Department of Geography
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

The meetings of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers will be held November 18-20, in Nashville, Tennessee. Several faculty of the department will participate. We should be particularly interested in the logistics and organization of this year's SEAAG meeting since we will host the 1980 meetings in Blacksburg.

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Prof. Stephens has just returned from a month in Sweden where he was affiliated with the department of human geography at the University of Stockholm and also a regional planning institute ("Nordplan") concerned with population distribution policy for Scandinavia.

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Faculty are reminded to give Tom Park copies of their publication reprints which will be kept for graduate students in the Spatial Analysis Laboratory.

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The department's first colloquium of the year is Friday, October 5, at 3 p.m. in Room 252, Henderson Hall. The speaker is Dr. Richard Palmieri of Mary Washington College. Dr. Palmieri is a specialist in the biogeography of South Asia.

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Jane requests that graduate students give her their Blacksburg addresses and telephone numbers.

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A departmental faculty meeting will be held Friday, September 28th, at 3:15 p.m.
DIFFUSION - October 8, 1979

Department of Geography
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

The departmental colloquium series continues this Friday, October 12th when Prof. Susan Woodward of Radford University will lecture about the "Origin of the Domestic Ass." On October 19th Donald Daidone, Assistant Social Science Librarian at Virginia Tech, will discuss "The Library of Congress Summer Map Project."

Please note a time change. Beginning with Prof. Woodward's presentation, colloquia will begin at 3:30 p.m.

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Prof. MacEachren's dissertation, "Communication Effectiveness of Choropleth and Isopleth Maps: The Influence of Visual Complexity," has been formally bound and deposited at the University of Kansas library.

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On Thursday, October 11th Prof. Richardson will present a lecture entitled "Livelihood Mobility and Environmental Uncertainty in the Eastern Caribbean" for the USAID development studies program in Washington.

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Beginning this week Geography 5010 (History and Philosophy of Geography) will meet in the Henderson Hall conference room (252) rather than in McBryde Hall.

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We are reminded to be particularly careful while using resistance heaters (coffee pots, coils, etc.) in Henderson Hall. Above all, please be sure that these items are turned off before going home.

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The Placement Services Bulletin in the "Career Information" portion of the departmental bulletin board lists a number of geography-oriented positions pertinent to both graduate and undergraduate students.
The 1979-80 edition of the Guide to Graduate Departments of Geography in the United States and Canada has been received. Our program is described on pp. 216-217. A new feature of this year's guide is a listing of completed thesis and dissertation titles for each department for the past year.


Prof. Morrill has been selected to participate in an NSF-sponsored course for college teachers dealing with "Cognition and Teaching" which will be held on the University of Georgia campus on October 29-30 and February 25-26.

The department's visiting lecturer series continues this Friday, October 26th, when Dr. Russell B. Capelle, Jr., of Old Dominion University and the U.S. Department of Transportation will discuss "Current Research Directions at the U.S. Department of Transportation." On Monday, October 29th, Dr. Pentti Yli-Jokipii of the University of Turku, Finland, will speak about regional development in Scandinavia. On November 2, Dr. Robert B. McNee of the University of Cincinnati and former director of the American Geographical Society will speak on "Our Environment and the Multinational Corporation."

Faculty textbook orders for the Winter Quarter are past due. Prof. Brooker-Gross attended a recent meeting for departmental bookstore representatives and has further information about ordering books.

An article in the September, 1979 Annals attacking "Behavioral and Perceptual Geography" has led to unusually spirited discussion among several faculty members.
November 5, 1979

DIFFUSION

Prof. Grossman periodically sends used clothing to villagers in Papua New Guinea. He would appreciate any donations.

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The new (1980-81) graduate catalog is available in Sandy Hall. Faculty should receive copies soon in campus mail. The geography program is described on pp. 98-99.

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Several faculty members are involved in the Southeast Division AAG meetings in Nashville, Tennessee, November 18-20. Prof. Morrill has arranged to take a university vehicle to the meetings.

