By David Nutter

NASA’s digital mapping of the Earth’s surface and its willingness to share that information with the faculty and students at Virginia Tech and other universities will be the focus of a half-day program on Tuesday, Feb. 29.

The program begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center and will end at 12:30 p.m. The program is free and open to all interested persons.

“DEVELOP, the Digital Earth Virtual Environment and Learning Outreach Project, is designed to take the data NASA has generated from its global-survey initiative and put that out to people and develop new ways to use it,” said John Gullابath, an assistant professor in crop and soil environmental sciences and project leader.

“This project is like the Internet. We don’t yet know today how this information will be used tomorrow,” Gullabath said. “We want to tap into the creativity, talent, and innovation of the faculty members, students and staff members at Virginia Tech to explore how this data can be used to benefit society.”

The symposium is sponsored by the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences (http://clic.ces.vt.edu) and the Virginia Tech Office of Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing program (OGIS) (http://www.fw.vt.edu/ogis/).

Information about the DEVELOP program can be reached at DEVELOP (http://develop.arc.nasa.gov).

Students from Virginia Tech CAVE student user group will participate in the program to talk about ways to utilize the NASA data in a virtual environment.

(See DIGITAL EARTH on 4)

By Ralph Beers,
director of government relations

As the 2000 General Assembly passed its halfway mark, the so-called money committees met on February 20 to unveil their recommendations for changes and additions to the Governor James Gilmore’s introduced budget. Transportation, mental health, and teacher’s salaries were considered the priority issues for additional funding.

For higher education, this meant modest increases over Gilmore’s recommendations. For example, the Senate Finance Committee recommended $27 million in increased operating support for all of higher education for the two year period. $11.8 million of this was directed to community-college workforce training, leaving about $15 million per year to be divided among the 16 other institutions.

Both the House and Senate chose to increase faculty salaries above the 2.4 percent recommended by Gilmore, to an average of 3.5 percent across the system. This is expected to keep institutions at the 60th percentile of their peer groups. The Senate also recommended an increase in classified employees’ salaries to reach the 3.5 percent level.

The House did not address this issue but recommended certain benefit increases for state workers.

A major difference between the House and the Senate for higher education is the treatment of capital outlay. The Senate recommended about $103 million in General Fund support for capital outlay, including $10 million to continue the Upper Quad project at Virginia Tech.

The House, on the other hand, has adopted a bill calling for a General Obligation Bond of about $100 million for higher education that would be approved by the voters in the fall. This bill includes $15 million for the Upper Quad and $15.5 million for the Livestock Teaching Arena.

For the past several years the Senate has declined to approve similar bond proposals. There were a number of differences between the House and Senate operating proposals for Virginia Tech. The major amendment on both sides is for critical operating support; the Senate includes $1.5 million per year; the corresponding figure in the House is $1.1 million. Amendments funded on both sides included the Equine Medical Center ($200,000 per year), the Center for Coal and Energy Research ($75,000 per year), and Agriculture Specialists ($50,000 per year).

Amendments funded only by the House included student financial aid ($1.8 million for the bursary), the Equine Medical Center ($200,000 for the bursary), and a study commission on rural prosperity ($150,000 for the bursary).

The House also included the money committee report for Virginia Tech. (See MONEY on 4)

By Susan Trulove

More than 400 students from six regional elementary schools will be visiting campus Thursday, March 2 to participate in Virginia Tech’s first National Reading Day program. Coordinated through the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (OSFA), the event is designed to bring together elementary-school students and university faculty and staff members and students for a day of reading and other activities.

“We want to promote the fact that reading is fun and impress upon them the practical applications of reading,” said Holly Schoenhoff, OSFA federal work-study coordinator.

Dozens of volunteers from the campus community will be participating in the event, which will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Owens Banquet Hall. These include members of the Corps of Cadets, student athletes, Alpha Phi sorority, the Key Club, Circle K, the Alumni Association, and many faculty and staff members.

