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75 high school students spread their wings at Blue Heron Bowl

From staff reports

Earlier this month, 17 high school teams from across the state came to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington's Center for Marine Science to compete in the National Ocean Sciences Bowl, locally called the Blue Heron Bowl. The Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education, a federal agency, sponsors a bowl in each state.

Each member of the winning team, East Carteret High School in Beaufort, won a laptop computer, a \$1,000 scholarship to N.C. State University (if they attend the school) and an all-expenses paid trip to the national finals April 23-25 in San Diego. Their coach, Barbara Waters, received a scholarship to the National



COURTESY OF UNCW

The four-person teams would confer before submitting their answers.

Marine Educators Conference July 19-23 and a weekend getaway package at the Wilmington Hilton Riverside.

"The winning teams on the national level will be awarded college scholarships," said UNCW MarineQuest director Diane Talley, who oversaw the statewide program along with Ron Sizemore, associate director for the marine science center; and Nancy Elden, assistant director for MarineQuest.

About 275 people attended the event at the marine science center's Dobo Hall, including 85 students, their coaches and many parents. The previous evening, participants were treated to a tour and catered dinner at the N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher.

Local high schools taking part were Ashley High under coach Sandie Cecelski, Hoggard under coach Valerie Dugan and Cape Fear Academy under coach Judy Gibson. About 45 volunteers officiated the quiz bowl-style format.

Individual teams practiced after school from September through February, learning hundreds of facts to prepare for the competition.

In North Carolina, the bowl rotates every two years among UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. State and UNCW, which will host it again in 2004.

Other teams were from Falls



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The East Carteret winning team: Tommy Gillikin (front) and Jonathan Carawan (from left), Zack Dixon, coach Barbara Waters, Chris Wheat and Roger Allen Conner.

Road Baptist Church School in Rocky Mount, John Holmes in Edenton, Myers Park in Charlotte, Raleigh Charter School, S.W. Guilford in High Point, St. Mary's in Raleigh, Walter Williams in Burlington, Washington High in Washington and West Lincoln in Lincolnton.

Other top finishers were Myers Park, which won Palm Pilots for its

second place, Washington High in third, Raleigh Charter in fourth and John Holmes for Best Sportsmanship.

IKA Works awarded participating teams \$650 worth of science equipment for each of their schools.

For more information about next year's bowl or the UNCW Center for Marine Science programs, call 962-2386.