

PRESS RELEASE

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Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School Takes Top Honors in High School Marine Science Contest

Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School took the top slot in the **2008 Blue Crab Bowl** this past weekend. The Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB[®]) was held at the Old Dominion University campus in Norfolk on Saturday, February 23.

The **Bishop Sullivan** winners emerged from a field of sixteen teams, representing fourteen Virginia high schools from across the Commonwealth. Eighty students, 16 science teachers, more than 30 supporters, and over 70 volunteers gathered for the 11th Annual Blue Crab Bowl. The competing students spent the day in head-to-head contests, testing their knowledge of marine sciences and the ocean. Virginia's competition is among the inaugural marine science bowls started in 1998 as part of a project celebrating the *International Year of the Ocean*.

The **Blue Crab Bowl** is a cooperative effort between Old Dominion University's Department of Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences and Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)—College of William and Mary, and Virginia Sea Grant at VIMS. Faculty, staff and graduate students from both institutions donated many hours of their time to ensure the success of this exciting event. ODU President Roseann Runte welcomed students to the contest and commended them on their hard work.

Using questions designed by marine scientists, the round-robin, and double elimination contests tested the students' knowledge of oceanography, geology, biology, and maritime history. Guided by their teacher coaches, students broadened their awareness and understanding of the oceans as they prepared for the competition. The Bowl provides a forum for students who excel in math and science to receive regional and national recognition for their diligence and talent. During Saturday's event, the competition started with a field of 16 teams, with four emerging as top contenders by late afternoon.

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The **First Place** team from **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School** was coached by science teacher **William Dunn**. Team members included: **William Hoey, Roger Chesley, Alex Ratté, Christine Chesley, and Mike Stolz**.

In addition to their distinctive Blue Crab Bowl trophy, the First Place team receives an all-expenses-paid trip to the national competition, the **National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB®)**, April 25-27, to be held in Seward, Alaska, where they will represent Virginia as they face 24 other regional champions. The Coach receives a \$1,000 Professional Development grant from Virginia Sea Grant to attend the annual meeting of the National Marine Educators Association, this year in Savannah, Georgia. Other coach awards included science teaching resources, a GPS system and waterproof paper. The team also receives a shipboard experience on Chesapeake Bay to practice the science of gathering oceanographic data, as well as passes to the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center

Taking **Second Place** was **Grafton High School**, from Yorktown, York County: **Coach Jane Dodge**; and her team members **Ryan Hartman, Heather Stephens, Jordan Vaa, Denise Wagner, and Grayson Yang**.

In **Third Place** was **Chesapeake Bay Governor's School-Glenns Campus**: **Coach Sherry Pettyjohn**; and team members **Greg Dorsey, Ryan Spray, Seth Theuerkauf, Cody Voight, and Jacob Vrooman**.

Fourth Place went to **Broadwater Academy**, from Exmore, Northampton County: **Coach Joseph Spagnolo**; and team members **Tripp Camden III, John Paul Harris, Trae Jones, Jessica Smith, and Zach Thornton**.

Other competing teams included: **Amelia County High School**, Amelia; **Fredericksburg Academy**, Fredericksburg; **James Monroe High School**, Fredericksburg; **Maury High School**, Norfolk; **Patrick Henry High School**, Ashland, Hanover County; **Piedmont Governor's School for Math, Science & Technology**, Collinsville, Henry County; **Richmond Christian School**, Chesterfield, Chesterfield County; **Seton School**, Manassas, **St. Christopher's School**, Richmond; and **Virginia Beach Friends School**, Virginia Beach. All teams received prizes for their participation. Coaches were rewarded for their considerable efforts in teaching marine sciences with teaching materials and memberships in professional organizations.

The **Blue Crab Bowl** is one of 25 regional competitions of the **National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB®)**. The first NOSB competition was launched in 1998 by the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE) to further its mission of supporting and expanding oceans sciences education during the *International Year of the Ocean*. In 2007, CORE merged with the Joint Oceanographic Institutions (JOI) to form a new organization, the **Consortium for Ocean Leadership**. Representing 95 of the nation's leading oceanographic

institutions, universities, industries and aquaria. The Consortium headquarters in Washington D.C. hosts the NOSB National office. A list of NOSB's national sponsors and contributors is available on their website at www.nosb.org. The **NOSB** provides an educational forum intended to: generate student interest in the ocean sciences; improve awareness of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes; and create an "ocean literate" society that can meet the ocean challenges of the future. During 2008, an expected 2,000 students from nearly 400 high schools from around the country will participate in this eleventh annual event.