“We are so pleased with the depth and breadth of activities that will be taking place,” Schoenhoff said. “Interest within the campus community has been overwhelming.”

Volunteers, including a number of student athletes, will read and interact with the students. Other activities will include making bookmarks, sock puppets, and a storybook quilt.

The event is being organized and conducted by members of the Virginia Tech America Reads/Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD). Based at Virginia Tech, the NDLTD is an initiative to increase the availability of student research for scholars and to preserve it electronically. The organization has an international membership of 78 universities/libraries.

For more information, contact Keith Hevey at 552-8314 or Jennifer Erfing at 553-3079.

(See MIT on 4)

(See page 3 for News Commentary.)
By Catherine Doss

Virginia Gordon, nationally known expert on developmental advising in higher education, will speak at Tuesday, February 29, at 1:30 p.m. in 150 Squires. The presentation is free and open to all faculty members and advisors.

Gordon is a former president of the National Academic Advising Association and writes extensively on developmental and career advising. She is an adjunct associate professor in the College of Education at Ohio State University, where she teaches undergraduate- and graduate-level courses in vocational theory and practice, academic advising, and adult education. She supervises instructors of academic and career-planning courses for undergraduate students. Among her many publications, she co-authored the textbook used for the course.

The concept of developmental advising focuses on facilitating students to become more independent by advising them on a variety of issues in addition to helping them plan their academic course of study.

Gordon’s visit is part of the university’s on-going focus on enhancing undergraduate student advising. Her visit is sponsored by the Office of the Provost, University Studies, and the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

For more information, contact Cheryl Clark at 1612 CC or by e-mail at clarkch@vt.edu.

Gallaudet dancers to perform

By Catherine Doss

The Gallaudet Dance Company (GDC) will perform “Forty-five Years of Deaf Dance,” Sunday, March 5 at 2 p.m. in Squires Haymarket Theatre. The performance is free and open to the public on a first-come, first-served seating basis.

The GDC is a performing group of 15 dancers who are all students at Gallaudet University, the world’s only accredited liberal arts university for deaf and hard of hearing. These services include interpreting and sensory loss services at Virginia Tech, visit http://www.dos.vt.edu/SSD/default.html.
### Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classified Positions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheet Metal Worker, 7562C, Grade 7,Physical Plant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Programs Coordinator, LC063D, Grade 12, Alumni Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Banquet/Setup (Foa-b), W02143G, Grade 2, DBHCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Secretary, W022984T, Grade 6, University Leadership Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housekeeping Worker, W022490H, Grade 1, Residential and Dining Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Services Assistant, 10797, Office 4, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Services Specialist, W022860L, Grade 5, University Registrar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Support Technician, W022188T, Grade 6, AIS/HRIS Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Relations Assistant Specialist/Web Designer, W022976H, Grade 8, Residential and Dining Programs/Marketing/Conference Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radiologic Technologist, W020838K, Grade 7, Health Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trader/Utilities Worker (Trades Helper), W022066H, Grade 3, Residential/Dining Programs/Facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>University Only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Command Pilot, U2129T, Grade 14, Off Campus</td>
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### Classified Positions

- **Housekeeping Supervisor**: 7571G, Grade 4, Physical Plant

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### News Commentary

**An Inclusive Graduate Community**

*Editor’s note: In last week’s issue, Spectrum reported that Virginia Tech has been recognized for the number of doctoral degrees it has conferred on African Americans, Alaska Natives, American Indians, and Hispanics. The following commentary discusses the on-going implications of diversity in the graduate community.*

By Benjamin Dixon, vice president for multicultural affairs and Leonard K. Peters, vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School

Discussions of diversity in higher education have taken several paths over the last couple of decades. Description designations, which have been neither precise nor precisely analogous, have included diversity, multiculturalism, affirmative action, inclusiveness, etc. We think the phrase “inclusive academic community” captures the essence of a vision and a goal, one that is based on equity, fairness, and integrity.

