

MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: Carol Hopper Brill
804-684-7735 <chopper@vims.edu>

Science Students from Virginia High Schools Compete in 21st Annual Regional Ocean Science Bowl

On Saturday, February 3, top science students from nine Virginia high schools faced off at Old Dominion University's Higher Education Center in Virginia Beach for the **21st Annual Blue Crab Bowl**. The **Blue Crab Bowl is the Virginia regional competition of the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB[®])**. Thirteen teams came from across of the Commonwealth, from Manassas to Hampton Roads and the Eastern Shore. The 75 students spent the day in heated tournament competition focused on the marine sciences.

It was a challenging day of both round robin and double elimination matches – over 45 matches in all. The tense final match-up, that ran into an extra round, was resolved when **Seton School Team A from Manassas captured First Place**. In a very close **Second Place was Seton School's Team B** – the first time a single school has taken the top two positions. **Third Place was swept up by long-time champs Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School** from Virginia Beach. And, **Fourth Place was earned Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Glens Campus Team A** from Glens.

The **Blue Crab Bowl** is a cooperative effort between the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, and Old Dominion University's Department of Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences. Seventy scientists, including faculty, graduate students and staff from both institutions, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other organizations, donated many hours of their time to ensure the success of this exciting event. 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 1,625 of the Commonwealth's brightest science students from 53 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. The theme of the 2018 National Ocean Sciences Bowl and its local competitions is "Our Ocean Shaping Weather," a timely and relevant topic given that escalating populations, erosion, more frequent flooding, development, storm impacts, and pollution are among the stressors that impact the protection, economic revenue, security, food, and healthy recreational opportunities provided by our nation's coasts. 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 thirteen teams, with four emerging as top contenders by late afternoon.

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Competing 2018 teams included:

Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School, Virginia Beach, VA
Broadwater Academy – Team A, Exmore, VA
Broadwater Academy – Team B, Exmore, VA
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Glens Campus – Team A, Glens, VA
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Glens Campus – Team B, Glens, VA
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Warsaw Campus– Team A, Warsaw, VA
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Warsaw Campus– Team B, Warsaw, VA
Churchland High School, Portsmouth
Isle of Wight Academy, Isle of Wight, VA
Maury High School, Norfolk, VA
Seton School – Team A, Manassas, VA
Seton School – Team B, Manassas, VA
York High School, Yorktown, VA

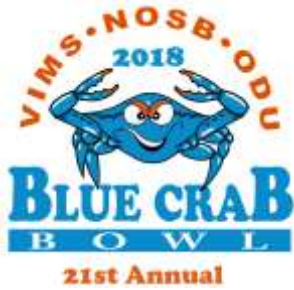
At the end of the long and grueling day, all teams were recognized during the Awards Ceremony by Bowl Coordinators Dr. Victoria Hill from ODU and Dr. Carol Hopper Brill from VIMS. Prizes – including custom-made trophies for the top four teams – were presented by Dr. Fred Dobbs, representing Old Dominion University’s Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. The students received prizes and were applauded for their accomplishments and encouraged to continue their studies in interdisciplinary marine sciences. Coaches received science teaching resources and memberships in the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association.

The winning team will represent Virginia in the national competition, facing other regional champions at the **National NOSB finals, April 19-22, in Boulder, Colorado**. 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 over 20 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 2018, nearly 2,000 students from 300 high schools around the country will participate in this 21st annual event.

The Blue Crab Bowl wouldn’t be possible without the generous support of national, regional and local sponsors. In 2018, we are grateful to regional sponsors and local including: the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William & Mary; ODU’s Department of Ocean Earth & Atmospheric Sciences and ODU’s Higher Education Center-Virginia Beach; VIMS Marine Advisory Program; Hampton Inn-Oceanfront South; Chesapeake Bay Foundations’ Brock Environmental Center; the Podderly; the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association; National Marine Educators Association; and Leave Only Bubbles/What If Scientific. For a list of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership’s national sponsors, visit the NOSB website at www.nosb.org/.

