

MEDIA RELEASE

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Top Science Students from Virginia High Schools Compete in 17th Annual Regional Ocean Science Bowl

On Saturday, February 1, fifteen teams, representing eleven Virginia high schools, faced off at the **17th Annual Blue Crab Bowl**. Students assembled at Old Dominion University in Norfolk to demonstrate their knowledge in many fields science. The **Blue Crab Bowl** is the Virginia regional competition of the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB[®]). Nearly 80 students spent the day in heated tournament competition focused on the marine sciences. Teams came from across of the Commonwealth, from Manassas to Virginia Beach, Warrenton in the west to Exmore on the Eastern Shore.

This year's competition was a tense cliff-hanger that required an extra match to determine the final outcome. In the end, **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School's Team A** (Virginia Beach) took First Place for a record seventh year. In Second Place was **Seton School** (Manassas), **Chesapeake Bay Governor's School-Warsaw Campus-Team B** took Third Place; and **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School's Team B** (Virginia Beach) placed Fourth.

The **Blue Crab Bowl** is a cooperative effort between Old Dominion University's Department of Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary. Over 70 scientists, including faculty, staff and graduate students from both institutions and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration donated many hours of their time to ensure the success of this exciting event. Additionally, staff from ODU's Webb Center, Student Recreation Center and service organizations helped with set-up activities.

Virginia's **Blue Crab Bowl** was among the inaugural NOSB competitions in 1998. Designed to inspire and challenge high school students, NOSB contests like the Blue Crab Bowl test the competitors' knowledge of the marine sciences, covering the breadth of oceanography and maritime disciplines. **To date, the Blue Crab Bowl has involved over 1,300 of the Commonwealth's brightest science students from 52 public and private schools across Virginia.**

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 – Team A, Virginia Beach
Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Team B, Virginia Beach
Broadwater Academy – Team A, Exmore
Broadwater Academy – Team B, Exmore
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Glenns Campus, Glenns
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Warsaw Campus – Team A, Warsaw
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Warsaw Campus – Team B, Warsaw
Churchland High School, Portsmouth
Fauquier High School – Team A, Warrenton
Fauquier High School – Team B, Warrenton
Governor’s School for Science & Technology, Hampton
Grafton High School, Yorktown
Isle of Wight Academy, Isle of Wight
Patrick Henry High School, Ashland
Seton School Manassas

At the end of the grueling day, teams were recognized during the Awards Ceremony coordinated by Bowl Coordinators **Dr. Victoria Hill** from ODU and **Dr. Carol Hopper Brill** from VIMS and **Dr. Roger Harvey**, Chair of ODU’s Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Science. The students were applauded for their accomplishments and encouraged to continue their studies in interdisciplinary marine sciences.

The winning team will represent Virginia in the national competition, facing other regional champions at the National finals, May 1-4, in Seattle, Washington. The National Ocean Science Bowl 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 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 2014, an expected 2,000 students from over 300 high schools from around the country will participate in this this sixteenth annual event.

The Blue Crab Bowl wouldn’t be possible without the generous support of national, regional and local sponsors. Among them are: ODU’s Department of Ocean Earth & Atmospheric Sciences; the Virginia Institute of Marine Science; Virginia Sea Grant and the Marine Advisory Program; Hampton Inn-Norfolk Naval Base; the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association and National Marine Educators Association; ODU’s Office of University Events, Webb University Center; and the ODU Student Recreation Center.

For further information, please contact **Dr. Victoria Hill** via phone at 757-683-4911 or e-mail vhill@odu.edu or **Dr. Carol Hopper Brill**, phone 804-684-7735, email chopper@vims.edu. Information about **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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BLUE CRAB BOWL 2014 WINNING TEAMS



1st Place:

Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Team A
Coach Bill Dunn

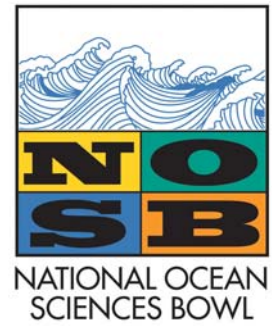


**First Place: Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Team A,
Virginia Beach, VA**

For the seventh year in a row, students from **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School's Team A** took **First Place in the Blue Crab Bowl**. The 17th Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at the Old Dominion University on February 1. Coached by **science teachers Bill Dunn** (far left) and **Carol Stapanowich** (far right), team members include (from left to right): **John Craig** (sophomore); **Will Harris** (senior); **Team Captain Cameron Springer** (senior); **Anna Chang** (senior); and **Patrick West** (sophomore). Photo by Joy Staley, Virginia Sea Grant Photo Intern.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2014 WINNING TEAMS



2nd Place:

Seton School, Manassas
Coach Patricia von Reyn



Second Place: Seton School, Manassas, VA

The team from **Seton School** captured **Second Place** in the 2014 Blue Crab Bowl. The 17th Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at the Old Dominion University on February 1. Coached by **Patricia von Reyn** (far left) and **John von Reyn** (far right), this year's team members include (left to right): **Nate Lewandowski** (junior); **Team Co-Captain Drew Marchesseault** (junior); **Team Co-Captain Vinnie Terreri** (junior); and **Fiona Geiran** (junior). Also on the team, but absent is **Nora Mulhern** (senior). Photo by Joy Staley, Virginia Sea Grant Photo Intern.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2014 WINNING TEAMS



3rd Place:

**Chesapeake Bay Governor's Schools, Warsaw Campus - Team B,
Coach Bethany Smith**

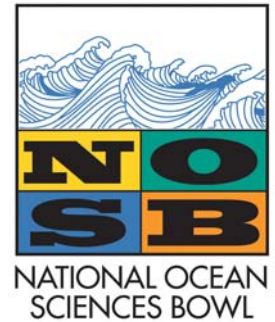


Third Place: Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Warsaw Campus – Team B, Warsaw, VA

Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Warsaw Campus -Team B, took Third Place at the 2014 Blue Crab Bowl. The 17th Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at the Old Dominion University on February 1. Coached by **science teacher Bethany Smith** (center), the Warsaw team members include (left to right): **James Ficklin** (senior at Washington & Lee High School); **John Richardson** (sophomore at Lancaster High); **India Eguiguren** (senior, Northumberland High); and **Christian Tinsley** (senior, Washington & Lee High). Photo by Joy Staley, Virginia Sea Grant Photo Intern.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2014 WINNING TEAMS



4th Place:

Bishop Sullivan Catholic High – Team B
Coach Carol Stapanowich



Fourth Place: Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Team A,
Virginia Beach, VA

Team B from **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High**, coached by science teacher **Carol Stapanowich** (far right) and **Bill Dunn** (far left) received **Fourth Place** honors. The Bishop Sullivan Team B members include, left to right: **Sebastian Martinez** (freshman); **Team Captain Anthony Peluso** (sophomore); **Ignatius Liberto** (freshman); **Nathan Ocampo** (freshman); and **Ryan Remias** (sophomore).
Photo by Joy Staley, Virginia Sea Grant Photo Intern.