The Council of Graduate Schools, of which Virginia Tech is a member, noted in a policy statement on inclusiveness nearly three years ago that:

> “Inclusive diversity has become a major topic of discussion for higher education. In California, the Regents of the University of California have excluded race and gender as factors in admission. In Maryland, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals eliminated race-based scholarships. In Texas, the Hopwood decision in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals barred the use of race as a factor in admission decisions. These and related decisions have serious implications for universities in other states. Polls conducted in several large cities have shown widespread support for some kind of approach to equity that does not involve preferences or quotas. Affirmative action, previously an issue that received broad and bipartisan political support nationally, has become a factor that can affect local and national elections.”

But the most obvious reasons for diversity, as far as we as researchers and scholars are concerned are the contributions that individuals with different experiences and perspectives bring to the breadth and quality of our scholarship. There are significant examples of this. The physics community in the United States benefited enormously from the influx of minority communities and were relegated to predominantly white institutions is a person of color.” For the sake of our future generations, we must take advantage of the talent pool, not just those from majority groups. But the most obvious reasons for diversity, as far as we as researchers and scholars are concerned are the contributions that individuals with different experiences and perspectives bring to the breadth and quality of our scholarship. There are significant examples of this. The physics community in the United States benefited enormously from the influx of minority communities and were relegated to predominantly white institutions is a person of color.”

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### Inclusive Grad Survey

- **Spectrum**: a faculty-staff tabloid, is published each Friday during the academic year with the exception of winter break, exam weeks, and the summer. Copy deadline is 12 p.m. (noon) on the Wednesday prior to publication.

### News Commentary

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English colloquy series scheduled

By Sally Harris

The Virginia Tech English Department Colloquy Series has been scheduled for Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at 120 Williams (unless otherwise noted), with speakers as follows:

April 6: Bruce Watson, instructor in the Department of English, will discuss "The Deterministic Ghost in the Machine of Ted Hughes's Birthday Letters."

April 10: Bradley Lewis, English and Science and Technology Studies, will discuss "Should Ivanov Listen to Prozac? Or The Cultural Politics of Biopsychurgy?" Monday, April 10, at 4 p.m. in DBCRC room C.

April 13: Mihaela Constantinescu, visiting professor of English from the University of Bucharest, will be announced. Topic to be announced.

April 20: Len Scigaj, professor of English, will discuss "The Deterministic Ghost in the Machine of Ted Hughes's Birthday Letters."

For more information, visit the website http://english.vt.edu/college/colloquy or call David Teomney of the English department at 1-8556.

High-school students sponsored

By Sally Harris

The Virginia Tech Educational Talent Search Program sponsored 13 high-school students to the National Black Student Leadership Development Conference in Richmond in January.

The Stuart Educational Leadership Group Inc. sponsored the conference. Students attended workshops on Natural Language, Combating Teen Violence, and Achieving Your Dream, as well as workshops on SAT preparation and scholarship searches. The students also participated in discussion groups, on one on Brother to Brother and one on Girl to Woman: Who is She?

For more information, contact Thomas G. Wilson, director of Talent Search/Upward Bound at Virginia Tech, at 1-691 or e-mail tgwilson@vt.edu.

INCLUSIVE

By Jeffrey Douglas

In our own history is not that of just the majority group in our society. One research area where the importance of diversity is immediately evident to all of us is medical research. Our knowledge of disease, disease treatment, and health promotion profits from women and minority groups in the research force. These groups have an interest in and understanding of health problems unique to women and other under-represented groups. In the case of minority students, we should strive at a moment the long-held emphasis on Western civili-

Department of Marketing ranked twentieth in articles

By Sonkhun Ho

The Department of Marketing was ranked 20th in a quantitative survey of articles authored by faculty members in five major marketing journals during the 1984-99 period. The list compiles 175 schools, primarily universities in the United States, but it included institutions in Canada, Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Middle East.

