



The Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources



*move***Mountains**

The Campaign for The University of Vermont

this is
WHERE 



we TURN THE



TIDE

“We know that humans are impacting the environment on a planetary scale. Sustainability, resource accessibility and equity, and climate change are among the most critical global challenges of our times. I am energized by the opportunity to prepare students to become change-makers and leaders to address global environmental issues. At the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, students

arrive with idealism, ingenuity and the initiative to fuel their passion. This is where they form close partnerships with faculty to turn the tide toward environmental conservation and stewardship. Through *The Campaign for The University of Vermont*, you can advance this work that matters so deeply to us and to future generations.”

— Dean Nancy Mathews

1973

The School of Natural Resources (SNR) was established as one of nine degree-granting units within the university. In 2003, the School became the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, the first named and endowed academic unit at the university, with a generous gift from the late Steve '61 and Beverly Rubenstein and their family.

➤ From Mountain to Forest to Lake: *Expanding the Rubenstein School's Impact*

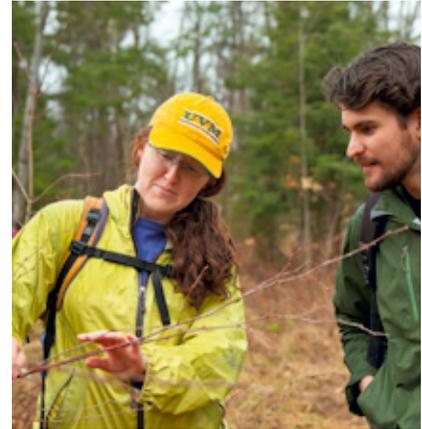


Today, colleges and universities are being called upon to move students beyond the classroom and into the field so they can apply their learning in real-world situations. They are also being challenged to bring students and faculty from different disciplines and departments together to solve complex problems.

The Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources is proud to say that these principles have long been the foundation for our teaching, research and discovery. Our programs are interdisciplinary by nature, stretching across campus units to include faculty and courses in engineering, health sciences and agriculture. We are noted for ensuring that our students graduate with at least two field-based learning experiences. Every year, Rubenstein's service-learning courses connect students with more than 125 nonprofits, schools, municipalities and government organizations throughout Vermont and surrounding states. Our Perennial Internship Program, which offers paid internships in partnership with nonprofits and the private sector,

recently doubled in size from 15 to 30 students. Our LEED-platinum-certified George D. Aiken Center, dedicated in 2012, functions as a "living laboratory" where students can explore the impact of sustainable architecture and design principles in practice.

We also have the diverse natural environment that surrounds us, from the Lake Champlain Basin and nearby forests to high-elevation mountain habitats. It is no wonder that the Rubenstein School enrolls some of the most academically talented undergraduates at UVM, along with a large cohort of master's and Ph.D. students. They all come here with a fierce determination to understand, protect and steward our environment, whether they focus on climate change or water quality; wildlife or forestry; parks, recreation and tourism; natural



resources or environmental studies. These are students like Gina Fiorile '18, who was recently invited to the White House as one of eight "Champions of Change for Climate Education and Literacy" nationwide. She worked with Jon Erickson, professor of Ecological Economics, to plan the first annual Vermont Youth Climate Summit, which will be used as a model for a national summit. Hers is just one of hundreds of Rubenstein stories, but our nation and our world need these young leaders now more than ever, as evidence of human environmental impact becomes indisputable.

Move Mountains: The Campaign for The University of Vermont

The campaign will drive the Rubenstein School's teaching and

research forward in these key areas:

Freshwater Science and Policy: A natural fit for us, given the Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain on Burlington's waterfront and the research and teaching that goes on throughout the watershed. Our vision is to create a center that will provide the intellectual leadership and scientific research, education, and outreach necessary to support sound policy decisions about managing watershed ecosystems around Lake Champlain and other freshwater lakes.

