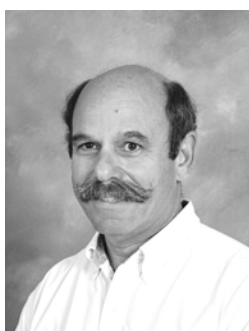

News Briefs

New Marine Research Complex on Track

VIMS' Facilities Management Director Joe Martinez reports that work on the new marine research complex is proceeding according to schedule. The Commonwealth's Code Official recently reviewed the construction documents and specifications; Hicks, Williams, and Reed House have been demolished to make room for the new facilities; and archaeology is proceeding according to requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act. Groundbreaking for the 70,000 square foot research building and the 43,000 square foot seawater lab is scheduled for Spring 2005.

Kator Named EAAH chair

Associate Professor of Marine Science Dr. Howard Kator has been named chair of VIMS' Department of Environmental and Aquatic Animal Health, replacing outgoing chair Dr. Stephen Kaattari. Kator's research interests



Dr. Howard Kator

involve various aspects of environmental microbiology, with a focus on the ecology of the bacteria and viruses that are used as indicators of sewage or fecal contamination. He also studies the ecology of microorganisms that cause diseases in fish, such as mycobacteriosis in striped bass.

Latour Appointed Assistant Professor

The Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary has approved the appointment of Dr. Rob Latour as an Assistant Professor in VIMS' Department of Fisheries Science.



Dr. Rob Latour

Latour received a B.A. in mathematics from Western New England College in 1994, a M.B.A. in biomathematics in 1996, and a Ph.D. in biomathematics in 2000, both from North Carolina State University. He came to VIMS as a postdoctoral research associate in 2000 and continued as a

research assistant professor beginning in July 2001. Latour's research interests include modeling of population dynamics and stock assessment of exploited marine resources. He is currently focusing on multi-species interactions and ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management. In addition to continuing his research program, Latour will teach courses in population dynamics and modeling of biological systems, and participate in VIMS' advisory mission through service on various state and regional fishery management committees.

Coughlin Appointed Library Director

The Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary has approved the appointment of Ms. Carol Coughlin as Director of the Hargis Library at VIMS.



Carol Coughlin

Coughlin comes to VIMS from the Swem Library at William & Mary, where she served as the Reference and Instruction Librarian. She has a library science background in instruction, teaching, and research using a variety of electronic and web-based tools. Prior to her position at William and Mary, Coughlin was a Life Sciences Librarian at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she managed and developed collections for the Department of Biology and the Center for Environmental Studies.

Coughlin holds a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Concordia University, Montreal.

Network Upgrades Continue

The drive to replace VIMS' outdated network of copper lines with fiber-optic cables moved one step closer to completion in September when contractors converted the lines on the north end of campus. "All the north end buildings are now connected by fiber optic cable for their data network connections," says ITNS Director Newt Munson. "This will greatly reduce ITNS staff time and equipment replacement costs following the next lightning storm."

The new fiber optic network provides at least 100-megabit data connection rates among Brown, Hall, Wilson, and Sowers houses; the DCOP building; and the new CBNEER facilities.

Copper-to-fiber conversion is next scheduled for Facilities/ Customer Service, Raleigh House, Maury Hall, the Sediment and Marine Culture labs, and the Old Telephone building.

Boon Takes to the Airwaves

VIMS emeritus professor Dr. John Boon appeared on public radio's *With Good Reason* in August, when he discussed infamous U.S. hurricanes, including the deadly 1906 Galveston storm, 1968's Hurricane Camille, and last year's Hurricane Isabel. Boon's analysis of long-term sea-level records helps explain Isabel's unexpected ferocity and suggests that future storms will pose even greater flood risks in Chesapeake Bay.

With Good Reason, the only statewide public radio program in Virginia, features in-depth interviews with leading scholars from Virginia's public universities. To listen to Boon's interview on-line, visit <http://www.withgoodreasonradio.org/archives/aug04wgr.html>

Vecchione Returns to Mid-Atlantic Ridge

VIMS adjunct faculty Dr. Mike Vecchione and graduate student Charles (Chip) Cotton joined 60 other scientists aboard the research vessel *GO Sars* this summer to further explore deep-sea life along the mid-Atlantic ridge.

The researchers used remotely operated vehicles, sonar, and other technologies to collect a wealth of new information, and to observe, photograph, and sample numerous deep-sea organisms, including several thought to be new species.

The Norwegian-led expedition was the latest cruise of the 7-year **Mid-Atlantic Ridge ECO-system Project**. MAR-ECO is in turn part of the 10-year, \$1 billion Census of Marine Life (see *The Crest*, Summer 2003).

MAR-ECO is designed to enhance understanding of the occurrence, distribution, and ecology of animals and animal communities along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge between Iceland and the Azores at depths down to 4 km (2.5 miles).

The project, which started in 2001 and lasts until 2008, is an international research program with scientists from 16 nations.

For more information on MAR-ECO and the Census of Marine Life, visit <http://www.coml.org/descrip/mareco.htm>

Modelers Reunite

The VIMS 3-D modeling team is once again consolidated under a single roof due to careful planning and hard work from facilities and administrative staff at VIMS. The modelers had been scattered across the VIMS campus ever since their previous home in Newport Hall was deemed uninhabitable following Hurricane Isabel. The group will occupy the newly restored third floor of Davis Hall until the completion of the Marine Research facility in 2006.



Chip Cotton poses with a 4.5 m Greenland shark captured during this summer's cruise aboard the *RV GO Sars*.