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Profs. MacEachren and Campbell are attending the Fourth International Symposium on Computer-Assisted Cartography in Reston, Virginia, this week. Prof. Campbell is delivering a paper there entitled "Automated Production of a Large Scale Thematic Atlas."

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The department's next visiting speaker will be Dr. Brian Holly of Kent State University speaking about "Office Geography: Implications for Urban Development" on the afternoon of November 15th.

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Prof. Good has recently attended the annual meetings of the African Studies Association in Los Angeles.
November 26, 1979

DIFFUSION

A one-page flyer describing the department’s graduate program for 1980-81 has been printed and mailed to a number of geography departments in Virginia and around the country. If you see either Prof. Morrill or Prof. Richardson if you know of departments or individuals to whom this flyer should be sent.

Prof. MacEachren will talk about "Cognitive Distance: Its Place Within Environmental Perception" on Friday, November 30th, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 252, Henderson Hall. This is the last of our Fall Quarter colloquium series.

Prof. Campbell has been named to a committee of the National Cooperative Soil Survey dealing with the utility of soil survey information. The NCSS is affiliated with the United States Department of Agriculture.

Prof. Richardson has been invited to give a paper in a session concerning "Return Migration to the Caribbean" at the Caribbean Studies Conference in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, next May.

Summer jobs for geography graduate students are available with the Central Intelligence Agency. More specific information about this employment possibility has been placed in each graduate student's mailbox, and a flyer describing the program is posted in the "Career Information" area near the departmental office.

Prof. Grossman again requests donations of used clothing for villagers in Papua New Guinea.

Jane and Glenna remind faculty to prepare their final exams as early as possible to avoid a rush during final week.

This is the last Diffusion newsletter for 1979. Diffusion will next appear, at no increase in price, in the first week of the Winter Quarter, 1980.
The department welcomes Dr. Daniel Cooke, a recent Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee. During the winter quarter Dr. Cooke is offering two sections of cultural geography and the graduate course in economic geography.

Prof. Morrill is the recipient of two recent honors. He has been elected as a representative to the Faculty Senate by the faculty of the VPI & SU College of Arts and Sciences. He has also been named as chairman for Region VIII (NC, VA, WV, MD, DE, DC) of the Gildea Scholarship Selection Committee of the National Council for Geographic Education.

Prof. Good is scheduled to visit Tanzania this winter. He is involved in a rural development project there in conjunction with his assignment with AID.

Prof. Campbell recently assumed the office of Vice President of the Mathematical Geologists of the United States. MGS is a regional organization of the International Association of Mathematical Geologists.

Most graduate students in the department will be required to submit a formal Program of Study to the graduate school by the end of this quarter. The Program of Study is described on p. 18 of the 1980-81 Graduate Catalog. See p. 33 of the Graduate Manual for a sample Program of Study for M.S. candidates.
January 21, 1980

DIFFUSION

Dr. Melvin G. Marcus, a well-known physical geographer from Arizona State University and the department's Visiting Scholar, will arrive on January 30th and give public presentations on January 31st and February 1st. Professor Campbell is coordinating his visit and has planned time for Dr. Marcus to meet with both faculty and students.

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Professor Brooker-Gross reminds us that Spring Quarter book orders are due in the departmental office on January 30th.

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Dean Rachel Fordyce (X5114) has announced the possibility of a limited number of summer jobs for GTA's. Applications are due in her office by February 15th.

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Professor Mary Jane Hawthorne, a geographer at Virginia Commonwealth University, invites graduate student papers for the geography section of the Virginia social science meetings at Virginia Beach March 28-29. Papers are due mid-February. See either Professor Morrill or Professor Richardson for further information.

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Professor Morrill's article, "Counselors as Humanistic Education Teachers," has recently appeared in Vol. 7, no. 2 of the Virginia Personnel and Guidance Journal. He also has two articles forthcoming in the Special Publication Series of the National Alternative School Program at the University of Massachusetts, "Power in the Schools: Who Really Wants It?" and "An Alternative School for Teachers?"

