



DUKE CAMPUS FARM ANNUAL REPORT 2018

CATALYZING POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE FOOD SYSTEM

FRIENDS,

I first set foot on Duke's campus in the winter of 2014, as the Duke Campus Farm was crafting its very first strategic plan. Even as a virtual stranger, the energy of that two-day planning retreat showed me in no uncertain terms that the DCF community was dedicated, passionate, and ready to roll up its collective sleeves.

Almost five years later, we're proud to say that our soils are starting to heal from centuries of hard use, and we're looking beyond ecological repair to reflect on what we can do to address the social and cultural losses this land has seen. We've touched thousands of students, fed hundreds of CSA members, graduated our first four-year student crew member, garnered a faculty position affiliated with the farm, and helped to launch a new food studies pilot program - Dukelmmirse "Imagining the Future of Food."

Immerse gave us an innovative structure to integrate the farm into academic curricula in powerful new ways, to build a learning community in the classroom that mirrors the one Leslie Wolverton, our new field education manager, has been fostering with our student farm crew out in the field, and to take the transdisciplinary approaches needed to help students, and the rest of us, fully understand the challenges our food system is facing.

Now we're ready to take another big leap - we're digging into our next five-year strategic plan, one that will include expansion to a site closer to campus in the upcoming years. With your support, we'll continue to find new spaces and new ways for catalyzing positive change in the food system.

Keep growing,



SASKIA CORNES

Program Director, Duke Campus Farm





ON THE FARM

In 2018 we grew thousands of pounds of produce for our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) membership, Duke Dining, and campus events. DCF's first climate-controlled structure - a heated propagation house - works with our passively heated high tunnel to expand our production and educational possibilities. Infrastructure projects on the horizon include a commercial walk-in refrigerator and upgrades to our wash-and-pack operation.

In May 2018, Leslie Wolverton joined our team as Field Education Manager. In DCF's third full time position, Leslie oversees our 10-member student farm crew and works with them to execute a crop plan for our CSA and wholesale clients. Leslie's agronomy degree from Mississippi State and her experience building and managing farms across the South make her exceptionally well-suited to catalyze agroecological and human activity of all kinds.



24+

inches of rain saturated
DCF soils in just September
through November



60

hours worked by each
of our Sustainable
Duke colleagues during
Thursday morning
summer crop mobs



100

shareholders picked up
26 weeks of fresh
produce during our
summer and fall
Community Supported
Agriculture programs




900

sq. ft of seedling tray
space in our new
heated propagation
house



1200

permanent bed ft. of
insectary buffer rows
grown for attracting
pollinators + dorm room
beautification-by-bouquet



Members of our student farm crew work 10 paid hours per week assisting in all aspects of farm production. These paid positions include biweekly farm classes on topics like cover cropping, integrated pest management, and political and economic structures that impact food production. We've designed this curriculum as an investment in our crew members' understanding of both the practical principles underlying their farm work and the broader implications of this work within a global food system. Pictured, students learn about soil physical and biological properties with Field Education Manager Leslie Wolverton.

THE FUTURE



In Fall 2018, Program Director Saskia Cornes co-directed “Imagining the Future of Food”, a four-course deep dive into the challenges and opportunities of our current food system.

This new Dukelmmerse program brought a learning cohort of eleven undergraduates together with a core faculty team - Dr. Cornes (Franklin Humanities Institute), Dr. Luciana Fellin (Romance Studies), Dr. Dalia Patino-Echeverri (Environmental Engineering), and Dr. Chantal Reid

(Env. Science and Policy). Through four academic courses, a two-week immersion at the Duke Campus Farm, site visits in Northern California and eastern North Carolina, students sought answers to a seemingly simple question: in the context of climate change and a growing global population, what is the future of food?

Learn more about the program's inaugural semester at farm.duke.edu.

OF FOOD



"I have been thinking a lot about how to reconcile sustainability with equity and affordability in our food system. What we pay for food isn't its true cost. The program has raised a lot of questions for me about how we can construct a food system where everyone has a right to healthy and sustainable food, not just those who can pay more for it. For me, the best thing about Dukelmmerse has been the experiential learning aspect and the way it naturally leads to self-reflection. This has been my favorite semester at Duke so far."

Annie Roberts, TC '21 (pictured top right pg. 6)

"Dukelmmerse has allowed me to pursue a non-traditional course of study precisely in line with my academic passion: food studies. The program has validated that my passion is a worthy and important academic pursuit. Experiential learning taught me lessons that will remain with me far longer than many lessons I have learned in classrooms. Having integrated knowledge across several academic disciplines, I have started to develop a well-rounded understanding of food systems. I now have the knowledge base plus a network of teachers and peers from whom I can draw support as I navigate my work moving forward."

