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Dear Friends of VIMS:

This past year was one of significant achievement for VIMS with exciting developments that are having a positive impact on faculty, students and, indeed, the entire campus.

Support from the Commonwealth’s higher education bond in 2002 allowed us to complete two new buildings, Andrews Hall and the Seawater Research Laboratory (SRL), together our largest-ever building project. Andrews Hall, a 70,000 square-foot research building named in honor of Cynthia and the late Hunter B. Andrews, houses modern laboratories and is now the focal point for much of the teaching and research at VIMS. The SRL, a 47,000 square-foot “wet lab,” is one of the largest facilities in the U.S. with running seawater, and is the first building at VIMS with a flexible design that can be readily adapted to meet changes in research needs.

Another construction highlight is state approval for a new research laboratory at our field site on the Eastern Shore in Wachapreague, Virginia. This much-needed facility will replace an old oyster-shucking house that currently serves as a laboratory for faculty and students. We were also able to expand our Wachapreague campus by acquiring a small contiguous property and house at auction, thereby increasing our ability to house visiting researchers and students.

During the year, we also engaged in a strategic planning process that identifies challenges and opportunities, and provides a roadmap with broad institutional goals. As part of this roadmap, there were 12 objectives and more than 40 strategic actions for moving forward during the next 5 years.

The Virginia Sea Grant Program, supported by NOAA through the National Sea Grant Office, moved to its new headquarters at VIMS, and we were especially pleased to have Dr. Troy Hartley join us as our new Sea Grant Director. It is a great recognition of VIMS’ institutional leadership that the Sea Grant Program will be administered here.

We also welcomed to VIMS two new faculty members, Eric Hilton and Tracey Sutton, who were hired as assistant professors in the Fisheries Science Department. Our graduate student applications have increased and VIMS now has 112 students in the School of Marine Science. Some of our students graduated and moved on to join the ranks of alumni (degrees were granted to 15 M.S. and 8 Ph.D. students).

I am pleased to report that we launched a series of events to reach out to our distinguished alumni, who serve across the nation—in academia, federal and state agencies, and the private sector—to develop, enhance, and protect our natural resources. One event, during the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation conference in Providence, RI, attracted 80 people; another at the Ocean Sciences meeting in Orlando, FL, attracted more than 130. One particularly important attribute of such events is that they allow current students to interact with our alumni and to learn about career opportunities.
2007-2008 was a landmark year for the VIMS Foundation, with assets of $7.7 million as of June 30, 2008. For the first time, we were able to enhance support for 10 students from endowments established over the last few years (see p. 20-21). While we have a long way to go to build endowments equal to our aspirations, the VIMS Foundation is now making a real difference for the Institute.

We expanded our support from the corporate community—receiving gifts from Ferguson Enterprises and SunTrust Mid-Atlantic Foundation; Philip Morris USA; and the Norfolk Dredging Company. Norfolk Southern Foundation continued its leadership support.

There were also changes in endowment-supported professorships. This type of support is absolutely critical to the future of the Institute and the School of Marine Science. With Jack Musick’s retirement, Michael Newman was named to the A. Marshall Acuff, Jr. Professorship.

Emmett Duffy was named the Lewis and Loretta Glucksman Professor of Marine Science, and Robert Latour was named to the Moses D. Nunnally Term Professorship.

In 2008 we also saw a change of leadership in some of our key boards. After distinguished service as President of the VIMS Foundation Board from its inception, E. Morgan Massey rotated out of that position. Carroll Owens, Jr., was elected as the new President. We deeply appreciate Morgan’s service and are pleased that he will remain as a Board Member. Carroll brings a long-term involvement with both VIMS and the College of William and Mary, and we look forward to his leadership as we strive to increase private support.

Henry H. George joined the VIMS Foundation Board, succeeding A. Marshall Acuff, Jr., who has served as Treasurer since the Foundation’s launch. Both men have extraordinary track records in volunteer service.

Robert Roper has succeeded James Rogers as Chair of the VIMS Council. Jim, President of SCI Investors in Richmond, led the Council ably for three years; Bob is a retired executive with Philip Morris. Dr. Maurice Lynch, a VIMS alumnus and professor emeritus, has succeeded Candy Campbell as Chair of the Annual Fund Board.

Finally, we were delighted to highlight the extraordinary service of A. Marshall Acuff, Jr., recipient of VIMS’ 2008 Pathfinder Award. There is no more deserving or loyal friend of VIMS and the College of William and Mary, as noted in the tribute on p. 16.

I am deeply grateful for all the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students whose work makes VIMS a leader in marine science. We are also deeply grateful to all the donors and volunteers listed in this report. Private support by friends of VIMS and by alumni will be increasingly important in maintaining a cutting edge in marine research and, for this reason, is a vital part of the strategic plan that we developed in 2008.

William and Mary President Taylor Reveley with John Wells and VIMS Council Chair Jim Rogers.
“White papers” address climate change

VIMS’ newly established Initiative for Coastal Climate Change Research (IC’R) issued a series of white papers describing climate-change impacts and responses in the Chesapeake Bay region. The papers, online at vims.edu/climatechange, will help guide the Commonwealth’s climate-change policy in the areas of sea-level rise, aquatic disease, coastal contamination, coastal ecosystems, land-coast connections, planktonic food webs, submerged aquatic vegetation, and observing systems.

VIMS’ Climate Change Initiative complements Governor Kaine’s Executive Order 59, which created a Commission on Climate Change to evaluate likely climate-change impacts in Virginia and how the Commonwealth should prepare.

Roger Mann, Director of Research and Advisory Service at VIMS and a member of the Governor’s Commission, notes that “Rising sea level, warmer inshore waters, changes in precipitation patterns, and the possibility of stronger storms make Tidewater Virginia particularly vulnerable to climate-change impacts.”

Professor Jim Bauer, who helped lead the Initiative’s first-year efforts, says that the IC’R “encourages collaboration, serves as a central source of knowledge, and provides recommendations concerning the most effective responses to sea-level rise and other climate-change impacts.”