Department Head Kent Nakamoto said the survey, conducted by Joe Cote, a Washington State University professor, “is a simple tally of articles, with no adjustment made for the size of the faculty.” Still, he added, “I was pleased to see our strong placement, particularly in view of the quality of the schools ranked ‘near us.’”

The department had 53 published articles; the University of Pennsylvania led with 150, and Nakamoto said each author received credit for an article unless more than one author was at the same school, in which case the school was counted only once. Also, the school affiliation listed in the article for each author was used, regardless of where the author now teaches.


Two Vet Med professors honored

By Jeffrey Douglas

Two former classmates who ended up working side-by-side as veterinary surgeons in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences recently received Young Achievers awards from Virginia Tech’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

Rick Howard, assistant professor, and David Moll, associate professor, received two of the three awards that were presented to selected members of the graduating class of 1989. The award recognizes both professional achievement and contributions to the society.

Howard received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Kentucky and his DVM from Auburn University. He received his master’s degree and Ph.D. from Colorado State University and had an internship with the Missouri State-Columbia.

Moll has written 60 publications and has attracted more than $250,000 in sponsored-research funding. He is currently on the editorial review boards for Veterinary Surgery and for the American Journal of Veterinary Research. He also served as an ad hoc reviewer for Equine Veterinary Science.

Moll received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Arkansas and his DVM from Kansas State University. He earned his master’s degree from Auburn University, where he also worked as a clinical instructor and research associate in large animal clinical surgery and medicine.

Moll is the co-author of 50 refereed journal articles, author or co-author of seven book chapters, and is the co-editor of a textbook. Moll is a member of the Faculty Senate at Virginia Tech and participates in the faculty mentoring program. He is also the faculty advisor for the student chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. His research interests include pro-papillary lesions, gastro-intestinal surgery, lameness, and tendon implantation in black bears.

MONEY

Continued from 1

language to facilitate the development of distance-learning programs.

For the 229 Division, the Plan to Serve Virginia, bringing an interest in Human, and Natural Resources received $59,000 per year in the House and $300,000 per year from the Senate. The Senate added $55,000 per year for the CFAST (seafood) program; the House included $25,000 for the Amelia County Extension office.

Both House and Senate included language modifying the governor’s mandate for institutions to develop institutional-performance agreements. Instead, each institution will develop a strategic plan setting out its goals and agreements. Instead, each institution will develop a strategic plan setting out its goals and agreements. Instead, each institution will develop a strategic plan setting out its goals and agreements. Instead, each institution will develop a strategic plan setting out its goals and agreements.

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VMRCVM builds academic exchange relationships

By Jeffrey Douglas

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) continues to build relationships with veterinary colleges throughout the Americas through several academic agreements and its World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Veterinary Education in Management and Public Health.

Academic exchange agreements with the University of Austin Valdavia are also gaining momentum, according to Gerhardt Schurig, a professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathology.

Five South American veterinary students have studied in Blacksburg as part of the program, Schurig said, and recently, the first VMRCVM fourth-year student spent six weeks studying at the University of Austin.

“Our goal is to exchange six students each year,” Schurig said, adding that financial aid is available to assist students who wish to participate.

A South American veterinarian is now conducting a residency program in large animal medicine on the Blacksburg campus, he said, and several faculty members have been involved in academic exchange programs.

Blacksburg- and Leesburg-based faculty and staff members who have collaborated with the University of Austin College of Veterinary Medicine include Larry Freeman, Marty Moon, Nat White, Scott Pleasant, and Chris Wakely.

The college’s World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Veterinary Management and Public Health seeks to improve animal and human health throughout the Americas through several veterinary education throughout the Americas, Caribbean Basin, according to Schurig.

INCLUSIVE

By Jeffrey Douglas

Continued from 3

ment the long-held emphasis on Western civili-

zuance Sciences, and Pathobiology.

The Stuart Educational Leadership Group In-