

INSIDE VT WOOD

News from Audrey Zink-Sharp, Interim Department Head

•Welcome all new students into our department. We are very glad you decided to study with us and look forward to future interactions as you progress through your program.

•For those students looking toward internships and graduation:

Resume Kickoff – Get ready for the upcoming Career Fairs at Walk-in resume critiques by employers and career advisors **Thursday, September 9, from 9 AM – 5 PM** at the Smith Career Center. Extended Walk-in advising hours. No appointment necessary. Stop in with your resume. Contact Johanna Smith Assistant Director, Career Services, Virginia Tech 540-231-6241



Where the jobs are!
www.hokies-4-hire.com

•Other news of interest:

•The 2010 **Faculty Handbook** has undergone a major reorganization and now has sections pertaining to tenure and tenure-track faculty, non-tenure-track instructional faculty, special research faculty, administrative and professional faculty, and graduate assistants; have a look:

<http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/notices/090310-provost-facultyhandbook.html>

•the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research, CIDER, has announced the Fall 2010 schedule – see attachment at end of this newsletter. Registration is now open at <http://www.cideronline.org/colloquia/>

•Two Competitive Grants Workshops to be held November 30th - December 1st 2010 in Arlington, VA and January 25th - 26th, 2011 in Arlington, VA .

The Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (SAAESD) and Virginia Tech University are pleased to host both Competitive Grants Workshops. Competitive funding opportunities offered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will be presented by program staff at NIFA as well as understanding the review process. Successful awardees from selected NIFA programs will also provide insights into what makes various types of projects successful and offer tips for success in helping make your application become a winning grant. Web Site:

<http://www.cpe.vt.edu/usdagrant/> Information regarding registration, application for travel grants, and other details are available on the respective web sites. Space is limited so register early!

Contact Raymond Russell, Program Specialist, Competitive Programs, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA , Phone: (202) 690-5716; E-Mail: russell@nifa.usda.gov

Meet Fall 2010 WEI Students --- Earl Kline

The Fall 2010 Wood Enterprise Institute (WEI) has completed its second week and students are leading efforts toward gearing up for this year's business. They plan to offer the customizable desk clock again for sale this year but are also working on a new product design to see if it can be profitably added to WEI's product line. In the upcoming weeks, student activities will focus on replicating last year's WEI production process and apply their problem solving skills to analyze limitations of the business and then make appropriate improvements.



2010-2011 Wood Enterprise Institute. L-R: Andrew Bernard, Jon Diamond, Shawn Crawford, Will Rand (seated), Matt Mohr, Scott McDonald, Conan Cook (seated), and Jandir Santin.

The Wood Enterprise Institute is a student owned and operated enterprise to give participants hands-on experience and learning results that only come by leading and managing real day-to-day production business operations.

During the Fall semester, the WEI team works together to develop a business plan. Then in the Spring semester, the business plan is executed and the score is kept in terms of business and financial metrics to help manage operations according to the plan. The results and experience from WEI are invaluable for students who will soon have to make business decisions in the organizations they will manage someday.

Fiber Sources for Haiti---Dan Hindman

The earthquake that struck Haiti last year was a devastating event that affected many lives. One group of people affected by the earthquake were university students who represent the future efforts for rebuilding and expanding Haiti. A final requirement of Haitian university students is to complete a senior thesis. Since many faculty members in Haiti only work part time, this has presented a barrier for many students to graduate. For the fall semester, eight Haitian university students have traveled to Virginia Tech to complete their senior thesis to finish their undergraduate degrees. The student's disciplines include civil engineering, electrical engineering, computer science and business.

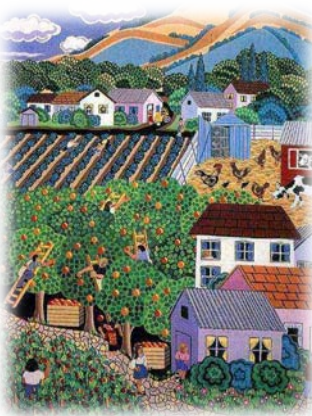
Francois Louis Anthony Junior, known as Junior, is a civil engineering student from Quisqueya University working with **Drs. Hindman and Buehlmann** during the fall semester. Junior will be working on developing structural beams from bamboo fiber sources commonly found in Haiti. The intent of this project is to develop structural beams to help in the rebuilding effort of Haiti produced from Haitian resources by a Haitian workforce. Junior is located at the Brooks Forest Products Center in the composites loft. Please give him a hearty welcome!