Dead zones continue to spread

Professor Robert Diaz has shown that the number of “dead zones”—areas of seafloor with too little oxygen for most marine life—has increased by a third between 1995 and 2007. Diaz and Swedish collaborator Rutger Rosenberg say that dead zones are now “the key stressor on marine ecosystems” and “rank with over-fishing, habitat loss, and harmful algal blooms as global environmental problems.”

The pair’s study appeared in the August 15th 2008 issue of Science and subsequently garnered global media attention. The study tallies 405 dead zones in coastal waters worldwide, affecting an area about the size of New Zealand. It shows that the number of dead zones has approximately doubled each decade since the 1960s.

Locally, a dead zone underlies much of the main-stem of Chesapeake Bay each summer, occupying about 40% of its area and up to 5% of its volume. Diaz and Rosenberg write “There’s no other variable of such ecological importance to coastal marine ecosystems that has changed so drastically over such a short time as dissolved oxygen.” The pair says the key to reducing dead zones is to keep fertilizers on the land and out of the sea. “Scientists and farmers need to continue working together to develop farming methods that minimize the transfer of nutrients from land to sea,” says Diaz.
Team pursues street-level storm-tide predictions

A team of computer modelers at VIMS continues to pursue its long-term goal of working with government, academic, and industry partners to provide street-level predictions of storm-tide flooding along the Chesapeake Bay shoreline.

Team leader Harry Wang, an associate professor at VIMS, notes that emergency managers will be able to use this information to alert individual neighborhoods about protective measures and possible evacuation during hurricanes and nor’easters. Wang estimates that street-level predictions will be possible in five years.

The VIMS team is collaborating on the project with other members of the NOAA-funded Chesapeake Bay Inundation Prediction System.

VIMS’ role in the project is to develop and refine their state-of-the-art computer model for predicting storm tides and inundation. The model will ultimately be combined with others to produce a real-time “ensemble” model for operational forecasts of Bay flooding.

VIMS Emeritus Professor John Boon is assisting the project by deploying a network of real-time tide gauges at sites around the lower Bay. Eventually, data from these gauges will be transmitted in real-time for incorporation into operational storm-tide forecasts.

Volunteers aid seagrass restoration

The seagrass program at VIMS collaborated with The Nature Conservancy to use volunteer divers and snorkelers to help collect eelgrass seeds this spring in the seaside bays of Virginia’s Eastern Shore.

VIMS scientists have been restoring eelgrass to these bays since 1997. Their efforts have resulted in the largest and most successful seagrass restoration project in the world, with 190 acres restored to Virginia’s southern coastal bays during the last decade. These restored sites have now spread naturally to more than 1,400 acres.

The project is a collaborative effort between VIMS’ Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) program, led by Professor Robert Orth, and The Nature Conservancy. The project operates under the banner of the Seaside Heritage Program, part of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

The seed-collection effort is the largest to date, with a harvest of around 20 million seeds.

Orth notes that the success of past plantings in Virginia’s southern coastal bays provides a rare bright spot in regional efforts to restore eelgrass. “This area is unique,” says Orth, “in that it is the only place in this region where eelgrass is increasing.”

Orth says the success of eelgrass in Virginia’s coastal bays reflects their relatively cooler and clearer waters.

Team studies blue crab disease

Professor Jeffrey Shields received a five-year, $2.1 million federal grant to study how fishing pressure and declines in water quality affect the emergence and spread of a blue crab disease in the seaside bays of Virginia’s Eastern Shore.

Shields is joined on the project by VIMS researchers Kimberly Reece and Harry Wang, along with Dr. Mark Butler of Old Dominion University. The grant supports three newly hired post-doctoral fellows and three graduate students at VIMS as well as a graduate student at ODU.

The grant is one of only eight such awards made to research teams nationwide. It comes through the Ecology of Infectious Diseases Program, a joint effort of the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

Shields and his team will use the grant to study how fishing pressure and declining water quality within coastal
bays may promote outbreaks of *Hematodinium*, a parasite that infects the blood of crabs and other crustaceans worldwide.

During disease outbreaks, crab mortality can reach 50% in crab pots, and 75% in shedding facilities on Virginia’s Eastern Shore. The disease is not harmful to humans.

Shields estimates that *Hematodinium* outbreaks cost Virginia’s blue crab fishery from $500,000 to $1 million in losses per year. By investigating how the parasite is transmitted and causes disease, Shields’s study may help reduce these losses by identifying how fishing practices may promote disease transmission in coastal bays.

VIMS researchers Mike Vecchione, Mike Unger, Ellen Harvey, and George Vadas reported new evidence that chemical contaminants are finding their way into deep-sea food webs. The team found contaminants in deep-sea squids and octopods that are food for deep-diving toothed whales and other predators.

“It was surprising to find measurable and sometimes high amounts of toxic pollutants in such a deep and remote environment,” says Vecchione.

Among the chemicals detected were persistent organic pollutants such as tributyltin (TBT), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), brominated diphenyl ethers (BDEs), and DDT.

“The fact that we detected a variety of pollutants in specimens collected from more than 3,000 feet deep is evidence that human-produced chemicals are reaching remote areas of the open ocean, accumulating in prey species, and therefore available to higher levels of marine life. Contamination of the deep-sea food web is happening, and it is a real concern.”—Shelly Dawicki (Northeast Fisheries Science Center)
Service to Virginia and the Nation

Stan Allen, Ryan Carnegie, Mark Luckenbach, and Roger Mann served on the steering committee for the bi-state (VA, MD) Oyster Management Plan.

Jim Bauer and Emmett Duffy presented testimony to the Governor’s Commission on Climate Change. They covered the science of climate change in Virginia, and summarized likely impacts on sea level, coastal communities, and coastal ecosystem services.

John Graves continues as Chair of the U.S. Advisory Committee to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Howard Kator and Rob Hale served on the Biosolids Expert Panel convened by the Virginia secretaries of Natural Resources and Health and Human Resources. The panel, established at the request of the 2007 General Assembly, studied the impact of land application of treated sewage sludge on human health and the environment.

