Robert Vincent, geology, shows satellite images of western Lake Erie taken July 1. As the satellite passed over, Michael McKay, biology, and University of Toledo faculty were sampling water from the lake to compare with the satellite data.

Satellite provides earlier look at events on land and sea

Pictures taken from the sky may reveal potential problems spots on earth long before they can be seen by the naked eye, according to Robert Vincent, geology. Vincent has just received a $109,000 grant from the NASA Glenn Research Center near Cleveland to conduct research on images taken by the LANDSAT 7 satellite as it passes over northwest Ohio and to demonstrate ways in which the information can be applied.

Vincent hopes the satellite images will eventually enable scientists to anticipate toxic algae blooms in Lake Erie, or head off developing wheat rust infestations in crops, for example. By using multispectral remote sensing, the satellite can detect a much subtler measure of the chemical composition of plants, soil and water than can visual perception.

The Earth Resources satellite passes over the area once every 16 days, recording images of “frames,” which are areas about 13,000 square miles on the ground. Bowling Green is about in the center of Vincent’s frame, which approximately extends east to Sandusky Bay, west to Defiance, north to Ann Arbor and south to Findlay.

This is the first time the geology department has gotten a NASA grant, Vincent said. An expert in remote sensing, he helped start OhioView, a consortium of eight Ohio institutions that is dedicated to obtaining inexpensive remote-sensing data for researchers and educators. OhioView has negotiated agreements with the federal government to make the images available at a fraction of the usual cost and with the state of Ohio (through OhioLink, the library consortium) to pay for them. It costs the state about $200,000 a year to obtain LANDSAT 7 Thematic Mapper data for every overpass required to cover the entire state. The seven other universities in the consortium also received research application funding from NASA this year.

Data from the satellite has the potential for broad applications across many disciplines. The LANDSAT project has brought together unlikely collaborators, according to Fleming Fallon, associate director of the public health program. Using funding through the grant facilitated by Beth Homadle, director of the Center for Policy Analysis, a graduate assistant in geology, Mauricio Baquero, is researching drought conditions as they affect the particular content of bare soil and its relation to reported respiratory illnesses. The NASA Glenn grant and the Center for Policy Analysis are funding complementary elements of this research, which involves data from both LANDSAT 7 and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration satellite sensor.

“The goal of public health is to prevent things from happening, to keep people healthy. Dust in the air can trigger illness and hospital stays for people with respiratory conditions. If we can

Move-In Day volunteers are needed

The First Year Experience Program and the Office of Residence Life are once again coordinating a residence hall move-in crew on Saturday, Aug. 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help with this initiative, according to Michele Webb, First Year Experience director. A variety of student organizations will be assisting this year as well.

“We are looking for faculty and staff members who are willing to assist students moving into their residence hall or to assist in the residence hall lobby check-in area. “The time commitment will be minimal, but the efforts will be greatly appreciated by our new students and their families,” Webb said. “The opportunity to interact with the BGUSA faculty and staff always extremely important to our new students.”

Those interested in participating should contact Webb at mwebb@bgsu.edu by Aug. 11. Individuals are asked to commit to at least a two-hour shift on move-in day, and will be contacted to confirm their availability.

Central campus area ready for graduation

The technology infrastructure project’s restoration of the central campus area will be complete in time for commencement Saturday.

Outside construction continues elsewhere around campus, while interior BGsuperconnect construction, with fall semester just three weeks away, is focused on residence halls and buildings with the most classrooms and labs.

Come and be part of live TV in BG

Would you like to see a television news show produced in person? You’ll have a chance when NBC-24 News Today comes to Bowling Green on Aug. 18.

The show, hosted by news anchors Nora Murray and Dave Hecht, will originate from a set just east of the Student Services Building. The television crew is expected to arrive on campus by 4 p.m. to prepare for the show to air from 6 to 7 a.m. All are welcome to be part of the audience.

That day and during the week preceding the broadcast, NBC-24 News will spotlight activities in the Bowling Green community and on the BGSU campus, according to the station’s news director, Mark Hagiyan.

In the event of inclement weather, the newscast will originate from Jerome Library.
Tunnel work to begin in Lot E
Possibly as early as this week, work will begin on rehabilitating the heating tunnel under Park­ ing Lot E, on Thurstin Avenue. The exact starting date will depend on the signing of con­ tracts with several firms. Be­ tween 30 and 40 parking spaces will be unavailable for up to two months as a result of the con­ struction, according to Robert Boucher, project engineer in the Office of Design and Construc­ tion.
Throughout the process, the lane along the railroad tracks will remain closed to allow access ac­ross the lot.
The tunnel, which has been in place for nearly 50 years, has deteriorated badly, Boucher said, especially in the last couple of years. Workmen will remove and replace the deteriorated concrete top and make much­ needed repairs to the piping support inside the tunnel. Also, an additional steam line will be added to the existing tunnel so that in the event work must be done on the main line, steam needed for heating and cooling inside campus buildings will be maintained.
Two additional spots will be gained through the removal and replacement of the existing deteriorated tunnel hatch, now surrounded by yellow barricades.
Although it might seem that the tunnel is related to the building of the new heating plant, in fact it is not, Boucher said. Each project has separate funding, and unfortunately, the tunnel could not be "piggy­backed" onto the heating plant construction to avoid disrupting parking once again, he said.

Satellite
(Continued from front)
show, using the satellite data, when these conditions exist and more dust is coming, we can warn people to stay inside and thus protect those who, which will then reduce health­ care expenditures," Fallon said.
Other faculty and graduate students in such departments are already sharing in the NASA Glenn research funding as well. Jeffrey Miner and Michael McKay of biology (plus two undergraduate assistants) are studying dangerous algae growth in Lake Erie, while Norman Levine, Joseph Frizado and graduate student Yonggui Gao in geology will also be involved in related research.
Besides the students working this summer, the NASA grant will provide fall and spring semester research assistantships to each of two graduate students who will take photographs and collect soil and water samples simultaneously with the satellite
overscans. All of this data images will then be compared with the physical data to learn important correlations between satellite imagery and ground and water conditions.

Vincent foresees information from the satellite shared and used throughout campus, not only in math and sciences, but especially in teacher prepara­ tion. He hopes to enable future teachers to use the satellite images in their own classrooms.
There is no better teaching tool than an image. We are visual learners, and if you can show someone a picture, they have a much easier time understanding what you're teaching," he said.
Ultimately, he said, he would like Bowling Green to develop a center to oversee and make more widely available the valu­ able resource of the LANDSAT 7 satellite.

job postings

FACULTY
Contact Human Resources at 372-8421 for information regarding the following: CLASSIFIED Deadline for employees to apply is 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11.
Administrative Assistant (C­ 104-Va)—WBGU-TV (traffic manager). Pay grade 8.
Clerical Specialist (C-107­ Sa)—Student Health Services. Pay grade 5.
Custodial Worker Team Leader (C-105-Sa)—Facilities Services. Pay grade 4. Academic year, part time.
Word Processing Specialist 3 (C-105-Va)—Office of Admis­ sions. Pay grade 7.

ADMINISTRATIVE
Occupational Safety and Health Specialist (M-100)— Environmental Health and Safety. Administrative grade level 15. Deadline: Aug. 11.

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