Creating Safe Tools and People in Residential Construction ---Dan Hindman

Jobsite falls occur more often in residential construction compared to other construction sectors, such as industrial and commercial construction. Small crews, short schedules, and the variety of tasks to complete create a difficult working environment. In spite of the dangerous work, the use of protective equipment including Fall Arrest Systems (FAS) is not common or expected.

To address fall prevention and barriers to the use of FAS, **Dr. Daniel Hindman**, Associate Professor in Wood Science and Forest Products and **Dr. Tonya Smith-Jackson**, Associate Professor in Industrial Systems Engineering, at the Virginia Tech Center for Innovation in Construction Safety and Health have just been awarded a grant for \$825,464 by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). This 4-year R01 project will develop and evaluate the use of a new FAS for residential housing. By combining Dr. Hindman's expertise in structural housing systems and fall prevention with Dr. Smith-Jackson's expertise in usability design and evaluation and safety climate assessment, this project attempts to address some of the largest issues related to FAS systems – ease of use and loss of construction time using safety equipment.



Safety climate addresses worker attitudes and perceptions about safety and has been found to be related to creating safer job sites. The project will adapt a previously observed FAS system from post frame construction and redesign the FAS for second story work. Then, the usability and safety climate surrounding this device will be analyzed in real construction situations. This project will develop an effective FAS while providing valuable information on the needs and attitudes of workers.

For more information contact Daniel Hindman at (540)-231-9442 or dhindman@vt.edu.

VTLeanTeam hosts seminar about Lean, TPM, and Six Sigma at IWF in Atlanta--- Adrienn Andersch, Mathias Schmitt, Christian Fricke and Angela Zhou

On August 25, 2010, Virginia Tech's VTLeanTeam gave a well-received seminar at the International Woodworking Fair (IWF) in Atlanta introducing the concepts of Lean, TPM, and Six Sigma to more than 150 seminar participants. The team gave an overview of each of these three state-of-the-art management systems and how they can work together. Case studies from the team's experience were used to highlight the benefits and pitfalls of using Lean, TPM, and Six Sigma as a holistic approach to company-wide continuous improvement. Also, questions from the audience were answered based on the team's expert knowledge. After the seminar, one seminar participant remarked, that "*While I have known each system [Lean, TPM, and Six Sigma] individually, I have never viewed them in the context of one coherent improvement methodology.*"



VTLeanTeam at the questions and answers session at the IWF seminar (from left to right, back row: Rebecca Buck, Adrienn Andersch, Angela Zhou, Urs Buehlmann; front row: Christian Fricke (seated) and Mathias Schmitt).

Lean@VirginiaTech, the University's dynamic group of lean-thinkers is a student-driven, faculty-supported, non-profit initiative to help organizations become more competitive through successful lean transformations. The VTLeanTeam's objectives are to give students the opportunity to gain real-world lean transformation experience through industry excursions, research projects, and active involvement in lean activities while supporting industry in its strive for better competitiveness. Creating an environment for organizations to share their lean transformation experiences is the second objective of Lean@VirginiaTech. The **VTLeanClub** allows companies to build a lean network with other organizations, students, and faculty to support their lean transformation activities. VTLeanClub membership provides free access to workshops and summits involving industry speakers and lean experts organized by Lean@VirginiaTech. VTLeanClub membership also gives members access to Lean@Virginia Tech's lean benchmarking database and the team's students and alumni. Pictured to the right is the concept of Lean@Virginia Tech, the VTLeanTeam, and the VTLeanClub. More information can be found at the group's website at: <http://vtlean.org/>



Lean@Virginia Tech's organizational structure



Lean@Virginia Tech will conduct a two-day beginners workshop “**Why Lean?**” in Richmond, VA on November 22-23, 2010. This workshop is an opportunity to **Learn to be Lean**, in particular to get familiar with lean through a hands-on “push-to-pull” simulation, connecting with other lean thinkers, and getting an overview about how to apply these principles in organization. More information can be found at <http://www.vtlean.org/workshops> or by contacting the VTLeanTeam at info@vtlean.org

Also see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at IWF in Atlanta---Urs Buehlmann



The bi-annual International Woodworking Fair (IWF2010), North America's largest wood industry trade show, was held from August 25 - 28, 2010 in Atlanta, GA and saw a strong Virginia Tech presence. Seven graduate students and three faculty members from the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products attended the show. Several worked the Department's booth (see picture left) and gave seminars at the IWF Technical Seminar event.

