



DUKE CAMPUS FARM ANNUAL REPORT 2019

CATALYZING POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE FOOD SYSTEM

FRIENDS,

A decade! This upcoming year marks DCF's tenth season in production. What began as a group project in an undergraduate classroom is now a fully-fledged Duke institution that gives hundreds of students and community members the chance to form radically new kinds of relationships to food, the land, and each other.

In 2019, we found new ways to support Duke's research mission and work toward a more resilient future. One of the year's new collaborations now powers our farm with renewable energy. To complete another circle, DCF Field Education Manager Leslie Wolverton is teaching alongside one of DCF's founding members, Lee Miller (then a Nicholas School graduate student, now a food and ag policy lawyer), as a team lead for DCF's first Bass Connections research project.

A farm expansion will offer new opportunities to experience the intellectual and physical agility that a small-scale agroecological farm demands; the Office of the Executive Vice President has earmarked a new 3-acre site for us, and we'll be working hard to make DCF on Central Campus a reality in the months and years ahead.

I'm humbled and grateful that our farm and our community keep growing, and happy that my son Jowan can be part of this farm family.

Here's to a new decade of growth,



SASKIA CORNES

Program Director, Duke Campus Farm





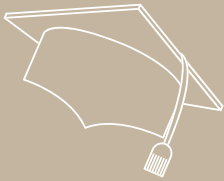
SEASON IN PRODUCTION

This year we kicked off our spring CSA with a huge life upgrade for our veggies. Our first-ever walk-in cooler replaces our farm-hacked 'coolbot,' taking summer's withering heat out of our produce as soon as it leaves the field.

DCF also went solar! Twelve new solar panels on our barn roof cover all of DCF's electrical needs, while forwarding the research of Dr. Lincoln Pratson, Nicholas School Professor of Energy and the Environment. DCF is a test site for Pratson's "Second Life Battery Project," which seeks more sustainable energy solutions by taking retired batteries from Duke Data Centers and discovering new potential for their extended use.

As part of our academic year farm crew, Harrison Branner and Olivia Olsher are two of a dozen student employees who support DCF's production operation while learning the hows and whys of sustainable agriculture.

10



student crew members graduated in May with bachelors, masters, and a doctoral degree

11



honeybee hives tended by the Durham County Beekeepers' Association

1000+



hours worked by three student crew members during the summer

550+



volunteers contributed more than 160 hours at Community Work Days

2



nineteenth-century Southern seed cultivars in our Cackalacky Heritage Garden thanks to University of South Carolina historian David Shields



30

diners sat down to three benefit dinners for the future Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice, enjoying produce donated by DCF

122



crop varieties grown in DCF's 2019 crop plan

40+



compost piles built by DCF crew and volunteers

OUR PRODUCE

For 26 weeks, May through November, we sell produce through our 70-member Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. CSA subscribers become stakeholders in the season and receive a share of each week's harvest at one of four pick-up locations.

During the academic year, we sell produce to Duke Dining's East Campus Marketplace, Duke Diet and Fitness Center, and special campus events like the Taste of Duke First-Year Family Picnic.

"Tuesday's veggie boxes quickly became one of the highlights of my week, full of flavor and color. I was welcomed into a community of people committed to sustainability and the renewal of the earth."

Liza Moore, Duke Physician Assistant Student & DCF CSA Member






FARM & COMMUNITY

As an educational farm program, our staff invests in meaningful volunteer work for students, staff, faculty and community members including gleaning end-of-season produce for the Duke Outpatient Fresh Produce Program (FPP), a choice-driven grocery initiative for food-insecure patients with diet-related disease. In partnership with Root Causes, an organization of Duke Medical School students, DCF provides the FPP with 80 bags packed with nutritionally dense foods to Duke Outpatient Clinic adults and pediatric patients each month.

“Health isn’t just about what machines you use at the gym or what pills you take, but the food and drink you put in your body. I love to see the radishes or greens I harvested earlier in the week get packaged at the clinic.”

Floey Zhao, DCF Student Crew Member '22



We continue to open our gates Thursdays and Sundays for Community Work Days. Our student crew shares the skills they've honed during farm classes, facilitating projects like compost building, transplanting, and bed preparation. DCF staff guide conversations about the farm and food systems issues to inform volunteers' work, deepen knowledge, and forge connections among group members.

In 2019, we welcomed individuals and organizations of all kinds, including:

- Duke Engage Ambassadors
- Fuqua School of Business Food & Agriculture Club
- APO Service Fraternity
- Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority
- Swerve Ultimate Frisbee
- Duke Engage Rwanda, Portland, & Washington, D.C.
- Admissions Guides Executive Board

CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

In early April 2019, Dr. Saskia Cornes and soil scientist Dr. Dan Richter hosted a farm-based session for the National Humanities Center's "Beyond Despair: Theory and Practice in Environmental Humanities" conference. Thirty scholars from around the country engaged with our growing space, programmatic history, and a 10-foot-deep soil pit dug to reveal layers of 'deep time'. DCF later hosted Richter for a lively public event that included hands-on exploration of our land's recorded and unrecorded histories.