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Professor Grossman thanks everyone for the used clothing he will send to New Guinea villagers.
Two visitors to the department this week will give colloquia in Henderson 252. Dr. Raymond Hubbard, a visiting lecturer at the University of Washington at Seattle, will talk about "Regression Analysis and the Modelling of Geographical Relationships" at 4:00 pm, Tuesday, February 19th. Mr. Thomas Naraffa, a Ph.D. candidate at Ohio State University, will discuss "External Commuting and the Urban Hinterland" at 4:00 pm, Thursday, February 21st.

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This evening, Monday, February 18th, "Viva Zapata" will be shown from 7-9 pm in McBryde 129. The film is for students in Geography 3200, but all geography students and faculty are welcome.

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Professor Fish is putting the final touches on his Ph.D. dissertation, "El Cultivo de Roza: Shifting Cultivation in a Dry Forest of Northwest Mexico" which has been accepted by the examining committee at the University of California at Berkeley.

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Undergraduate proseminar students will begin reporting their research proposals Friday, February 22nd, at 2 pm in McBryde 136.

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Graduate students are completing their program in study checklists. They should see Professor Richardson and Jane this week about completing the final versions.

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Gary Bryant, a recent graduate of the department, has visited us recently and reports that the Defense Mapping Agency is hiring a number of geography majors each month.
March 3, 1980

DIFFUSION

The department's next visiting speaker is Dr. Judy M. Olson, Associate Professor of Geography at Boston University. Dr. Olson will discuss "User-Oriented Cartographic Models" this Friday, March 7th, in 251 Henderson Hall at 4 pm.

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Professor Morrill's paper "Political Geography, Sketch Maps, and Introduction in Dyads," has been accepted by a British journal, Journal of Geography in Higher Education, and will be published next September.

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Professor Campbell's paper "Climatological Forecasts of Southern Pine Beetle Infestations," which he coauthored with Dr. Kenard Smith, will appear in a forthcoming number of the Southeastern Geographer.

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Professor Richardson has received a research grant from the Association of American Geographers for summer research in Barbados dealing with the ethnohistory of the West Indian labor force on the Panama Canal.

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Graduate students' programs of study (original and four copies) are due at the graduate school office this week. Graduate students are also reminded that incomplete grades become "F's" if not removed during their first subsequent quarter after the incomplete was awarded.

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Jane and Glenna request faculty to complete their final exams as soon as possible.

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Diffusion will next appear during the first week of the Spring Quarter.
The department's next visiting speaker is Dr. Arthur Getis who is head of the geography department at the University of Illinois at Urbana. Dr. Getis will speak about "Fundamentals of Geographic Inquiry: Interdependence and Space" in Room 251 of Henderson Hall at 4 p.m. on Friday, February 15th.

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Prof. Grossman has recently reviewed Paula Brown, Highland Peoples of New Guinea, for The Australian Geographer.

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Spring Quarter textbook orders are past due.

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Graduate students are reminded that drafts of their programs of study are due to Prof. Richardson by February 15th.

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The University of Delaware has just established a new Ph.D. program in Applied Science-Climatology.
March 24, 1980

DIFFUSION

Tom Maraffa, a specialist in urban geography and migration, from Ohio State University, has accepted an offer of appointment to join the department's faculty in September.

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Professor MacEachren's article, "Travel Time as the Basis of Cognitive Distance," The Professional Geographer, vol. 32, no. 1 (February, 1980), pp. 30-36 has just been published. Also Professor MacEachren recently gave a paper "Choropleth and Isopleth Map Complexity: Comparison and Measurement" at the 40th Annual Meeting of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping in St. Louis.

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Professor Morrill has been awarded an associateship in the Danforth Foundation Program designed to encourage and humanize both teaching and learning. The appointment is for six years and involves several conferences.