For further information, please contact or **Dr. Carol Hopper Brill**, phone 804-684-7735, email chopper@vims.edu or **Dr. Victoria Hill** via phone at 757-683-4911 or e-mail vhill@odu.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 2018 WINNING TEAMS



1ST Place SETON SCHOOL – Team A Coach Tricia Kellogg



First Place: Seton School – Team A Manassas, VA

Students from **Seton School's Team A** captured **First Place** after a day of grueling intellectual competition at the 2018 Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia's 21st Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The all-day academic event was held at Old Dominion University's Higher Education Center in Virginia Beach on February 3. Coached by **Tricia Kellogg** (holding 1st Place packet) and **Hank Konstanty** (not shown), the all-seniors team included (left to right): **Sean Kellogg**; **Team Co-Captain Joseph LaVigne**; **Benjamin Dealey**; **Martin Quinan**; **Team Co-Captain Regina Terreri**. Photo by Phillip Kellogg.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2018 WINNING TEAMS



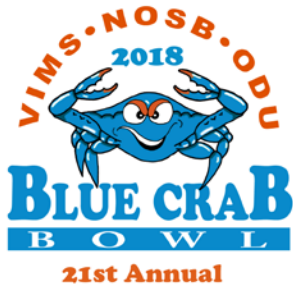
2nd Place

SETON SCHOOL – Team B
Coach Hank Konstanty



Second Place: Seton School – Team B Manassas, VA

At the 2018 Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia's 21st Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl, students from **Seton School's Team B** took a **very close 2nd Place**, right behind their classmates. The all-day academic event was held at Old Dominion University's Higher Education Center in Virginia Beach on February 3. Coached by **Hank Konstanty** (far left) and **Tricia Kellogg** (not shown), the team of all seniors included (left to right): **Katya Konstanty; Patrick Murray; Team Co-Captain Hannah Frievald; Brendan Santschi; and Team Co-Captain Monica Wood**. Photo by Kirby Broyles, ODU.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2018 WINNING TEAMS



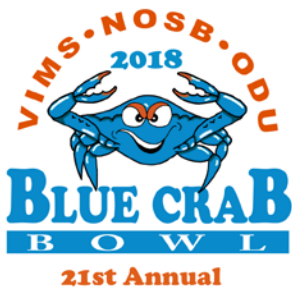
3rd Place

Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School
Coach Carol Stapanowich



Third Place: Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School Virginia Beach, VA

Students from long-time champs **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School** swept up Third Place after a day of grueling intellectual competition at the 2018 Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia's 21st Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The all-day academic event was held at Old Dominion University's Higher Education Center in Virginia Beach on February 3. Coached by science teacher(s) **Dr. Carol Stapanowich** (far left) and **Jennifer McMullen** (back row, 3rd from left), team members included (left to right): **Team Captain Gerry Fernandez** (senior); **Emma Desmond** (junior); **Matt Mytych** (sophomore); **Greg Mytych** (senior); and **Mimi Coleman** (junior). Photo by Kirby Broyles, ODU.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2018 WINNING TEAMS



4th Place

Chesapeake Bay Governor's School – Glenns Campus Team A
Sara Chaves Beam



**Fourth Place: Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Glenns Campus – Team A,
Glenns, VA**

Students from the **Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Glenns Campus – Team A** took Fourth Place honors in the 21st Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The all-day academic event focusing on multi-disciplinary marine sciences was held at Old Dominion University's Higher Education Center in Virginia Beach on February 3. Coached by science teacher **Sara Chaves Beam** (foreground, right), team members included: **Team Captain Reilly Price** from Matthews High School (foreground, left) and (behind, left to right) **Sawyer Hutson**, Matthews High; **Ben Hunt**, Middlesex High School; **Harrison Hunt and Michael Snead** from New Kent High School. Photo by Kirby Broyles, ODU.