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ROBERT AND PATRICIA SWITZER FOUNDATION AWARDS \$415,000 FOR 2015 SWITZER ENVIRONMENTAL FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

BELFAST, Maine, December 7, 2015– Twenty-two environmental scholars were chosen as 2015 recipients of the [Switzer Environmental Fellowship](#), a program of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation that recognizes the achievements of environmental leaders and their potential to drive positive change. The 22 Fellowships total \$330,000 in awards, each one for \$15,000. The Switzer Environmental Fellowship is the hallmark of Switzer Foundation programs and this year’s Fellows embody the spirit of creative and collaborative leadership. In addition to these Fellowships, \$85,000 has been awarded in 2015 under other related Switzer grant programs, including our [Leadership Grant Program](#), [Switzer Network Innovation Grant program](#), and our [Professional Development Program](#), all of which support the environmental leadership careers of Switzer Fellows.

2015 SWITZER FELLOWSHIPS

Each year, at least 20 promising environmental leaders are awarded \$15,000 each to complete masters and doctoral degrees to advance their skills and develop their expertise to address critical environmental challenges. Nearly \$15 million in grants has been invested in Switzer Fellows over a 29-year period. The Switzer Foundation identifies, supports and nurtures emerging environmental leaders. “This year’s Switzer Fellows are innovators and are dedicated to bringing their research and academic scholarship to real world environmental issues,” says Lissa Widoff, Switzer Foundation Executive Director. “We are thrilled to see the range of schools and professional fields of study in this year’s cohort. We know they will benefit not only from our funding, but also from the leadership training and convenings we offer. This will position them for leadership in the nonprofit, government, business and academic sectors in the near future.” Fellowships are merit-based and rigorously competitive. Candidates must be recognized for their leadership capacity by their academic institution or by environmental experts.

The 2015 Switzer Fellows are as follows:

Anthony Barela Nystrom (MS) – Humboldt State University – Environmental and Natural Resource Science

Fire ecology and oral history of the Pepperwood tree on Indigenous lands in northern California

Tessa Beach (PhD) – UC Berkeley – Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning

Effects of renewable energy transitions on urban development and the environment

Cassandra Brooks (PhD) – Stanford University – Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Env & Resources

International ocean policy, with a focus on marine protection in the Antarctic

Nathan Hall (MEM/MBA) – Yale University – Environmental Management/Business Administration

Moving Appalachia towards a more ecologically and economically sustainable future

Scott Hamshaw (PhD) – University of Vermont – Civil and Environmental Engineering

Using computational methods to characterize sediment transport in rivers

Alicia Harley (PhD) – Harvard Kennedy School – Public Policy

The governance of technological innovation in agriculture

Joseph Hoyt (PhD) – UC Santa Cruz – Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Ecology of infectious wildlife diseases, with a focus on white-nose syndrome in bats

Jasmine Hyman (PhD) – Yale University – Forestry and Environmental Studies

Global climate finance schemes that promote equitable development

Sumit Kadakia (MF/MBA) – Yale University – Forestry & Environmental Studies/Business Administration

Forest ecosystem function and conservation finance

Megan Kelso (PhD) – UC Davis – Ecology

The ecology of blue carbon in coastal vegetated ecosystems

Candice Kim (MPH) – University of Southern California – Public Health

The environmental justice and public health impacts of air pollution from ports and freight

Heather Kryczka (JD) – Stanford Law School – Environmental Law

Environmental law and environmental justice

Marissa McMahan (PhD) – Northeastern University – Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology

Northern range expansion of black sea bass and its impacts on local ecology and fisheries

Matthew Moffa (MLA) – Landscape Architecture – California State Polytechnic Institute

Using landscape architecture to address issues of environmental justice and ecological sustainability

Roger Perez (MBA/MA) – Brandeis University – Sustainable International Development

Policy and private sector solutions to disproportionate effects of climate change on developing countries

Joseph Rand (MA) – UC Berkeley – Energy and Resources

Stakeholder participation and negotiation in the relicensing of the Yuba River hydropower project

Linda Shi (PhD) – MIT – Urban Studies and Planning

Governance mechanisms and climate adaptation in U.S. metropolitan areas

Ariana Spawn (MEM) – Yale University – Environmental Management

Strengthening science-based, participatory management of coastal and ocean environments

Joshua Stewart (PhD) – UC San Diego, Scripps Institution of Oceanography – Marine Biology

Spatial ecology and management strategies for protecting oceanic manta rays

Joshua Stoll (PhD) – University of Maine – Marine Sciences

Ecosystem-based fisheries management in the Gulf of Maine

Daniel Swain (PhD) – Stanford University – Earth System Science

The role of persistent atmospheric patterns in driving droughts and floods in western North America

Katherine Zeller (PhD) – University of Massachusetts at Amherst – Environmental Conservation

Developing effective corridors for wildlife between protected areas and wildlife populations

More information on the 2015 class of Switzer Fellows, and the Fellowship program, is available on the Foundation website at <http://www.switzernetwork.org/become-fellow/2015-switzer-fellows>.

The deadline for 2016 Switzer Environmental Fellowship Applications is January 11, 2016.

2015 SWITZER LEADERSHIP GRANTS

The Switzer Leadership Grant program provides grants of up to \$40,000 to organizations which partner with a Switzer Fellow on a project that aims to elevate the Fellow's environmental leadership career and directly improve environmental quality. Switzer Leadership Grantees for 2015 are:

- Sierra Watch, Nevada City, CA, for continued funding to support Switzer Fellow Isaac Silverman as Staff Attorney

- Amazon Watch, Oakland, CA, to support Dr. Tracey Osborne’s work on the Climate Alliance Mapping Project

More information on the Switzer Leadership Grant program is available on the Foundation website at <http://www.switzernetwork.org/grant-programs/leadership-grants>.

2015 SWITZER NETWORK INNOVATION GRANT

Through the Network Innovation Grant program, the Foundation seeks to tap the diversity of the Switzer Network’s collective potential for innovation and action to solve today’s complex environmental issues. This grant program intends to support environmental improvement that starts with sharing ideas that will lead to action and results. In 2015, we have awarded the following grant:

- The North American Association for Environmental Education, Washington, DC, and Switzer Fellows Christy Merrick and Nicole Ardoin – Anecdotes to Evidence: Demonstrating the Impact of Environmental Education

More information on the Switzer Network Innovation Grant program is available on the Foundation website at <http://www.switzernetwork.org/grant-programs/network-innovation-grants>.

The Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation is a results-driven family foundation that invests in individuals and organizations that drive positive environmental change. Founded in 1986 the Foundation is a grantmaking organization that mobilizes leaders from diverse disciplines who focus on integrated solutions to environmental problems. Nearly 15 million dollars has been given through the Switzer Environmental Fellowship Program and related grant programs, the Foundation supports a network of over 570 Fellows who are leaders in nonprofit, public policy, business, academic and government sectors working to solve today’s environmental challenges.

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