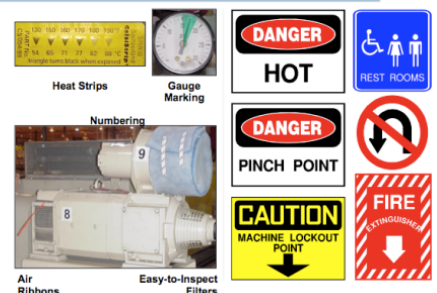
IWF2010, a smaller show than only two years ago, reflected our industry's current economic situation with some exhibitors staying away, others using less space. Show visitors also were fewer in numbers and didn't stay the entire duration of the show. However, the individuals present at the show mostly were cautiously optimistic and several industry participants shared what one described as “... *Now is the time to do your homework, invest, and prepare for the future.*”

The Department's booth team in front of the display (from left to right: Adrienn Andersch, Christian Fricke, Rebecca Buck, Mathias Schmitt, Angela Zhou, and Earl Kline – not pictured: Chao Wang and Urs Buehlmann).

Virginia Tech's booth, in any case, was busy as its location was changed from the traditional connector location to be adjacent to the student design competition and the WoodLINKS USA RTA furniture competition booths in Hall A. Both competitions attracted numerous visitors and some of them ended up investigating what Virginia Tech has to offer. Besides a display of the Department's educational, research, and extension programs, the VTLeanTeam used the opportunity to connect with industry and talk Lean with booth visitors.

Department personnel also gave two seminars. The VTLeanTeam talked about Lean, TPM, and Six Sigma to more than 135 attendees (the best attendance for the show, see report in this issue of InsideVTWood), and **Earl Kline and Urs Buehlmann** talked about Maintenance Excellence in front of 62 attendees. Pictured to the right are part of Earl and Urs' presentation about Visual Displays, a cornerstone of Total Productive Maintenance (TPM). These 90-minute workshops organized by IWF and held at the fair are a highlight of every IWF show and are given on an invitation basis only - for the students and faculty, a proof of the significance of their work for industry.

Apply Visual Controls



The future will show how the industry fares over the next months. If a survey conducted by Virginia Tech and the USDA Forest Service in conjunction with Wood&Wood Products (<http://woodworkingnetwork.com/Housing-Market-s-Impact-on-the-Woodworking-Industry/2010-08-04/Article.aspx?oid=1157045&fid=WWN-WWP-ARCHIVES>) is any guide, times will remain challenging for quite a while, especially for companies with a large footprint in the residential housing market. However, IWF2010 showed that the U.S. wood products industry is looking forward to a sustainable recovery and is readying to take on the challenge.

News from the Forest Products Club---Scott McDonald

This year the Forest Products Club will be making an even bigger push to grow the club and be involved in the department, college, and University. **This Sunday, September 12, we will be hosting a welcome BBQ** as an opportunity for faculty and students to get together and have a fun time. Non-members are more than welcome to come, and we'd love to see as many people as possible.

[BBQ Starts at 2:00 p.m. in the BBQ area near Owens Dining Hall.](#)



Also, we will be having a yard sale fundraiser on September 25, at 8am, location TBA. If anyone has items they would like to donate for the sale, please contact Courtney Kepley.

The Forest Products Club plans on doing a few service projects this year, with a repeat Relay for Life team in the Spring, river clean-ups with the IOPP, and possibly more opportunities with Habitat for Humanity and the Re-store.

For those who are looking to join the club, meetings are held at the Brooks Center every first and third Thursdays of the month, at 5pm. Annual dues are \$10, which include a T-shirt.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 16, and between meetings, some news postings will be on our Facebook page; just search for "Virginia Tech Forest Products Club," or email VTFPClub@gmail.com to get in touch!