Jon Lucy of Virginia Sea Grant continued as co-coordinator of the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program, whose 200 trained anglers tagged more than 18,000 fish during 2007.

Virginia Sea Grant researchers Tom Murray and Mike Oesterling released their third annual survey of clam and oyster aquaculture in Virginia. The report documents continuing growth in both industries.

Roger Mann served on the Independent Oyster Advisory Panel charged with reviewing the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Oyster Restoration in Chesapeake Bay.

Jack Musick chaired the Coastal Shark Technical Committee for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and produced the first Coastal Shark Management Plan, which was implemented by the ASMFC in August 2008. Musick also served on the ASMFC technical committees for Spiny Dogfish and Atlantic Sturgeon.

Michael Oesterling of Virginia Sea Grant continues as vice-chair of the Virginia Aquaculture Advisory Board’s Technical Committee.

Linda Schaffner assisted in an on-site review of the Atlantic Ecology Division of the U.S. EPA’s National Health & Environmental Effects Research Laboratory.

Mike Unger was appointed to a 3-year term on the Board of Directors for the Elizabeth River Project.

Professor James Bauer addresses the Governor’s Climate Change Commission.
Awards and Recognition

Faculty

Deborah Bronk was elected to serve a two-year term as President of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), beginning in 2010.

Gene Burreson was designated as Chancellor Professor of Marine Science in recognition of his exemplary contributions and profound impacts in scholarship and service.

Emmett Duffy was named the Loretta and Lewis Glucksman Professor for achievements in scholarship, teaching, service and governance, and for the highest level of eminence outside the university.

Mary Fabrizio served as President of the American Fisheries Society (2007-08), the nation’s largest association of fisheries professionals.

Carl Friedrichs received the prestigious 2008 Outstanding Faculty Award, the Commonwealth’s highest honor for educators. The award, sponsored by the State Council of Higher Education and the Dominion Foundation, recognizes the superior accomplishments of Virginia’s higher education faculty through teaching, research, knowledge integration, and public service.

Rob Latour was designated the Moses D. Nunnally Distinguished Associate Professor. This professorship is awarded to recognize professional achievement and service and to reward excellence in research and teaching.

Jack Musick was awarded the 2008 Life Achievement in Science Award from Governor Kaine and the Science Museum of Virginia for significant scientific contributions during his 40-year career. Musick’s advocacy for the conservation of sharks, turtles, salmon, and sturgeons brought attention to these threatened species and promoted many management actions designed to protect global biodiversity.
Roger Mann was awarded Honored Life Membership in the National Shellfisheries Association. He was also selected by Governor Kaine to serve on the Governors’ Climate Change Commission.

Mike Newman was named the A. Marshall Acuff, Jr. Professor for his achievements in scholarship, teaching, service, and governance, and for the highest level of eminence outside the university.

The Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society presented Robert Orth with their 2007 Conservation Award for his work on seagrasses, including monitoring, ecological work on seeds, restoration, and management.

Linda Schaffner received the “Distinguished Service Award” from the Estuarine Research Federation for her 10 years of service on the Governing Board.

### Staff

The Fly Fishers of Virginia presented their Taylor Turner Conservation Award to Virginia Sea Grant Marine Advisory Specialist Jon Lucy for “conservation of natural resources and improvement of sport fishing opportunities in Virginia.”

Communications Director David Malmquist served as President of the Science Communications and Marine Public Information Network (SCAMPI).

VA Sea Grant educator Carol Hopper Brill was selected as the Virginia representative to the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association for 2007.

VA Sea Grant educator Vicki Clark served as Chair-Elect of the Sea Grant Educators Network for 2008.

### VIMS Service Awards

Freeman Volunteer of the Year
Ginny Lascara
Facilities/Safety/Trades
Paul Nichols
Research/Advisory Service
Scott Hardaway
Technical Support
Marta Sanderson
Administrative Support
Sue Presson
Dean’s Prize for the Advancement of Women in Marine Science
Fu-Lin Chu
Outstanding Teaching Award
John Brubaker

VIMS honored former Dean and Director Don Wright at the alumni event in Orlando. Here Wright is shown addressing the group.
School of Marine Science

Graduate students in the School of Marine Science at VIMS have an unparalleled opportunity to conduct research that matters, with many pursuing research and policy avenues that bring them in close contact with industry and management agencies at the state, regional, and international levels. Here are some snapshots and highlights of student accomplishments in 2007-2008. A full list of theses and dissertations for 2007-2008 is available at www.vims.edu/library.

External Student Awards

Da Chen won the George Healey Award from William and Mary, which is awarded to an outstanding graduate student by recommendation of the deans.

Rob Condon won the Best Student Oral Presentation at the 2nd International Jellyfish Blooms Symposium in Australia.

James Douglass received a Smithsonian Marine Science Network Postdoctoral Fellowship.

David Gillett and Rachael Blake received NERRS Graduate Fellowships.

Andrij Horodyski received a scholarship from the International Women’s Fishing Association, and the Wright Memorial Conservation Award from the Virginia Beach Anglers Association.

Frank Parker and Abigail Lynch were each awarded a prestigious John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship through the National Sea Grant Federal Fellows Program. Lynch is serving her fellowship at NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service. Parker is serving at NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

Amanda Spivak was awarded a Postdoctoral position at Miami University of Ohio.

Stephanie Wilson was awarded a Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute post-doctoral fellowship.

VIMS Student Awards

Craig L. Smith Memorial Scholarship
Althea Moore

Kelley Watson Fellowship
Karinna Núñez

Zeigler Student Achievement Award
Dave Hewitt

William J. Hargis Jr. Fellowship Award
Steven Baer and Mark Henderson

Matthew Fontaine Maury Student Fellowship Award
Andrij Horodysky

Saba finds sea turtle-El Niño link

Research by Dr. Vincent Saba and colleagues provides the first evidence of a link between declining numbers of leatherback sea turtles in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and the climatic phenomenon of El Niño.

