

Sea Grant Sponsors Seafood Education Programs

Virginia chefs and scientists gathered at VIMS on October 13 to participate in the Chefs' Seafood Symposium focusing on "Sustainable Seafood: What Does it Mean for Virginia Chefs?"

Open to all interested culinary professionals and culinary students, the event featured scientific updates on the status of selected Virginia seafood species and a panel discussion with chefs and scientists on sustainable seafood. Discussions of the fisheries for blue crab (Dr. Rom Lipcius), sea scallops (Dr. Bill DuPaul), and tuna and swordfish (Dr. John Graves), preceded a cooking demonstration by guest chef Brynjar Björgvinsson from 3 Frakkar ("3 Frenchmen") Restaurant in Reykjavik, Iceland. Chef Björgvinsson demonstrated several Icelandic seafood recipes, substituting Chesapeake Bay striped bass for the traditional codfish.

The 135 attendees included students and instructors from several culinary schools, including J. Sargeant Reynolds in Richmond and Henrico County Schools' Hermitage Technical Center. The students from Hermitage prepared and served the lunch for the event. A reception featuring seafood products and Virginia wine tasting followed the general sessions. The

symposium, certified by the American Culinary Federation, provides continuing education credits for certified chefs.

Virginia Sea Grant, the Virginia Chefs Association, and VIMS sponsored the program, with additional support from the Iceland Seafood Corporation, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Wine Marketing Office, Hermitage Technical Center Culinary Program, U.S. Foodservice, Williamsburg Inn, and Magnolia's Catering.

In addition to the Chefs' Symposium, four Seafood Education Seminars, open to the public, were held in October and November. Each seminar included a presentation by a VIMS scientist on a Virginia seafood species, followed by a cooking demonstration conducted by chefs from restaurants including River's Inn, Founders Inn, Princess Anne Country Club, and the Sanderling Inn. Following the instruction, participants enjoyed a seafood meal featuring a tasting of Virginia wines.

For more information on the symposium and other components of the Virginia Sea Grant seafood education program, see www.vims.edu/adv/seafood.

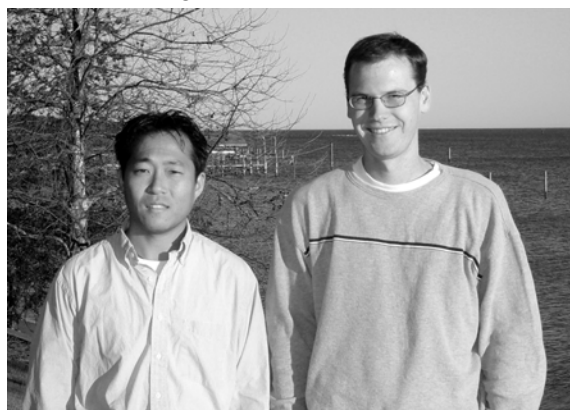
VIMS Students Chosen as Knauss Fellows

VIMS students Jacques Oliver and Bruce Vogt were two of the three graduate students from Virginia recently 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 legislative or executive

offices in the Washington, DC area and provides an opportunity for a better understanding of the decision-making process affecting national policy toward marine resources.

Oliver, a Ph. D. student, will be placed in the House Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife, and Oceans (minority).

"I expect the fellowship will give me perspective on how science and policy interface," says Oliver. He also believes the professional skills he'll learn, such as communication and conflict resolution, will be valuable wherever his career path may lead. While at VIMS, Oliver has been studying iron and carbon limitation in plankton and related carbon cycling with advisor Dr. Hugh Ducklow.



2004 Knauss fellows Jacques Oliver and Bruce Vogt.

VIMS Hosts International Sediment Conference

An international conference hosted by VIMS researchers in early October brought many of the world's leading sediment scientists to Gloucester Point.

The 7th International Conference on Nearshore and Estuarine Cohesive Sediment Transport Processes (INTERCOH) drew nearly 100 scientists from nations around the world, including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Caledonia, Portugal, Taiwan, the UK, Uruguay, and the U.S.

The fate of cohesive sediments like clay and mud is an important environmental issue because electrostatic charges on the surface of these particles tend to easily attract pollutants. Even "clean" cohesive sediments can cause environmental concerns. For instance, storm waves and tides can easily mix these fine-grained sediments

into the water column, blocking sunlight for photosynthesis.

Conference Secretary Dr. Jerome Maa, an associate professor in VIMS' Physical Sciences Department, says that the focus of this year's INTERCOH conference was on questions related to computer modeling of particle-bound contaminant transport in estuarine and open-coast environments.

"The research community clearly recognizes the need to carry out field and laboratory studies on cohesive sediment," says Maa, "but the considerable complexity of cohesive sediment processes requires further effort to fully address the broad range of modeling questions."

Conference proceedings are available on-line at www.vims.edu/intercoh/. For further information on computer modeling at VIMS, visit www.vims.edu/physical/research.html



VIMS Associate Professor Dr. Carl Friedrichs addresses INTERCOH participants in McHugh Auditorium.

Vogt's fellowship will be in the Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy, where he will coordinate research efforts between the Navy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and help guide international policy related to oceans and fisheries, with a focus on the Integrated Global Ocean Observing System.

"I'm interested in the policy side because that's where things happen," says Vogt. "That's where I think I can make more of a difference." Vogt's master's research with advisor Dr. Linda Schaffer has focused on sedi-

ment contamination and predator-prey interactions in Chesapeake Bay.

Oliver and Vogt's selection continues a long tradition of involvement in the program by VIMS students. Of the 44 students from institutes of higher education in Virginia who have served as Knauss fellows since the program began in 1979, 29 (65%) have hailed from VIMS.

When asked why he thinks VIMS students have traditionally been among the finalists arriving in DC each November, Oliver responds, "It's a testament to VIMS' well-rounded interdisciplinary programs."