President: Scott McDonald
Vice-President: Shawn Crawford
Treasurer: Jeff Dolan
Secretary: Anthony Muscatello
Social Chair/Coordinator: Courtney Kepley
Historian: Matt Mohr

Upcoming workshops

Rough Mill Yield Improvement Using ROMI 3.1

The workshop is designed to help rough mill managers, supervisors, and operators to improve the performance of their rough mill, achieve reliable quality and deliveries, and decrease costs. Workshop participants will learn how to use the power of the USDA Forest Service's ROMI 3.1 rough mill simulation tool to assess improvement scenarios. Participants also will learn about the new least-cost lumber grade-mix solver function embedded in ROMI 3.1.

Date and Location: November 8, 2010. Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) Princeton, WV.

Registration: \$49 includes refreshments and lunch. See <http://www.woodscience.vt.edu/ROMI3-1/> or email Urs Buehlmann (buehlmann@gmail.com) for more information.

CIDER Schedule of Events

(Registration for and full descriptions of these events can be found at <http://www.cider.vt.edu>)

Integrating the VT Common Book into Your Course

Wednesday, September 8
 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Smithfield Room at The Inn

University Exemplary Department Recognition Ceremony

Wednesday, September 15
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Latham Ballroom at The Inn

Bogus & Beneficial Pedagogical Concepts: From Common Sense to Common Science

Tuesday, September 21
 10:00 a.m. - noon
Duck Pond Room at The Inn

eFolio Thinking: Engaging Students in Learning and Assessment

Monday, September 27
 10:00 a.m. - noon
3080 Torgersen Hall

Today's Undergraduates: How to Reach and Teach This Generation of Students

Monday, October 4
 10:00 a.m. - noon
Smithfield Room at The Inn

First Year Experiences: An Inside Look at the Research and Data

Wednesday, October 6
 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Smithfield Room at The Inn

Latin@s, Immigration, & Education: The Journey of Dr. Emma Sepulveda Pulvirenti

Monday, October 11
 noon – 2:00 p.m.
1100 Torgersen Hall

Pedagogical Considerations for Latin@ Student Learners

Monday, October 11
 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Solitude at The Inn

Campus Partners for Pathways to Success First Year Programs

Thursday, October 14
 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Drillfield Room at The Inn

Assessing Pathways to Success: A Nuts and Bolts, Hands-on Workshop

Friday, October 15
 10:00 a.m. to noon
Hillcrest Dining Hall

Lost in Translation: Language and Identity in the University Classroom

Tuesday, October 19
 10:00 a.m. - noon
Smithfield Room at The Inn

Create a Learning Hullabaloo: Student Motivation

Thursday, October 21
 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Duck Pond Room at The Inn

Diggs Teaching Scholars Fall Roundtable

Friday, October 22

10:00 a.m. - noon

Duck Pond Room at The Inn

Integrating the VT Common Book into Your Course

Monday, October 25

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Hillcrest Dining Room

Excellent Pedagogy in Online Environments

Friday, October 29

10:00 a.m. - noon

3080 Torgersen Hall

Large Class Pedagogy

Monday, November 1

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Duck Pond Room at The Inn

Preparing a *Pathways to Success* Proposal: Words of Wisdom

Friday, November 5

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location TBD

Service-Learning as a Strategy for Engaged Teaching and Scholarship

Wednesday, November 10

10:00 a.m. - noon

Location TBD

Reflective Practice 2.0

Wednesday, November 10

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

3080 Torgersen Hall

Increasing Student Engagement in the Classroom

Monday, November 15

10:00 a.m. - noon

Location TBD

Using the Electronic Course of Study Planner

Wednesday, November 17

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location TBD

**Call for Proposals
Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy**

Deadline: Thursday, October 7, 2010

<http://www.cider.vt.edu/conference/>

CIDER

We Know Pedagogy

110 Hillcrest Hall – 540-231-7930 - <http://www.cider.vt.edu>
An equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.

Learn to be Lean!



Contact Information

Web: www.vtlean.org
E-mail: info@vtlean.org
Phone: (540) 443 6688

Why Lean?

2-day Workshop on Lean Management

November 22-23, 2010

Doubletree Hotel

Richmond Airport
5501 Eubank Road
Sandston, VA 23150

Day 1

- Lean Expert
- Introduction to Lean Management (I)
- Simulation – push to pull (I)
- Reception

Day 2

- Introduction to Lean Management (II)
- Simulation – push to pull (II and III)
- Wrap-up

Outcome

- Basic understanding of Lean
- How to get the Lean journey started
- Sources of Lean knowledge
- Networking