Local sponsors of the regional **Blue Crab Bowl** include: Virginia Sea Grant's Marine Advisory Program; the College of William and Mary and Virginia Institute of Marine Science; Old Dominion University's College of Sciences, Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography; Old Point National Bank; Chesapeake Experience, Inc.; Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center; the VIMS Bookstore; National Marine Educators Association; Nauticus; Hampton Inn-Norfolk Naval Base, What If Scientific/Leave Only Bubbles, Wildlife Supply Company (Wildco); and Treefrog Educational.

For further information, please contact Dr. Carol Hopper Brill via phone at 804-684-7735, e-mail chopper@vims.edu. Information about the **Blue Crab Bowl** is also available at www.vims.edu/bcb. For information on other competitions around the country and the National Ocean Science Bowl, visit www.nosb.org/.

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Photo Captions:

First Place: Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School

Students from **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School** took **First Place** in the 11th Annual Blue Crab Bowl. The Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences on Saturday, February 23. Coached by science teacher **William Dunn** (far right), team members include (from left to right): **Roger Chesley** (junior); **Christine Chesley** (sophomore); **Mike Stolz** (junior); **Alex Ratté** (senior); and **Team Captain William Hoey** (senior).

Second Place: Grafton High School

Grafton High School's team captured **Second Place**. **Coach Jane Dodge** a science teacher at Grafton, has a winning history at the Bowl. She took teams to first place in 2000 and 2002. This year's team members include (left to right): **Coach Jane Dodge**; **Jordan Vaa**; **Denise Wagner**; **Grayson Yang**; **Heather Stephens**; and **Ryan Hartman**.

Third Place: Chesapeake Bay Governor's School-Glenns Campus

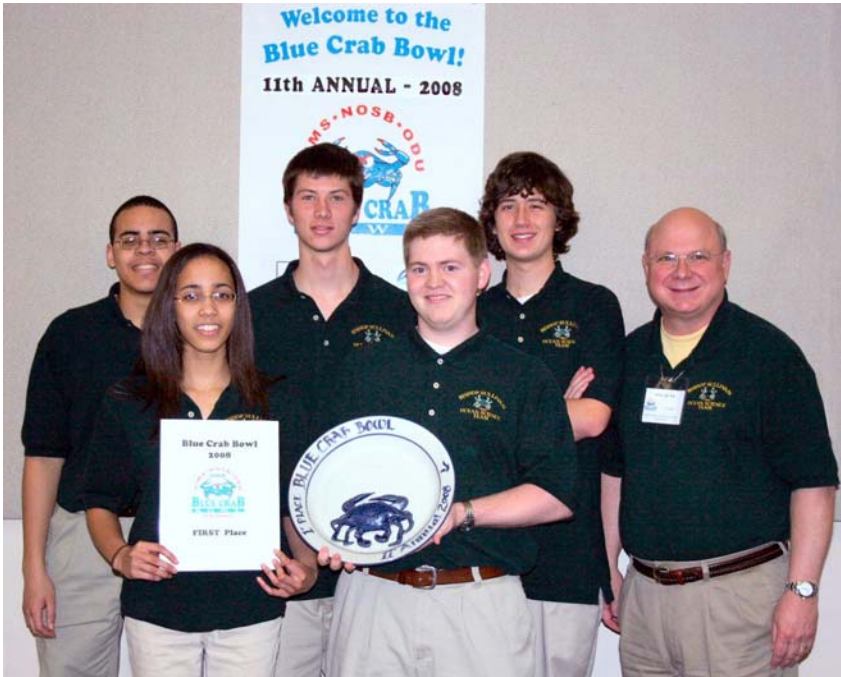
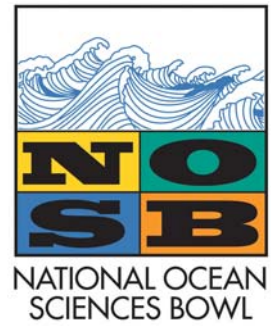
The **Chesapeake Bay Governor's School-Glenns Campus** team, coached by science teacher **Sherry Pettyjohn** (far right), took Third Place. Team members include (left to right): **Ryan Speray** from Gloucester High School; **Cody Voight** of King and Queen Central High; **Seth Theuerkauf**, Gloucester High; **Greg Dorsey** from Middlesex High; and **Jacob Vrooman** of Mathews High.

Fourth Place: Broadwater Academy

The team from **Broadwater Academy** received **Fourth Place** honors. Science teacher and team **Coach Joseph Spagnolo** (far right) prepared his team of five students, including: **John Paul Harris**; **Jessica Smith**; **Zach Thornton**; and **Trae Jones**. Not pictured: **Tripp Camden III**.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2008 WINNING TEAMS



1st Place:
*Bishop Sullivan Catholic
High School*
Coach Bill Dunn

2nd Place:
Grafton High School
Coach Jane Dodge



3rd Place:
Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Glens Campus
Coach Sherry Pettyjohn

4th Place:
Broadwater Academy
Coach Joe Spagnolo