The research, which appeared in the May issue of Ecology, was selected as a “highlight of the recent literature” by the editors of Science magazine.

Saba’s findings, part of his Ph.D. research at VIMS, help explain why leatherback populations in the eastern Pacific have failed to respond to protections established on the turtles’ main nesting beaches in Costa Rica in the early 1990s. Leatherbacks, the world’s largest marine turtle with adults reaching up to 8 feet long and weighing up to 2,000 lbs, are an endangered species.
By combining population data from nesting beaches with oceanographic data from satellites, Saba was able to show that leatherback declines in the Eastern Pacific reflect the inconsistency of their food supply in the region. A large part of that inconsistency is due to the periodic appearance of El Niño. “El Niño initiates a chain of events that forces leatherback females in the Eastern Pacific to expend more energy on finding food and less on reproduction,” says Saba. “That makes it more difficult for the population to rebound now that nesting protections are in place.”

New help for beach-goers

Master’s student Meredith Fagan discovered that a proposed indicator of viral contamination of coastal waters may be less effective than initially thought. Her results will ultimately help in the quest to develop new methods for monitoring the health of recreational and shellfish-growing waters. Noroviruses, which are highly contagious and cause the “stomach flu”, are one possible reason for beach closures in the U.S.

Co-advisor Howard Kator says that Fagan’s research is the first-ever study of the survival and persistence of noroviruses in the field. “Maggie’s data showed that noroviruses lasted longer in Chesapeake Bay water during summer, spring, and winter than the proposed viral indicator,” says Kator. “Her findings are of great interest to officials responsible for assessing water quality with respect to health risk in recreational and shellfish-growing areas.”

DDT persists in Antarctic ice

Research by VIMS Ph.D. student Heidi Geisz and colleagues shows that DDT and its breakdown products persist within the tissues of Adélie penguins, three decades after use of the powerful pesticide was banned in most countries.

The researchers contend that melting of Antarctic glaciers is releasing their accumulated store of DDT into the nearby ocean, where it can readily build up within penguin fat and eggs. Penguins are apex predators atop the short polar food chain, making them particularly vulnerable to the accumulation of environmental contaminants.

The scientists caution that accelerated melting due to global warming could lead to a further increase in contaminant input to Antarctica’s coastal waters. Average winter temperatures on the Antarctic Peninsula have increased 10°F in the last 30 years, more than 5 times the global average.
Selected Grants & Contracts

Chris Bonzek, Rob Latour and James Gartland  Data collection and analysis in support of single and multispecies stock assessments in the Mid-Atlantic: Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Near Shore Trawl Program, NOAA/Atlantic States Fisheries Commission/ Collaboration with Commercial Fishery, $722,891


Elizabeth Canuel, Deborah Bronk and Carl Hershner, Jr Virginia Coastal Energy Research Consortium: Virginia Alternative Energy Program, Commonwealth of Virginia, $150,000

Rebecca Dickhut and James Bauer  Towards an improved understanding of air-sea exchange of gaseous organic carbon and its role in ocean carbon fluxes, NSF, $347,592

Anu Frank-Lawale and Stan Allen  Advanced technologies for oyster culture industry in Chesapeake Bay, Altria Client Services, $95,000

Marjorie Friedrichs  U.S. eastern continental shelf carbon cycling (USECoS): modeling, data assimilation, and analysis, NASA, $941,372

Robert Hale and Howard Kator  Local health impacts of land application of sewage sludge-biosolids composition and potential off-site migration, NIH, $110,093

James Kirkley  Estimate and assess social and economic importance and value of menhaden to Chesapeake Bay stakeholders and region, VMRC, $236,479

Thomas Murray  Economic impacts of recreational boating in the City of Hampton, City of Hampton, $66,375

Mark Patterson  Protecting a shifting baseline: Shallow to deep reefs at Bonaire, NOAA, $351,780


Mac Sisson, Harry Wang and Jian Shen  Craney Island Eastward Expansion Project—technical support for engineering construction phase, Craney Island Design Partners $496,213

Deborah Steinberg  From Microbes to Mammals: Studying climate-induced changes in the Antarctic marine ecosystem with a robotic cluster, Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation through Rutgers University, $251,572

Michael Unger and Stephen Kaattari  Validation of a real-time, field-deployable bio-sensor for the detection and quantification of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in aquatic systems, NOAA, $397,054

Harry Wang and Jian Shen  Chesapeake Inundation Prediction System: A forecasting and visualization prototype for emergency management in coastal bay-estuary systems, NOAA, $151,502
Marine Science Day on May 17th provided fun and education for more than 1,200 visitors. Hands-on exhibits showcasing research in Chesapeake Bay and around the world captivated all ages. The Children’s Pavilion, York River seining, laboratory tours, a folk singer, and the Parade of Marine Life engaged participants young and old.

After Hours Lectures

Climate change: Is it real or a hoax? (June 5, 2008) NASA scientist Bruce Wielicki examined the science and politics of global warming.

Climate change and national security (May 14, 2008) Lt. Gen. Lawrence Farrell (USAF Ret.) considered the threats that climate change poses to national security.

New technologies to monitor the Chesapeake (March 27, 2008) VIMS Assoc. Professor John Brubaker explored how scientists and citizens can use real-time data from a new generation of data buoys to “take the pulse” of the Bay.

Gasperg for air: The search for missing oxygen in the York River (Feb 28, 2008) Assistant Professor Mark Brush described how a high-tech instrument called Acrobat helps detect and study dissolved oxygen levels in the York River.

Sturgeon: ancient fish, troubled future (Jan 31, 2008) Assistant Professor Eric Hilton explored the evolution and uncertain future of sturgeons.

The sludge forests of Surry County (Oct 25, 2007) Professor Rob Hale explored the controversy surrounding biosolids and their potential health risks.

