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Hello CAIRNS Mentors!

We hope you all had a relaxing weekend. For those that were able to attend the mentor-mentee speed networking event, we hope you had a great time connecting with this year's mentee cohort!

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](#).

Some Reminders

Graduate mentors, if you have not done so already, please fill out [the Mentee Preference Survey](#) by the end of this week so that we can get the mentor-mentee matching process started.

Alumni mentors, we have created [this survey for you](#) to share any preferences or comments on your potential mentor group. The survey will help us better match you with mentor-mentee groups based on your mentorship style and background.

Both surveys should take no more than 5 minutes to complete.

New Feature on Newsletter - Faculty Features

Check out a new segment of the newsletter highlighting various faculty at the

Be Featured in the Mentee Cohort Newsletter!

In the CAIRNS mentee newsletter, we are hoping to continue to feature you all each week and help the cohort get to know you all better. If you are interested in being featured, [you can fill out this survey](#) (should take less than 5 minutes)!

Have comments or feedback? You can send us [anonymous feedback here!](#)



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

What drew you to your field/how did you get into your field?

A sense of curiosity about how the world works. To understand what 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/

Have a wonderful rest of your week!

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