow me to consider alternative explanations, and listen to others. Some conservation processes I first thought were motivated by an environmental ethic in a western conservation sense, later I realized were motivated by a sense of self-regard, identity and self-determination/

Do you have any suggestions for undergraduates who may be interested in pursuing the field you are in?

Go out to the field, observe, ask questions (politely). Leave your phone behind or turn it off. Take a waterproof camera and closed toed shoes.

Are you open to undergraduate students reaching out to you about your academic work/research?

Yes (Email: xavier.basurto@duke.edu)



The Nicholas Institute has a [calendar full of events](#) for the upcoming semester! Check out these happening this week:

Rebuilding Marine Ecosystems in the Anthropocene - October 12 @ 12:30pm

[Register for this event here!](#)

[Event Details](#)

This Oceans @ Duke panel discussion will include experts in the ecosystem restoration, who will provide insights into vital questions related to marine habitat restoration.

Student Event - Energy Access @ Duke - October 12 @ 5:15pm (Gross 107)

[Event Details](#)

Come join the Global Energy Access Network and the Energy Access Project to learn more about the energy access work happening at Duke, and how students can get involved! Featuring presentations from students who did access-related projects last summer through the Energy Internship Program.



Need a break from your schoolwork? Check out these sustainability and environment related movies/tv shows/book/podcasts!

- **Ologies** (Podcast - find on any platform you listen to podcasts)
- **Life in Color with David Attenborough** (Documentary - on Netflix)
- **Gathering Moss by Robin Wall Kimmerer** (physical book - through Duke Library)



What is the cohort up to?

Use this space to share your weekly triumphs, promote your student organization events, or anything that you would like to share with the cohort! Just send Meilin an email (meilin.chan@duke.edu) with what you'd like to share.



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