Environment and Health: With the potential for partnerships with the College of Medicine and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. We have the power to harness the broad resources of UVM to become a leading

Gund Institute for Ecological Economics

Our internationally recognized Gund Institute for Ecological Economics is an interdisciplinary think tank that brings together researchers from across our campus. From developing innovative methods to measure climate change to quantifying nature's benefits, researchers at the Gund Institute are providing new insights to inform policymaking around the world.

authority on how the environment affects human health.

Sustainability and Global Environmental Equity: An emerging area of strength that will enable more

faculty and students to focus on sustainability and equity in communities around the globe. Students must gain a global perspective if they are to make change on a grand scale and serve a world that is more interconnected than ever before. The Rubenstein School partners with the Grossman School of Business and the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences in the area of renewable energy policy and practices.

Biodiversity and Climate Change:

An opportunity to expand our expertise in climate change, energy and impacts on biodiversity. Our growing focus on Mount Mansfield ecosystems makes the Rubenstein School an emerging leader in the study of impacts of climate change.

To accomplish these goals, we will raise \$20 million over the course of the campaign to invest in faculty positions and programming, undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships and experiential learning opportunities.

Endowed Faculty Positions: \$11 million

With your support, we will establish endowed professorships and chairs in the four areas described above — an absolute prerequisite for recruiting top

experts to UVM to help build high-profile programs. Gifts of endowment are so valuable because they create a stream of income that faculty leaders can use to advance teaching, research and impact beyond our campus. The Rubenstein School also seeks to endow the deanship, which will provide flexibility to act on new opportunities quickly and stay relevant and distinctive as environmental challenges evolve.

Program Support: \$5.2 million

With pivotal hires in place, the Rubenstein School can then seize the opportunity to formalize our expertise in these areas, but only if we have the resources to broaden our research, develop the curriculum, get students out into the field and share our research findings to shape science and policy. In addition to direct program support, we seek funding for key research and teaching spaces, including the Melosira Research Vessel on Lake Champlain; a new Mt. Mansfield Biological Research Station for high-elevation ecological studies; and renovation of the John Thompson House situated in the Jericho Research Forest, which we envision as a home for forestry and wildlife camps and conferences.

Student Support: \$3.8 million

The campaign also seeks support for students in the form of graduate fellowships, which are essential for attracting the best students, as well as undergraduate scholarships for multicultural students, who bring a perspective that enriches our school and also ties into our growing global focus. In addition, we seek support for two key experiential learning opportunities: the existing Perennial Internship Program as well as a new “Vermont without Borders” program that will create service-learning opportunities around the globe for our students.

As our nation and world stand at an environmental crossroads, Rubenstein students and faculty are working to *move mountains*. Your support will position our school, our university and our world for an even stronger future.

For more details about any of these giving opportunities, contact:

The University of Vermont Foundation

411 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401
802-656-2010 | foundation@uvm.edu



this is WHERE



I power a better future.

What will it take to transition our energy systems from fossil fuels to renewables, such as wind and solar power? Jennie Stephens, Ph.D., the first David Blittersdorf Professor of Sustainability Science and Policy at UVM, focuses her work on the technical, social and policy requirements for making this happen. A joint appointee in the Rubenstein School and the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, Dr. Stephens is bringing together UVM

researchers in both colleges who focus on climate change and energy transitions. She is also helping shape clean energy policies in Vermont, which has set an ambitious goal for transitioning to renewable sources by 2050 and could become a powerful role model for other states. "UVM has given me a unique opportunity to hold an academic position with the expectation that I get involved in what's happening outside the university," Stephens says.



moveMountains

The Campaign for The University of Vermont

The time has come for UVM to assert our position as one of the nation's best public research universities. *Move Mountains: The Campaign for The University of Vermont* nurtures a culture of excellence and value and supports new opportunities for research, academic success and learning beyond the classroom. We will raise \$500 million in private support to ensure that UVM is where we indeed *move mountains* — through the students we educate, the discoveries we make and the positive impact we have on Vermont and the world.



The University of Vermont
FOUNDATION