Sierra Winters, TC '21 (pictured bottom right pg. 6)

In Fall 2018, 10 students enrolled in 'Farmworkers in North Carolina', a course collaboration between local artist Cornelio Campos, professor of Documentary Studies and Cultural Anthropology Charlie Thompson, and a range of community partners, including the Duke Campus Farm, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Student Action with Farmworkers, Earthseed Land Collective and the Stagville plantation.





Researching Native American, African American, and Hispanic contributions to North Carolina agriculture, ideas for respectful and powerful imagery to represent these communities emerged. As part of his residency at Duke's Rubenstein Arts Center, Campos worked with students to create a mural design.

The Duke Campus Farm team is honored to host the course's completed mural. We hope its presence acknowledges our land's complex histories and sparks conversations about power and place in today's food system.

FACING THE ANTHROPOCENE

In collaboration with the Luce Foundation and the Kenan Institute for Ethics, DCF hosted two graduate students through the 'Facing the Anthropocene' project. Our two inaugural **Luce Farm Fellows** worked alongside DCF staff and investigated the history of land use on the Farm. Chelsea Clifford, PhD, NSOE '18 applied her GIS and translational science skills to overlay mapped landscapes with primary documents including the Couch family archive, historical farm deeds and inventory, handwritten correspondence, and the material culture of enslaved communities.



I learned to engage the farm site in new registers and translate them into prose: human and ecological histories; embodied reality and disembodied account in archival documents; manual labor and abstract theory.

These modes of attention helped me begin to frame the challenges of imagination that underwrite our present ecological moment. This summer I learned to pay attention; I am learning still.

Brett Stonechiper, MTS '19, Luce Fellow '18

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The farm continues its partnership with the Duke University School of Medicine's Root Causes: an ambitious, student-led food distribution program in its second year of operation. Medical students offer food security screenings at the Duke Outpatient Clinic, matching food-insecure patients with shelf-stable and fresh groceries - some gleaned from DCF fields - that suit their nutritional needs, taste preferences, and cooking/preparation capacities.

We continue to host open Community Workdays, a staple of the weekly farm schedule since our 2010 inception. In 2018, nearly 1,000 students, staff, faculty and community members joined us on Thursday and Sunday afternoons. Every first Sunday of the month, the Durham County Beekeepers' Association showcases its DCF-based club apiary during a public educational hive inspection.





During March's Alternative Spring Break, we convened a dynamic group of community experts who introduced 10 students to equity-focused work in the food system. Students learned about about labor organizing, grantmaking, environmental justice and the law, land access, and food as a cultural centerpiece and economic development tool in our Triangle community. During October's Alternative Fall Break, we offered hands-on workshops on sustainable farming to 9 students from Pratt, Trinity, Duke Law School, and the Sanford School of Public Policy. Our Alternative Break programs engage many students who are new to the farm and our program, and expand and strengthen DCF's partnerships with the Durham community.



200

members from the Class of 2022 engaged with DCF during first-year orientation activities including Project BUILD, a DCF Faculty Outing, and an Intersectionality in Action dialogue with program director Dr. Saskia Cornes



30

scholars attended Dr. Cornes' talk "Milton's Manuring: Eden, Eve, Enclosure, Epic" presented at the Franklin Humanities Institute's tgiFHI series



800

sq feet of research plot space supporting the senior thesis of Aedan Hannon, TC '18



10

meetings with members of Congress attended by a delegation from DCF as part of the Duke Environmental Law Clinic's trip to the Hill with the Farm Bill Law Enterprise



60%

of our Class of 2018 farm crew graduates are directly engaged in food systems work



17

students attended a mushroom log inoculation workshop as part of their coursework in Nature Culture Gender



220+

people dancing under the stars to live music at DCF Contra Dances



THANK YOU!

We are proud to see our impact grow each season, and thankful to all who have supported us. We work hard to offer tangible and visible evidence that a restorative relationship to our environment is possible, and to spark new, challenging conversations around food and food systems. As a young program, we do not have the benefit of an endowment. Your generosity is essential to sustaining our momentum and helping us cultivate more food system changemakers.

We welcome financial gifts at www.farm.duke.edu.

STAFF

Saskia Cornes
Leslie Wolverton
Emily McGinty
Luke Howerter (May '16 -'18)

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CHIPOTLE HEADS



DUKE CAMPUS FARM

Visit Us: 4934 Friends School Road Durham NC 27705

