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## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Top Students from Fifteen Virginia High Schools Compete in 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Ocean Science Bowl**

Sixteen teams, representing fifteen Virginia high schools, faced off on Saturday, February 21, at the **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Crab Bowl**. The academic contest, held this year at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, tested the students' knowledge of the oceans. The **Blue Crab Bowl** is the Virginia regional competition of the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB<sup>®</sup>). Eighty students spent the day in heated tournament competition focused on the marine sciences. Teams came from all corners of the Commonwealth, from Fredericksburg to Virginia Beach, Warrenton in the west to Exmore on the Eastern Shore.

At this year's Awards Ceremony, **Congressman Rob Wittman** (1<sup>st</sup> District) addressed the audience of 200. He applauded the students' accomplishments and encouraged them to apply their knowledge, critical thinking and teamwork skills to help solve some of the challenges facing the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region. Also attending the Awards Ceremony as a special presenter was Virginia Sea Grant Director, **Dr. Troy Hartley**.

The **Blue Crab Bowl** is a cooperative effort between the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, Virginia Sea Grant, and the Old Dominion University's Department of Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences and Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography. Seventy-five faculty, staff and graduate students from both institutions donated many hours of their time to ensure the success of this exciting event. Virginia's contest is among the inaugural marine science bowls started in 1998.

Using questions designed by marine scientists and educators, the contest tested students' knowledge of oceanography, geology, biology, maritime history and policy. 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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Competing teams included:

**Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – A Team**, Virginia Beach  
**Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – B Team**, Virginia Beach  
**Broadwater Academy**, Exmore  
**Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School-Glenns Campus**, Tappahannock  
**Churchland High School**, Portsmouth  
**Fauquier High School**, Warrenton  
**Fredericksburg Academy**, Fredericksburg  
**Governor’s School for Science & Technology – New Horizons**, Hampton  
**Grafton High School**, Yorktown  
**Isle of Wight Academy**, Isle of Wight  
**Maury High School**, Norfolk  
**Patrick Henry High School**, Ashland  
**Piedmont Governor’s School for Math, Science & Technology**, Collinsville  
**Richmond Christian School**, Chesterfield  
**Saint Christopher’s School**, Richmond  
**Seton School**, Manassas

Winning **First Place** for the second year in a row was **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School**. Taking **Second Place** was **Grafton High School**. In **Third Place** was **Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School-Glenns Campus** and **Fourth Place** went to **Seton School**. Photos of the top four teams follow.

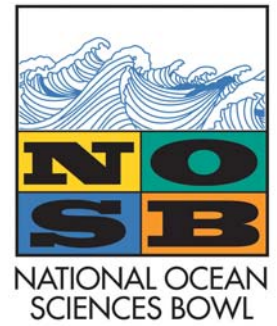
The winning team will represent Virginia in the national competition, facing 24 other regional champions at the **National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB<sup>®</sup>)**, April 25-27, in Washington, D.C. NOSB is a program of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership in Washington, DC. NOSB seeks to interest students in ocean science as a college major and potential career. Through 25 regional competitions across the nation, **NOSB** also 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 2009, an expected 2,000 students from nearly 400 high schools from around the country will participate in this twelfth annual event.

Local sponsors of the regional **Blue Crab Bowl** include: Virginia Sea Grant’s Marine Advisory Program; Virginia Sea Grant; the Virginia Institute of Marine Science; Old Dominion University’s College of Sciences, Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences; the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia; Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center; the Virginia Living Museum; the VIMS Gift Shop; Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association; the National Marine Educators Association, and Leave Only Bubbles/What If Scientific.

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



## BLUE CRAB BOWL 2009 WINNING TEAMS



**1<sup>st</sup> Place:**  
**Bishop Sullivan Catholic High**  
**Coach Bill Dunn**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**  
**Grafton High School**  
**Coach Jane Dodge**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Chesapeake Bay**  
**Governor's School – Glenns**  
**Coach Sara Chaves Beam**



**4<sup>th</sup> Place: Seton School**  
**Coach Patricia von Reyn**



## **Photo Captions:**

### **First Place: Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School, Virginia Beach**

For the second year in a row, students from **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School** took **First Place** in the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 21. Coached by science teacher **William Dunn** (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), team members include (from left to right): **Team Captain Christine Chesley** (junior); **Jack Hall** (junior); **Mary Chang** (sophomore) **Mike Stolz** (senior); **Nate Taylor** (sophomore). Special guests included: **Congressman Rob Wittman**, 1<sup>st</sup> District (far left) and **Dr. Troy Hartley**, Virginia Sea Grant Director (far right).

### **Second Place: Grafton High School, Yorktown**

**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: in the back row, **Bobby Donze** (junior), Team Captain **Greyson Yang** (senior), **Brad Sturk** (senior); and in the front row, Jane Dodge and **Fangdi Sun** (junior).

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

The **Chesapeake Bay Governor's School-Glenns Campus** team, coached by science teacher **Sara Chaves Beam** (second from right), took Third Place. Team members include (left to right): **Greg Dorsey**, a senior from Middlesex High; **Michael Sanderson**, junior at Mathews High; **Seth Theuerkauf**, senior at Gloucester High; and **Cody Voight**, senior at King and Queen Central High.

### **Fourth Place: Seton School, Manassas**

The team from **Seton School**, coached by science teacher **Patricia von Reyn** received **Fourth Place** honors. The team includes, in the front row: **Catie Bergmann** (senior), **Mrs. Von Reyn**, and Team Captain **Rachel LaVigne** (senior). In the back row, **Kevin Elam** (senior), **Libby Wittman** (senior), and **Alex Harrill** (senior).

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