

Fabrizio Team Wins NOAA Bronze Medal Award

Dr. Mary Fabrizio, newly appointed Associate Professor in VIMS Fisheries Science Department, has won a Bronze Medal Award from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for ultrasonic tagging work conducted at the National Marine Fisheries Service prior to her arrival at VIMS in October 2005.

Fabrizio will be recognized as a recipient of the award in a formal ceremony in Washington D.C. in March. The Bronze Medal is the highest honor award that can be granted by NOAA's

chief administrator Conrad C. Lautenbacher.

NOAA Bronze medals are awarded to individuals, teams, and organizations. Fabrizio's medal is part of a team award to fellow recipients Jeff Pessutti, John Manderson, and Beth Phelan. The other team members are at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) in Sandy Hook, New Jersey, where Fabrizio was formerly Chief of the Behavioral Ecology Branch.

Fabrizio's team was recognized for their pioneering work in using ultrasonic

tags to study habitat use and dispersal by marine fishes off New Jersey. The team used the tags and a network of moored receivers to closely track large numbers of individual black sea bass and summer flounder. This helped them clarify the factors affecting the fishes' dispersal from a habitat that had been disturbed by the placement of dredge spoils.

Fabrizio plans to implement similar tagging studies in Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's coastal waters.

Habitat issues have become important in fisheries management and are formally recognized in the essential fish habitat (EFH) requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the nation's primary federal law governing fisheries management issues.

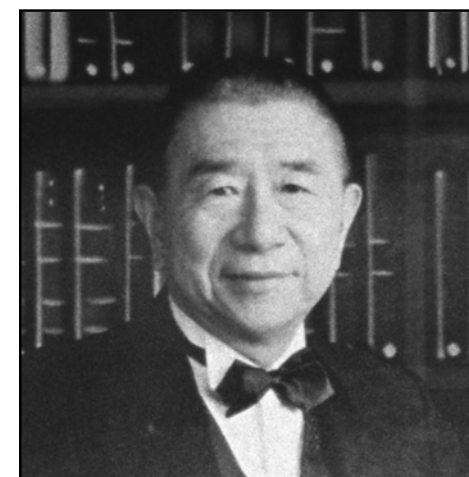
Dr. Tom Noji, Chief of the Ecosystems Processes Division at NEFSC and Fabrizio's former supervisor, says "Mary led her team to the successful completion of a landmark project for the Center. Their investigation is inspiring not only because of its careful preparation and implementation, but also because it spearheads regional fisheries research into a new and technologically sophisticated era."



Dr. Mary Fabrizio (L) surgically implants a miniature radio transmitter into a summer flounder during her tagging study off the New Jersey coast.

Former Professor Frank Fang Dies

Former VIMS faculty Dr. Ching Seng (Frank) Fang died unexpectedly on November 5, 2005. During his tenure at VIMS from 1970 to 1985, Fang led the thrust to develop numerical hydrologic and water-quality models for Virginia's estuaries. He was head of the Physical Oceanography department for many years. Following his time at VIMS Frank and his wife Carol established a successful import business. Donations to Dr. Fang's Memorial Scholarship Fund can be sent to C&F Enterprises, Inc., c/o Frank Fang Memorial Scholarship Fund, 819 Blue Crab Road, Newport News, VA 23606.



Dr. Ching Seng (Frank) Fang

VIMS Contributes to Science-Education Tradition

VIMS faculty, graduate students, and staff are helping spark the next generation of aspiring marine scientists through their participation in the Blue Crab Bowl, a high school academic competition focused on the ocean sciences.

This year's Blue Crab Bowl will take place at Old Dominion University on Saturday, February 11.

VIMS collaborates with ODU each winter to co-host the event, one of 25 regional contests held around the nation as part of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The NOSB® is coordinated by the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE) in Washington, D.C.

Sixteen teams from across the state will participate in the 9th annual event. The winning team will advance to the national competition, held in Monterey, California in May. The NOSB® program seeks to generate student interest and excitement about science and the oceans, and give young people a chance

to examine marine science as a field of study and possible career path.

VIMS will contribute about half of the 60 or more volunteers needed to run the event. Staff from the Virginia Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program coordinate VIMS' participation in the program. Funding for the Blue Crab Bowl comes from CORE, ODU, and VA Sea Grant; local businesses and organizations provide additional support.



Students address a "team challenge question" during the 2005 Blue Crab Bowl.

WILLIAM & MARY VIRGINIA INSTITUTE of MARINE SCIENCE

Web Update

Welcome Research Education Advisory Services Administration Resources News & Media

Breakwater Database
This site highlights the work of VIMS' shoreline studies group in documenting breakwater-system performance around Chesapeake Bay. Visit www2.vims.edu/breakwater

Chesapeake Bay Dunes
This site describes the extent and changing nature of dune systems around the Bay. Visit www.vims.edu/physical/research/shoreline/cbdunes

IVARS
This site provides information on the Dr. Walker Smith's IVARS project. IVARS (for Interannual Variability in the Ross Sea) is a 5-year project to learn more about year-to-year changes in the biology, physics, and chemistry of Antarctica's Ross Sea. The site includes periodic updates on IVARS expeditions to Antarctica. Visit www.vims.edu/bio/ivars

KAC
Learn about VIMS' new Kauffman Aquaculture Center (KAC) by visiting www.vims.edu/kac. The Kauffman Center significantly expands the scope of aquaculture research at VIMS by providing a facility that was specifically designed to hold both native and non-native species in quarantine.

Volunteer Page
Visit www.vims.edu/welcome/vol_opport to learn about opportunities in the VIMS Volunteer program. Volunteer positions are regularly available in the Library, Visitor's Center, Gift Shop, in laboratories, and in the field. There are also opportunities to lead group tours and assist with public outreach events.