

*Current Issues in
Coastal Ocean and
Estuarine Science*

The Crest

Construction Begins on New Buildings

General contractor W.M. Jordan and Company has begun construction on VIMS' Gloucester Point campus for two new buildings—Andrews Hall and the Seawater Research Laboratory.

Funding for the buildings comes from a higher education bond passed by Virginia voters in 2002.

Andrews Hall, named after Cynthia and the late Senator Hunter B. Andrews, is a 4-story research facility similar to Chesapeake Bay Hall. The 71,000-square-foot building will feature 39 laboratories, 25 faculty offices, and space for nearly 100 students, technicians, and visiting scientists.

The four-story structure will also include an electronics shop, distance-learning classroom, conference rooms, and the Aquaculture Genetics and Breeding Technology Center. It will consolidate programs from Biological, Physical, and Fisheries sciences by replacing three outdated laboratory build-

ings and numerous converted single-family dwellings.

The Seawater Research Laboratory (SRL) will provide approximately 46,000 square feet of open, multi-purpose space for setting up flow-through tanks for culturing fish, shellfish, and sea turtles. The plumbing system will provide 900 gallons per minute of seawater to support state-mandated research on finfish and shellfish. A high bay with a retractable garage door and ceiling-mounted crane will permit handling of large oceanographic instruments.

The SRL will also include a disease-challenge facility and a Level 2 Biological Safety Laboratory that will allow VIMS scientists to study moderately dangerous pathogens, such as the mycobacteriosis afflicting Chesapeake Bay striped bass. There will also be a Level 3 Biological Safety Laboratory for

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Steel framing for VIMS' new Seawater Laboratory is now in place.

Warner Proposes \$2.9 M for VIMS to Monitor Bay Restoration Effort

Outgoing Virginia Gov. Mark Warner's proposed budget for the 2006-2008 biennium includes \$2.9 million for VIMS to monitor the Commonwealth's progress in meeting the 2010 Environmental Protection Agency deadline for the clean up of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The former Governor's proposed budget is now being debated in the General Assembly. The amended budget will be sent to newly-elected Governor Tim Kaine for his review and signature after the legislature adjourns in mid-March.

VIMS Dean and Director John Wells says "We are very pleased to be part of the commitment of public funds that will be directed towards clean-up efforts in Chesapeake Bay. As the Commonwealth's scientific advisor on natural-resource issues, VIMS has a sig-

nificant role to play in gauging the success of the expenditure of public funds for Bay clean-up."

The VIMS funding was part of a proposed budget that includes \$242.5 million for drinking-water programs—the largest single investment in state history. William and Mary President Gene R. Nichol applauded the governor's budget proposal as well as the bipartisan support in the Bay recovery effort. The VIMS funding would be used primarily for monitoring water quality using state-of-the-art sensors and models.

"This is a tremendous commitment toward moving forward the Commonwealth's obligation to cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay," Nichol said. "We are delighted that VIMS will play a significant role in this recovery effort."

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Workers prepare the footers to be poured for Andrews Hall.

Lambert Chosen as Knauss Fellow

VIMS graduate student Debra Lambert has been awarded a prestigious John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship through the National Sea Grant Federal Fellows Program.

This one-year fellowship matches outstanding graduate students from around the nation with hosts in legisla-



Knauss Fellow Debra Lambert

tive or executive offices in Washington, DC. The program provides a unique educational experience for students who have an interest in national policy decisions affecting ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.

Lambert, who earned her master's degree in December, will begin her fellowship on February 1st at NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, in the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Domestic Fisheries Division.

Lambert applied for the fellowship because she wanted "to learn more about marine policy at the federal level, especially the interface between science and policy."

For her master's thesis, Lambert worked with faculty advisor Dr. Rom Lipcius to investigate the effectiveness of the spawning sanctuary for mature female blue crabs in the Virginia waters of Chesapeake Bay. She found that the sanctuary provides an effective means for

protecting females migrating to or residing in the spawning grounds.

Lambert's selection as a Knauss fellow continues a long tradition of involvement in the program by VIMS students. Of the 46 students from institutes of higher education in Virginia who have served as Knauss fellows since the program began in 1979, 30 (65%) have hailed from VIMS.

In fact, the current director of the Knauss Fellowship Program is Dr.

Jacques Oliver, a 2005 VIMS graduate and 2004 Knauss alumnus. He considers the Institute's rich tradition of participation in the Knauss fellowship program "a testament to VIMS' well-rounded interdisciplinary programs."

The Knauss program is named in honor of one of Sea Grant's founders, former NOAA Administrator John A. Knauss. More information on the program is available at <http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/knauss/knauss.html>.

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According to the Governor's proposal, \$200 million in funding is designated for the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund, which will accelerate improvements to 92 wastewater treatment plants in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The funding will also help the state meet new water regulations for all five tributaries in the watershed, which were adopted last month after a two-year regulatory process. The work will enable the Commonwealth to reduce nitrogen loads by about 2.6 million pounds per year—which is about two-thirds of the

state's 2010 Chesapeake Bay Agreement requirement.

"We have paired the strictest water quality regulations in the nation with the single largest investment by any state for Bay cleanup, all with a 2010 deadline looming," Warner said. "I applaud members of the General Assembly who have advocated progress on the Bay, and have and will act responsibly to provide for it. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and we will continue to work closely with Congress and our other Bay state partners to make its restoration a reality."

-by Brian Whitson

VIMS BY THE NUMBERS

- ◆ 3 Advisory programs in VIMS' Center for Coastal Resources Management (CCRM): Tidal Wetlands, Non-tidal Wetlands, Shoreline Inventory

Tidal Wetlands Program:

- ◆ 7 Current full-time employees (FTEs)
- ◆ 3.5 FTEs funded by state funds
- ◆ 3.5 FTEs funded via external grants
- ◆ 1,027 Permits reviewed in 2005 by the Wetlands Program
- ◆ 10.5 State-funded FTEs in 1985
- ◆ 629 Permits reviewed in 1985 by the Wetlands Program
- ◆ 34 Years of reviewing tidal wetland permit applications (since the 1972 Tidal Wetlands Act)
- ◆ 36 Number of wetlands boards in Virginia
- ◆ 853 Advisory reports posted to the web in 2005
- ◆ 2001 Year Wetlands Program began posting reports to the web



VIMS alumna Carole Baldwin (C) answers questions about sustainable seafood while Executive Chef Rob Klink of the Oceanaire Seafood Room in Washington, D.C. (R) serves pan-seared bluefish to guests at VIMS seafood-cooking demonstration in October. Baldwin (PhD 92) is co-author of the Smithsonian Press book One Fish, Two Fish, Crawfish, Bluefish. The 330-page volume gives advice on how to promote sustainable fishery practices while fishing, shopping, or eating out.



New VIMS Council Chair Jim Rogers (L) talks with W&M President Gene Nichol (R) during the council's July meeting at VIMS' Eastern Shore Lab in Wachapreague. ESL Director Mark Luckenbach (2nd from R) looks on. Rogers, who holds a master's in nuclear engineering from the University of Virginia, is President of SCI Investors, Inc. and a consulting partner of Colonnade Capital. He replaces Carroll Owens, who had chaired the council since 2002. Other new Council members include Travis Massey (3rd from R) and Dan Bacot.