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Professor Richardson's article "Freedom and Migration in the Leeward Caribbean, 1838-1848" has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Historical Geography.

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The graduate school has recently issued a new "Policies and Procedures Manual" that is available at the graduate school office.
April 7, 1980

DIFFUSION

Dr. James R. Bohland, associate professor of geography at the University of Oklahoma, has been named chairman of the Undergraduate Urban Affairs Program at Virginia Tech. Dr. Bohland will assume this position in September.

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Professor MacEachren will receive the departmental certificate for outstanding teaching for academic year 1979-80.

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Several faculty and graduate students will attend the annual meetings of the Association of American Geographers in Louisville, April 13-16.

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The department's next visiting speaker is Dr. Peter Daniel of Liverpool University. Dr. Daniel will discuss "Policies for Office Relocation in Britain: Theory and Practice" in 251 Henderson at 4 pm, Thursday, April 17th.

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Professor Grossman recently attended a symposium of specialists who deal with development problems of Oceania. The meetings were in Galveston, Texas.

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The graduate student-faculty softball team, "Albedo," will play on field #3 in front of Burruss Hall on Thursday, April 10th, at 5:15 pm.
April 21, 1980

DIFFUSION

We are negotiating with several prospective graduate students for next year's class. Two have accepted graduate assistantships for Fall, 1980: Gary Green, BA from California State College, San Bernardino; and Gregory Johnson, BA from the University of Virginia.

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Professor Good will give an invited lecture at George Mason University on April 23rd.

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Dr. Henry Bauer, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will visit the geography department during the afternoon of April 28th.

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Steve Cherry has been awarded a quarter-time graduate assistantship by the Department of Sociology.

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Professor Campbell recently assumed duties as second deputy director of the Geography and Land Use Committee, Remote Sensing Applications Division, American Society of Photogrammetry. His duties will include reviewing manuscripts pertaining to remote sensing of land use.

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Don Daidone is seeking qualified applicants for hourly map work at the Carol Newman Library.

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April 22nd is the deadline for pre-registration for summer and fall classes.

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The departmental softball team, with a 1-1 season record, plays next on Thursday, May 1st.
May 5, 1980

DIFFUSION

Dr. Melinda Meade, a geographer at the Univ. of North Carolina, has been invited by the Virginia Tech microbiologists to give a seminar here on the incidence of cardiovascular disease in the southern United States. The joint geography-microbiology seminar will be held on the afternoon of Monday, May 19th.

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Prof. Richardson will give an invited paper, "The Origins and Continuity of Return Migration in the Leeward Caribbean," at the meetings of the Caribbean Studies Association in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, on May 8th.

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On May 1-2 Profs. Campbell and MacEachren took a group of students to Washington for a successful cartography/remote sensing field trip.

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Prof. Morrill has been elected to the Nominating Committee of the National Council for Geographic Education for 1980-81.

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The departmental softball team, with a 1-2 record, finishes the season this Thursday, May 8th.
The geography department's graduation program, honoring our graduating seniors—Kelley Brady, Littleton Dudley, Calvin Heath, David Smith, Karen Waldrop, David Campbell, Chuck Cash, and Gary Bryant—will be held in Rooms D and E of the Donaldson Brown Center immediately following the general university commencement exercises on Saturday, June 7th.

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The Virginia Tech Spectrum recently carried a story about Bob and Diane Morrill's appointments as associates of the Danforth Foundation.

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The most recent number of the East African Medical Journal, vol. 57 (May, 1980) includes an article by Charles Good and V. Kimani, "Urban Traditional Medicine: A Nairobi Case-Study."

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Jim Campbell will attend the national meetings of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, June 8-11 in Denver in his capacity as Vice-President of the Mathematical Geologists of the U.S.

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The departmental softball team finished the season with a 2-2 record, Dan Cooke emerging as a batting sensation.

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"Diffusion" will next appear in late September of this year. Please continue to put items of interest in the diffusion pigeonhole in the department office over the summer.