

September 4, 2015

Dear Ms. Shear,

Because you care deeply for the Chesapeake Bay, I'm reaching out to share my story and ask for your continued support for an institution that we're both passionate about — the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS).

I spent two summers interning at VIMS during high school, studying the population dynamics of blue crabs in a newly constructed wet lab and in local marshes. I enjoyed the time spent in and on the water, sunburns and jellyfish stings included, and I was impressed by the dedication of the staff and students. Today I continue to be amazed at the advances in science generated at VIMS and at their effects on marine policy and management decisions.

While I didn't end up becoming a marine scientist, as President of the VIMS Foundation, I help advance the groundbreaking work at VIMS by making sure that it has the resources needed to continue to make an impact. **That's why I'm asking you to please consider renewing your support by making a gift of \$50 to the VIMS Impact Fund today.**

In the 20 years since my internship, VIMS science has jumpstarted Virginia's clam industry, sparked the recovery of wild oysters and the rapid growth of oyster aquaculture, and pioneered incredible advances in predicting storm surges and coastal erosion. And the work has not stopped there. VIMS scientists are working on the water and in the lab every day to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay and the safety of coastal communities. Some examples include:

- Professor Harry Wang's breakthrough work to model storm-related flooding on a street-by-street basis will significantly increase community disaster preparedness.
- Coastal property owners and city managers will find the Tidewatch network a vital resource for predicting dangerous high tides as hurricane season unfolds.
- Scott Hardaway combines an understanding of water quality, habitat preservation, coastal hazards and property loss to develop shoreline management practices that reduce erosion.

These projects — and many others — are made possible by the generous support of friends like you who care about the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia's coastal way of life, and the health of all of our waters.

Your continued generosity directly impacts VIMS' ability to educate students, conduct groundbreaking research, and put the highest quality science in the hands of policymakers.

From one VIMS supporter to another, I thank you in advance for your generous contribution.

Sincerely,



A. Travis Massey
President, VIMS Foundation Board of Directors

P.S. VIMS depends on the partnership of friends like you. **Please help by returning a generous gift of \$50 to support the VIMS Impact Fund today. Simply mail the enclosed gift ticket or visit www.vims.edu/impactvims to make a secure gift online.**

**SCIENCE FOR THE BAY
IMPACT FOR THE WORLD**

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