Fat cats: blue catfish in Virginia (Sep 27, 2007) Bob Greenlee of the VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries explored the unique status of this species among the fishes of Virginia’s tidal freshwater tributaries.

Hurricanes and global warming (Aug 30, 2007) Dr. David Malmquist examined the connection between global warming, hurricanes, and coastal development.

Turning the tables on cownose rays (July 26, 2007) Mr. Bob Fisher of VA Sea Grant at VIMS described the history of ray-shellfish interactions and explored the development of a ray fishery.

Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Discovery Labs

Turtles of Chesapeake Bay (July 22, 2008) Amber Knowles guided participants as they learned about terrapins and sea turtles.

Stories in the Sand (June 17, 2008) Virginia Sea Grant educator Carol Hopper Brill shared her sand collection and knowledge of sands from around the world.

Rays of the Bay (April 15, 2008) Audience members got a pain-free experience with tails, barbs, and jaws.

Horseshoe Crabs (March 18, 2008) Eric Hallerman of Virginia Tech shared a close-up look at the medical uses of horseshoe crabs and their importance to local birds.

Invasions of the Bay (February 19, 2008) Assistant CCRM Director Kirk Havens explored the impacts of non-native animals and plants on our ecosystem and economy.

Sharks (January 15, 2008) Assistant Professor Eric Hilton showed specimens from the VIMS Fish Collection and displayed sharks’ electrosensory capabilities.
Chesapeake Bay Creepy Crawlies
(October 16, 2007) VIMS grad student Dave Gillett offered a spooky look at worms, leeches, sea roaches, sea squirts, and eels.

Estuaries “Where Rivers Meet the Sea”
(September 18, 2007) CBNERR scientists introduced participants to estuaries while exploring their important ecological roles.

Fishes of the York River
(Aug 14, 2007) Audience members got up close and personal with fish seined from the York River.

The Blue Crab
(July 17, 2007) VIMS grad student Dave Hewitt examined the importance of the blue crab to Chesapeake Bay with a dissection and live crabs.

Speaker’s Bureau
VIMS faculty and staff interacted with more than 600 citizens and students at community organizations, schools, clubs, businesses, and other venues throughout Hampton Roads and the Northern Neck.

Mini-Schools
Global Warming in Chesapeake Bay
During this five-week course, hosted by Christopher Newport University’s Lifelong Learning Society, VIMS researchers explored the causes and consequences of global change in Chesapeake Bay.

Summer Public Tours
Our weekly 1.5-hour guided walks gave more than 100 adults and older children a behind-the-scenes look at VIMS, including a visit to the Visitor’s Center and Aquarium, a research laboratory, and the Teaching Marsh.
Publication in journal articles is a primary currency of communication among scientists. Here’s a statistical snapshot of the 174 journal articles published by VIMS faculty, staff, and students between January 2007 and August 2008. A full list of VIMS-authored journal articles is available online at vims.edu/library. Statistics were generated using RefViz© software by Thompson Scientific.

### Top 10 Journals

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<td><em>Journal of Shellfish Research</em></td>
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<td><em>Diseases of Aquatic Organisms</em></td>
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<td><em>Environmental Science &amp; Technology</em></td>
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<td><em>Environmental Toxicology &amp; Chemistry</em></td>
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<td><em>Journal of Coastal Research</em></td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td><em>Journal of Invertebrate Pathology</em></td>
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<td><em>Ecological Applications</em></td>
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### Top 10 Keywords

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An analysis of the title and abstracts of VIMS journal articles for 2007-08 using RefViz© software provides an overview of major topics and their inter-relatedness. Dots = individual journal articles, page icons = groups of inter-related articles based on the keywords shown.

The May 17, 2007 issue of *Nature* featured this photograph taken in Antarctica by Professor Robert Diaz of VIMS.
This award, named in honor of Matthew Fontaine Maury, Father of Oceanography and “Pathfinder of the Seas,” recognizes outstanding service to VIMS and enduring commitment to its mission of research, education, and advisory service. In 2008, VIMS was pleased to bestow the Pathfinder Award on A. Marshall Acuff, Jr., for his nearly 30 years of service to the Institute and the College of William and Mary.

Acuff, who retired in 2001 as Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Salomon Smith Barney, is currently president of AMA Investment Counsel and Managing Director of Cary Street Partners. He began his involvement with VIMS in 1982, when he and his family started an endowment in memory of his father. The A. Marshall Acuff Senior Memorial Endowment continues to support VIMS oyster research today. In 1988, Acuff established the Institute’s first professorship, the Acuff Professorship in Marine Science, which currently supports Dr. Mike Newman and his studies of how mercury and other contaminants affect marine ecosystems.

Acuff took a leadership role in 2000 in establishing the VIMS Foundation to encourage private endowments for student fellowships, professorships, and marine research. He served as Foundation treasurer until 2008, helping to grow its assets to more than $7 million. He also supports the annual Art Auction at VIMS.

Dean and Director John Wells praises Acuff’s financial savvy, saying his “unparalleled investment knowledge has helped us to grow our endowment assets during a period of deep uncertainty in financial markets. The Foundation’s growth builds largely on Marshall’s guidance and wisdom.”

Giving Highlights

Private Giving Provides a Margin of Excellence for Students and Programs

All state institutions of higher education, including VIMS and the College of William and Mary, face major challenges as state funding decreases. VIMS now relies for more than half of its $45.7 million annual budget on grants from federal and other government agencies and from private individuals, foundations, and corporations.

VIMS receives private support and gifts directly and also through the VIMS Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization comparable to other foundations affiliated with higher education institutions. In FY2008, VIMS and the VIMS Foundation received 432 gifts totaling $1,105,460. Of this, $700,944 came to the VIMS Foundation. In addition, the VIMS Art Auction netted more than $75,000 to support student research.

While still fledgling, the total assets of the VIMS Foundation have grown to $7.7 million as of June 30, 2008. For its investments, the VIMS Foundation now participates in the William and Mary Investment Trust (WAMIT), which it joined in December of 2007. This vehicle is available to all foundations affiliated with the College of William and Mary. The boards of these foundations work with professional staff to manage these invested funds for long-term results. WAMIT’s rates of return regularly exceed set benchmarks. The five-year rate of return for its portfolio was 12.2 percent (annualized) through June 30, 2008.

