Kelley Watson Fellowship

The first Kelley Watson Fellowship was awarded to Wes Dowd, M.S. student, Dept. of Fisheries Science. The fellowship, which provides tuition and a stipend, is awarded on the basis of outstanding academic merit in the first year core courses. The fellowship was established in the spring of 2001 in memory of Masters student Kelley Watson. Fellow students and faculty recognized in Kelley an unusual degree of enthusiasm and commitment to marine science. “It is a great honor to have received a fellowship bearing Kelley’s name, yet simultaneously I am saddened to know that Kelley likely would have earned the fellowship because she exhibited all the attributes I aspire to in my scientific career,” says Dowd. Dowd is currently developing plans to conduct the bulk of his thesis research during the summer and fall of 2002. He will be addressing the role of the seasonal summer population of juvenile sandbar sharks in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem from a bioenergetic modeling approach. His thesis will focus on assessing the metabolic requirements (via oxygen consumption measurements) and daily ration necessary to support observed growth rates and activity of this predator in the Bay region.

VIMS Annual Fund Board Hosts Donor Day

Donor Day at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science was a day of celebration and recognition. On Saturday, September 22, VIMS Associates gathered in McHugh Auditorium. Dean and Director L. Donelson Wright welcomed the group and thanked them for their “continuing support and involvement.” He announced receipt of approximately $1.2 million in gifts from corporations, foundations, and individuals in FY 2001. “These gifts are critical to our mission to support research, education, and advisory services in marine science,” Wright said.

Annual Fund Board President John Dayton awarded the first VIMS Associates Scholarship to Lawrence Carpenter, a Ph.D. student. Carpenter spent 20 years as a professional fire fighter in London, before retiring after an injury. After a year of intensive college science courses, he began his study of Marine Biology at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. In September of 1999, he came to VIMS as a Ph.D. student. Carpenter is especially interested in the study of deep-sea equipment. In February, he will be in the Antarctic working with underwater high-tech video production and he hopes to investigate internal waves in the Gulf of Maine in 2002.