Charitable Giving Creates a More Informed Public

The winter of 2015 has brought record-breaking snow and arctic temperatures to New England and intensified discussions about climate change and extreme weather nationwide. As we sort through the barrage of news stories about climate and other environmental issues, the importance of your investment in Metcalf Institute is brought into sharper focus.

Donor support of Metcalf Institute ensures that journalists have the tools and understanding to tackle complex science and report it accurately. Your charitable gift also gives you a way to play a vital role in bringing about improved public understanding of science and environmental issues.

Your donations are particularly important at a time when newsrooms continue to reduce staff and support for professional development. The Chicago Sun Times recently announced plans to reduce its newsroom staff by 22 percent, and The New York Times is in the process of eliminating 100 newsroom positions.

Thanks to grant support and the generous contributions of donors like you, Metcalf Institute’s internationally recognized training programs and online science resources are available to journalists free of charge. Metcalf alumni often tell us that they would not have been able to attend our programs without this financial assistance.

Together, we can broaden Metcalf Institute’s reach to more journalists and scientists who need these career-building skills and resources and build a more engaged public.

Thank you for your support!

Giving Update
Charitable giving to Metcalf Institute continues on an upward trajectory. Over the past five years, annual fund support has increased in both number of donors and amounts. The Metcalf Advisory Board has also increased its giving concomitantly, with a nine-fold increase in board giving this year as compared to 2011. Metcalf Institute donors have provided 83% of our fiscal year goal for the 2015 fiscal year. To make your tax-deductible donation in support of excellent news coverage of the environment, you can give online at the URI Foundation website, urifoundation.org; mail a check; or contact the URI Foundation about donating via transfer of securities or planned giving at (401) 874-7900. For details, visit metcalfinstitute.org/giving.

Scientists Build Communication Portfolios
Metcalf Institute ran two workshops on scientific poster design in November 2014 and February 2015 for Rhode Island college- and university-based researchers to help them improve their conference displays. Metcalf also ran two lunchtime discussion sessions in a series called SciComm Exchange for ocean state scientists to learn more about how to come up with the clearest ways to talk about their research with non-scientists. The SciComm Exchanges and workshops were funded by the Rhode Island NSF Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

Metcalf will hold a full-day workshop for researchers, designers, resource managers, and non-profit communicators on using compelling story lines and data visualizations to communicate the complexities of climate change. The March 12 workshop, Climate Change in Narragansett Bay: What’s the Story?, will be held in Providence, Rhode Island, and funded by Rhode Island’s Science and Technology Advisory Council and URI Coastal Institute, in partnership with the Rhode Island School of Design and URI Graduate School of Oceanography researchers.

Climate Change Solutions
Journalists from around the nation will travel to St. Louis, Missouri, in May for a two-day Metcalf Institute seminar and field trip highlighting climate change adaptation, efforts to respond to and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Funded in part by the Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment with generous in-kind support from the National Adaptation Forum and EcoAdapt, Climate Change Planning and Response will introduce journalists to the work of U.S. towns, states and regions to minimize the effects of warming temperatures and changing weather patterns on homes, agriculture, public safety, and critical infrastructure.

Save the Dates!
The Metcalf Institute Annual Public Lecture Series will feature top scientists, communicators and policy specialists on environmental issues that impact our communities. Mark your calendar for the June 8–12, 2015, presentations, and stay tuned for details.
Measuring Impact
One Story at a Time

Metcalf Institute is proud to feature reporting by our alumni in our Online Newsroom. Take a look at these headlines, published and aired following the reporters’ attendance at Metcalf Institute workshops and seminars. To read more, visit metcalfinstitute.org/newsroom.

The Food Chain
Jesse Hirsch (and Manuela Saragosa), BBC World Service, March 9, 2015
12th Annual Science Immersion Workshop for Journalists

Many Along Texas border Still Live Without Clean, Safe Water
Neena Satija (and Alexa Ura), Texas Tribune, March 8, 2015
Climate Change and the News: Impacts on Marine & Coastal Environments

New York Just Showed Every Other State How to Do Solar Right
Tim McDonnell, Mother Jones, March 6, 2015
15th Annual Science Immersion Workshop for Journalists

Central Landfill Keeps R.I. Incinerator Debate Alive
Tim Faulkner, ecoRI, March 4, 2015
Peter B. Lord Seminars on the Environment

Keeping the Dust Down in California’s Owen Valley
Jane Braxton Little, High Country News, March 2, 2015
Climate Change Impacts in the Pacific Northwest

IPCC Future Hinges on Greater Relevance, Amid Tricky Politics
Marianne Lavelle, The Daily Climate, March 2, 2015
Climate Change and the News: Impacts on Marine & Coastal Environments

As the River Runs Dry: An Ongoing Battle Between Urban and Rural Water Users
Brandon Loomis, AZCentral.com, March 2, 2015
Climate Change and the News: Impacts in the Great Lakes

Obama Vetoes Keystone XL Bill, The Third Veto of His Presidency
Kate Sheppard, Huffington Post, February 25, 2015
13th Annual Science Immersion Workshop for Journalists

WHY SUPPORT METCALF?

“I gained a greater insight into the intricacies of climate change and am better able to have a conversation with community members. Invaluable.”
— Laura Sellers, Managing Editor, The Daily Astorian

Climate Change and the News: A Seminar for News Leaders.

Your tax-deductible gift to the Fund for URI: Metcalf Institute, GSO can be made by check, credit card, or on our secure web site, www.urifoundation.org/giveonline. To discuss donations via securities, real estate, or legacy gifts, please contact the URI Foundation at (401) 874-7900.

From the Director’s Desk

I attend about a dozen conferences, meetings and lectures each year in order to stay current on environmental science and policy issues and build ideas and contacts for Metcalf programs. I recently participated in a fascinating symposium on water quality and ocean acidification in southern New England, convened by the Prospect Hill Foundation. A wide range of professionals expressed their commitment to addressing policy challenges posed by changes in the marine environment. I’m excited to turn these and other timely issues into Metcalf programs that will help expand public discussion. In fact, one of the symposium presenters will speak at our Annual Science Immersion Workshop for Journalists this summer.

—Sunshine Menezes, Ph.D., Executive Director