Many of our new endowments focus on student fellowships. Profiles of some of our student fellows (pp. 20-21) highlight how important these fellowships are for their experience in the School of Marine Science.

The last fiscal year saw an increase in gifts from the regional corporate community including SunTrust, Ferguson Enterprises, the Norfolk Dredging Company, Philip Morris USA, Riverside Health System, and Bluewater Yacht Sales, among others. The Norfolk Southern Foundation also continued its leadership support for the Institute to acquire scientific instrumentation.

Our faculty continues to garner recognition nationally and internationally as outlined elsewhere in this report. Our graduates take leadership roles in academia, national and state agencies such as EPA and NOAA, state natural resource departments, and the private sector.

Our donors support this collective talent, and thus help to identify problems and solutions for our marine environment. We deeply appreciate the gifts of all our donors for the Annual Fund, the Auction, and for major projects and endowments. We are grateful to all the volunteers on various VIMS Boards and Committees who help us reach out to new friends. Thank you to all our donors!

Norfolk Dredging

A $150,000 gift from the Norfolk Dredging Co to the VIMS Foundation is helping Institute researchers advance their studies of seafloor history and ecology via purchase of a high-tech instrument designed to record environmental data from seafloor sediment cores.

The device, a Geotek® core logger, will help VIMS scientists study past climates, seafloor erosion, and the bottom-dwelling communities that nurture marine food webs. The instrument is housed in Andrews Hall’s Norfolk Dredging Laboratory.

Norfolk Dredging President Dudley Ware says the gift was a natural fit given his company’s long history of marine-related enterprise. Says Ware, “Helping to advance environmental research at VIMS is a natural extension of our continuing efforts to meet society’s commercial and transportation needs in an environmentally sound manner.”

Norfolk Dredging Company has been a leader in marine dredging since 1899.
SunTrust Mid-Atlantic Foundation
A 5-year, $100,000 grant from SunTrust Mid-Atlantic Foundation to the VIMS Foundation will establish an endowed fellowship for graduate students enrolled in the School of Marine Science. Bernard Ngo, City President SunTrust Bank-Gloucester, says “We’re extremely pleased to support VIMS’ research and education mission through a student fellowship. We also recognize the importance of all ages learning about our natural world through events like Marine Science Day.”

David Meeker, Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of Ferguson and a member of the VIMS Council, says, “For all of us in Hampton Roads, stewardship of marine resources is vital. That’s why Ferguson is so pleased to support VIMS’ education and public outreach. The gift will create an endowed fellowship in the School of Marine Science at VIMS, and will support the Institute’s annual Marine Science Day open house.

SunTrust Bank-Hampton Roads is part of SunTrust Banks, Inc., one of the nation’s largest banking organizations.

Ferguson Enterprises
Ferguson Enterprises of Newport News gave $75,000 to the VIMS Foundation in support of graduate student education and public outreach. The gift will create an endowed fellowship in the School of Marine Science at VIMS, and will support the Institute’s annual Marine Science Day open house.

David Meeker, Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of Ferguson and a member of the VIMS Council, says, “For all of us in Hampton Roads, stewardship of marine resources is vital. That’s why Ferguson is so pleased to support VIMS’ education and public outreach. The gift will create an endowed fellowship in the School of Marine Science at VIMS, and will support the Institute’s annual Marine Science Day open house.

SunTrust Bank-Hampton Roads is part of SunTrust Banks, Inc., one of the nation’s largest banking organizations.

Philip Morris
A $46,000 grant from the Philip Morris USA Environmental Contributions Program is helping researchers with the Center for Coastal Resources Management (CCRM) at VIMS to create a water budget for the York River watershed.

Project results, expected in June 2009, will provide guidance for creating the many other watershed plans needed to fulfill Virginia’s current legislative mandate to develop a comprehensive water resources strategy for the Commonwealth.

The focus of the statewide plan will be to ensure a steady future supply of clean drinking water. The VIMS project extends this focus to other concerns, including maintaining the minimum fresh water flows needed to sustain habitat quality in tidewater rivers, accounting for possible climate-change impacts, and providing for non-consumptive, economically important uses like recreation.

CCRM Director Carl Hershner says “Philip Morris’s gift will enhance water supply planning in Virginia by helping us to develop a best-available assessment of these issues for the York River watershed, and then to share this knowledge with planners statewide.”

Ty Murray, Director of Environmental Compliance for Philip Morris’ parent company, Altria Group Inc. says “We’re delighted to be able to assist VIMS in its efforts to help Virginia manage its natural resources, particularly in regards to water, one of the most precious resources we have.”
DuPlantier Gift
A gift from Adrian G. DuPlantier and First Advantage Federal Credit Union supported undergraduate research at the Palmer Long-term Ecological Research site in Antarctica.

Offield Family Foundation
The Offield Family Foundation made a grant of $100,000 to the VIMS Foundation for Professor John Graves’ blue marlin tagging program.

Garland & Agnes Taylor Gray Foundation
A $10,000 gift from the Garland and Agnes Taylor Gray Foundation supported Professor Rob Hale’s work on biosolids.

Norfolk Southern
The Norfolk Southern Foundation continued its leadership support with a final payment on a three-year $150,000 pledge towards a mass spectrometer that will be used in VIMS research, including a project by Professor Rebecca Dickhut to identify organic pollutants in the Antarctic marine food web. Dickhut and her students will use mass spectrometers to measure chemical signals in marine organisms to provide insight into dietary preferences and feeding ecology of seabirds and marine mammals. Dickhut says the Norfolk Southern gift will allow students to learn important research techniques.

John Graves

Professor Rebecca Dickhut extracts an ice core during her study of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Antarctic ice.