DCF Program Director Dr. Saskia Cornes; Dr. Robin Kirk, Faculty Co-Chair of the Duke Human Rights Center; and Barbara Lau, Director of the Pauli Murray Project taught the year-long course "Sower and Reapers: Gardening in an Era of Change." By collecting oral histories, doing archival research, drawing digital maps and making site visits, undergraduates showed how Durham residents in the College View, West End and Watts-Hillandale neighborhoods engage climate change and gentrification through their gardens. The students' curation will become part of a national exhibit on environmental justice through the Humanities Action Lab.



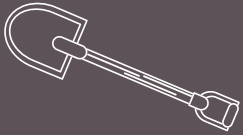
In Fall 2019, DCF co-launched a year-long Bass Connections course “Regenerative Grazing to Mitigate Climate Change” alongside colleagues from the Duke Environmental Law Clinic and the Duke Carbon Offsets Initiative. As a team lead, DCF Field Education Manager Leslie Wolverton, pictured left, brings students together with policy makers, NC cattle ranchers, and our neighbors at North Carolina State University’s Center for Environmental Farming Systems to try to unlock the carbon sequestration potential of pasture-centered beef.



Faculty collaborations drive much of our curricular work. We host specialized course visits, work closely with faculty to support their learning goals and syllabi, and facilitate experiential learning, hands-on work, and reflection in the field. We're always seeking new ways of using the farm as a living archive and laboratory.

2019 FACULTY COLLABORATORS

- Diane Nelson Culture and Politics of the Americas Borderlands (Cultural Anthropology)
- Gunther Peck North American Environmental History (Public Policy)
- Robin Kirk, Barbara Lau Sowers and Reapers: Gardening in an Era of Change (DHRC)
- Franca Alphin Diet and Nutrition (Phys. Ed)
- Denise Comer and Christian Ferney Composing Oneself + Writing and Mindfulness (Writing and Ethics)
- Dan Vermeer Business and Sustainability (Fuqua)
- Dan Richter Soil Resources (NSOE)
- Liz Shapiro Community Based Environmental Management (NSOE)



4

years working alongside Teen Court volunteers through Orange County's Volunteers for Youth program



70+

alumni and family members toured the farm during Reunions Weekend

6



days of learning and connecting at the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association Conference and the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group Conference



30+

participants heard artist and former farmworker Cornelio Campos discuss his life and work at a gallery event DCF co-hosted with Student Action with Farmworkers



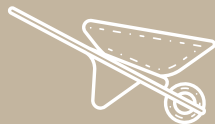
18

community farmers gathered at DCF to share best practices around farm management, public engagement, and historical-reckoning in Durham



25

Duke University Admissions Tour Guides attended an executive board retreat and workday at DCF



50

incoming first-year students visited DCF during orientation through Project BUILD and a Faculty Outing



DCF hired Melissa Keeney as its first-ever Program Assistant to share our mission and vision with a broader audience, and oversee core administrative and communication functions.

Melissa brings strong organizational management and outreach experience from her local work at the Durham Public Schools' Hub Farm, the Interfaith Food Shuttle, and the Center for Environmental Farming Systems, creating the capacity to strengthen and expand current programming.

In celebration of the farm's upcoming 10th anniversary, Melissa is bringing together our community of over 65 student crew members past and present. By tracking their experiences both before and after graduation, we're showcasing the farm's lasting impact on the future of food.

THANK YOU!

We work hard to offer tangible and visible evidence that a restorative relationship to our land is possible, and to spark new conversations about 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 grow.

In the coming year, our team will celebrate DCF's 10th anniversary and launch a capital campaign for our expansion onto Duke's Central Campus. Your contributions will shape dynamic new programs in the decade ahead!

We welcome financial gifts at:

www.farm.duke.edu

STAFF

Saskia Cornes
Melissa Keeney
Emily McGinty
Leslie Wolverton

STUDENT CREW

Emma Lietz Bilecky '19 (M. Env Mgmt+
Theology)
Jonah Bissell
Christin Bothe
Harrison Branner
Garrett Corwin
Rebecca Dalton '19 (Ph.D Ecology)
Pauline Grieb '19 (Public Policy)
Aedan Hannon '19 (EnvSci/Doc Studies)
Kendall Jefferys
Henry Kohn '19 (French/EnvSci+Pol)
Avery Davis Lamb
Bella Letourneau '19 (Civil Engineering)
Emily McNamara
Eudora Miao '19 (Bio/EnvSci+Pol)
Paul Noah
Olivia Olsher
Julianna Rennie
Sage Riddick
Emma Stein
Brett Stonecipher '19 (M. Theology)
Rachel Wall '19 (M. Public Policy)
Will White
Floey Zhao

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

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Sustainable Duke
Duke Forest
Office of the Provost
John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute

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Richard Copsey
Durham County Beekeepers' Association
Peter and Martha Klopfer
Kathy Merritt & Family
Gretchen and Michael Morrissey
Red's Quality Acre
David Shields

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