W&M senior Miram Gleiber (L) and VIMS Master’s student Glaucia Fragoso (R). The pair worked with Professor Deborah Steinberg (C).
Fellowships and awards for students in the School of Marine Science at VIMS recognize and reward the qualities and accomplishments—including commitment, initiative, scholarship, and interdisciplinary research—that lead to success in graduate school and subsequent careers.

**VIMS Council Fellowship**

Steven Baer, Ph.D. Candidate  
Faculty Advisor Deborah Bronk  
Competition for nutrients at the base of the food chain and its effect on biogeochemical cycles  

“*Being involved with the Council has given me access to a network of regional business leaders, widening my understanding of VIMS’ core mission.*”

**Beazley Fellowship**

Mark Henderson, Ph.D. Candidate  
Faculty Advisor Mary Fabrizio  
The movements and population dynamics of summer flounder in Chesapeake Bay.

**Juliette B. & Carroll W. Owens, Sr. Fellowship**

Lynn Waterhouse, M.S. Candidate  
Faculty Advisor John Hoenig  
An assessment of biomass measures for better management of the queen conch fishery.

**Ferguson Enterprises Fellowship**

Christina Pondell, M.S. Candidate  
Faculty Advisor Elizabeth Canuel  
The effects of dams and land-use changes on the global carbon budget.

**Barbara & Harry Hager Fellowship**

Matthew Whalen, M.S. Candidate  
Faculty Advisor J Emmett Duffy  
The role of crustacean grazers in natural seagrass communities  

“*Barbara and Harry Hager are wonderful people who truly care about Chesapeake Bay and supporting higher education. I cannot thank them enough for their support.*”

**SunTrust Fellowship**

Andrew Wozniak, Ph.D. Candidate  
Faculty Advisors James Bauer & Rebecca Dickhut  
Aerosol carbon in the York and Hudson River watersheds  

“The funds from the SunTrust Fellowship have been a huge help to my work. I trust that the work I produce now and in the future show that this donation was a worthwhile investment.”
Hunter B. Andrews, Jr., Fellowships
Amanda Lawless, M.S. 2008
Faculty Advisor Rochelle Seitz
The effects of shoreline development and oyster-reef restoration on bottom-
dwelling communities in the Lynnhaven River.

“Cynthia Andrews [spouse of the late Hunter B. Andrews, Jr.] is an amazing
woman and conservationist. I cannot thank her enough for her generous
donations to help support VIMS’ aspiring scientists.”

Kristene Parsons, Ph.D. Candidate
Faculty Advisor Tracey Sutton
Top predators as regulatory elements for maintenance of productivity and
diversity in coastal systems

Wenda Ribeiro, Ph.D. Candidate
Faculty Advisor Kimberly Reece
A genetic comparison of norovirus strains from
agricultural runoff, wastewater treatment plants, and
oyster tissues.

Kathryn Sobocinski, Ph.D. Candidate
Faculty Advisor Robert Latour
The effects of fish predation on lower trophic levels in seagrass habitats.

Zeigler Fellowship
(Created by VIMS alumnus Charles Natale, Jr. to honor former Graduate
Dean John Zeigler)
Jessie Jarvis, Ph.D. Candidate
Faculty Advisor Kenneth Moore
Environmental factors in seagrass population dynamics.
### VIMS Foundation Financials


**Assets**

**Current Assets**
- Cash and cash equivalents: $819,144
- Due from Affiliate: $25,000
- Pledges receivable: $243,402

**Total Current Assets**: $1,087,546

**Other Assets**
- Pledges receivable: $291,326

**Total Assets**: $7,758,212

**Liabilities and Net Assets**
- Accounts payable: $1,173

**Net Assets**
- Unrestricted: $440,829
- Temporarily unrestricted: $3,068,420
- Permanently restricted: $4,247,790

**Total Net Assets**: $7,757,039

**AND NET ASSETS**: $7,758,212

#### Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2008

**Revenue, Gains, and Other Support**

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Contributions from The College of William &amp; Mary Foundation</td>
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<td>Contributions from other donors</td>
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<td>Net Investment Income (Loss)</td>
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**Total Revenue, Gains, and Other Support**: $83,766

**Expenses**

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**Total Expenses**: $301,228

**Change in Net Assets**

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<td>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</td>
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<td>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</td>
<td>$440,829</td>
<td>$3,068,420</td>
<td>$4,247,790</td>
<td>$7,757,039</td>
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VIMS’ 2008 Art Show and Auction, *Scenes from the Seas*, featured presentations and artwork by world-renowned marine artist and conservationist Guy Harvey. The Art Auction Committee enjoyed great success when the auction netted more than $75,000 to support student research at VIMS. A special thanks to the many sponsors listed on the following pages and to lead sponsors Riverside Health Systems, Bluewater Yachts, and the Owens Foundation.

The art show gave participants an opportunity to bid on selected works by Harvey, as well as trips, jewelry, boats, and other items from a diverse selection of leading artists.

Auction proceeds support research by many VIMS graduate students. For example, Kate Brodie is using auction funds to help predict damage from coastal storms; Dan Dutton to study bycatch issues in the Atlantic white marlin fishery; Erica Holloman to assess the risk of eating mercury-tainted seafood; and James Douglass to investigate the interaction between eelgrass beds, overfishing, and pollution.

**Art Auction Committee**

Mrs. Anne (Bootsie) McCracken, Chair  
Mrs. Candy Campbell, Co-Chair  
Ms. Ginny Lascara, Co-Chair  
Mrs. Tammy Bacot  
Mr. Hank Campbell  
Ms. Shannon C. Fedors  
Mrs. Katie Fitzgerald  
Mrs. Tish Grant  
Mr. Bill Hudgins  
Mrs. Jeannie Juraschek  
Dr. Maurice Lynch  
Dr. Robert Middleton

**Faculty Members**  
Dr. William DuPaul  
Dr. John Graves
Donors & Supporters

VIMS received gifts totaling $1,105,460 in fiscal year 2008 (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008). In addition, the VIMS Art Show and Auction raised more than $75,000 for student research. We sincerely thank all donors and recognize members of the Maury Society, who make leadership gifts of $1,000 or more, and VIMS Pathfinders, for their generous lifetime commitments to research, education, and advisory service in marine science.

Pathfinders

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science is proud to recognize the following individuals, corporations, and foundations that have generously supported its work with lifetime gifts of $100,000 or more.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Marshall Acuff, Jr.
The Honorable Hunter B. Andrews*
Mrs. Cynthia C. Andrews
Bank of America/NationsBank
Mr. Matthew T. Blackwood*
Bluewater Yacht Sales
Mr. Alex P. Burruss
Mrs. Mary Catlett Burruss
The Keith Campbell Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Catlett
Mr. John W. C. Catlett, Jr.
Chesapeake Corporation
David P. Clifford
CSX Corporation
Dominion Resources, Inc.
Fluor Foundation
Mr. Peter L. Foley
Friend of VIMS
Mrs. Inge Gläsel
Mr. Peter C. Gläsel*
Mr. Lewis L. Glucksman*
Mrs. Loretta Glucksman
Dr. and Mrs. Harry G. Hager, Jr.
Honeywell, Inc./AlliedSignal Foundation
Mrs. Ann Kauffman*
Mr. John P. D. Kauffman
Massey Foundation
Nature Conservancy
Norfolk Dredging Company
Norfolk Southern Corporation
Moses D. Nunnally Charitable Trust
Elis Olsson Memorial Foundation
Offield Family Foundation
Owens Foundation
Prizm Ace, Inc.
Rouse-Bottom Foundation
Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation
Southeastern Universities Research Association
The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Tullidge, Sr.
Dr. Willard A. Van Engel
Estate of Mr. and Mrs. Woodford G. Vaughan, Jr.*
Virginia Environmental Endowment
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Voorhees*
Mr. A. Thomas and Mrs. Page Hayden Young

* Deceased
2007-2008 Donors

The Maury Society, named for the “Pathfinder of the Seas” Matthew Fontaine Maury, recognizes donors who make an annual gift of $1,000 or more. This group of dedicated patrons helps VIMS to continue Maury’s tradition of scientific discovery.

$100,000 - $249,000
The Keith Campbell Foundation
Massey Foundation
Norfolk Dredging Company
Offield Family Foundation

$50,000 - $99,999
Dr. and Mrs. Harry G. Hager, Jr.
Norfolk Southern Foundation
The Philanthropic Collaborative

$25,000 - $49,999
Moses D. Nunnally Charitable Trust
Philip Morris USA
The Community Foundation

$10,000 - $24,999
AECW of The Community Foundation
Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. R. Bruce Bradley
Major H. Renwick Dunlap
Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.
The Gordinier Family
Garland and Agnes Taylor Gray Foundation
James A. Hixon, Esquire
The Honorable and Mrs. Edward M. Holland
Dr. John A. Musick
Owens Foundation
Robert and Kathleen Roper Family Fund of The Mathews Community Foundation
SunTrust Mid-Atlantic Foundation
Tidewater Research Foundation, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Tullidge, Sr.

$5,000 - $9,999
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Ms. Susan O. Barrick
Bluewater Yacht Sales

$1,000 - $2,499
Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Amory, III
Mrs. Cynthia C. Andrews
Anonymous
BB&T
Ms. Cynthia V. Bailey
Ballard Fish & Oyster Company, Inc.
Bass Pro Shops
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Bateman
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Birdsong, III
Black Dog Gallery
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Mr. Floyd Gottwald
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Guy Harvey Publishing, Inc.
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Mr. Stephen A. Johnsen and Dr. Barbara A. Johnsen
Ms. Kristin Klare
Lake Frances Marina, LTD.
Mr. Mark L. Lazarchef
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis H. Liberson
The Honorable and Mrs. John O. Marsh, Jr.
Mr. George J. McVey, Jr.
Dr. Robert W. Middleton

* Deceased
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<th>$500 - $999</th>
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<td>Anonymous</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. John Bryant</td>
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<td>Ms. Cyanne B. Crump</td>
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<td>Ms. Donna N. Givens</td>
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<td>Golden Horseshoe Country Club</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. Robert Emerson &amp; Family</td>
<td>Mrs. Suzann Wilson Matthews</td>
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<td>Mrs. Mary E. Peacock</td>
<td>Dr. and Mrs. John D. Milliman</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. William J. Strickland</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. Lorna C. Wass</td>
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Ms. Shannon Fedors
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This report includes donors whose gifts were received between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. We apologize for any errors or omissions, and hope you bring them to our attention. Please report corrections to Lisa Phipps, Office of Development, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, P. O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, VA 23062, (804) 684-7099, lcphip@vims.edu.
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<th>REVENUE</th>
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<td>General Funds</td>
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<td>Non-general Funds</td>
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<td>Tuition and Other Funds</td>
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<td>Grants &amp; Contracts</td>
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<td>Private Funds</td>
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<td>$3,396,111</td>
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Dr. William Jennings Hargis Jr. served VIMS for nearly 50 years as Director, Dean of the School of Marine Science, researcher, policy advisor, mentor, and friend. During his tenure as Director (1962-1981), Hargis helped the Institute expand from a single building to a 40-acre campus with 11 laboratory and teaching buildings, a field laboratory on the Eastern Shore, and an international reputation.

A great friend of VIMS, Captain James Maury Werth supported VIMS and the College of William and Mary for nearly a quarter of a century. He helped establish the VIMS Council in 1984, and in 1989 endowed the Matthew Fontaine Maury Fellowship.

Dr. William J. Hargis and Captain J. Maury Werth
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If you are interested in supporting the marine research that unravels the mysteries of our environment and helps us better manage our natural resources, please consider an outright or planned gift to the VIMS Foundation. For further information or to discuss your programmatic interests, please call the VIMS Development office at 804-684-7107 or 804-684-7099.
Save the Date

Dedication of Andrews Hall and the Seawater Research Lab April 16, 2009
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