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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

INSIDE VT WOOD

News From Audrey Zink-Sharp

- Information for students regarding registration for next semester:
 - › Advising week for Spring Semester 2010 begins Monday, October 19th
 - › On-line registration for Spring 2010 starts October 20th and ends October 27th
 - › Specific registration instructions such as changes to checksheets and individual course information will be covered in e-mail correspondence and a registration newsletter that will be available very soon.
 - › If you have questions, see your advisor.
- Updates to the Hokie Handbook:
 - › The Hokie Handbook has been revised. Hokie Handbook: This document is reviewed annually and contains the Code of Conduct, the University Policies for Student Life, and other key policies and procedures that apply to all Virginia Tech students (graduate, undergraduate and professional) and student organizations. This document also serves as a reference for faculty and staff, and is located at <http://www.hokiehandbook.vt.edu/>

Companies Looking for Majors in CNR

In tough economic times, you cannot afford to miss the Fall Focus Career Fair, **Thursday, Oct. 1, Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires, 10 AM to 4 PM**. Freshmen, check out the companies offering internships.

Our fair is smaller this year, but just under 25% of the employers are looking for our majors. That is a good turnout for CNR majors.

Bartlett Tree Experts

Positions Available: Entry Level Positions may be available.

*Majors: Forestry/Environmental Resource Management Option

Forestry/Forest Resource Management Option

Forestry/Graduate Level Forestry/Industrial Forestry Operations Option

Forestry/Urban Forestry Option

Degrees Sought: Bachelor of Science

*Position Types: Full-Time Entry Level

BRICKMAN

Positions Available: Management Trainees

Landscape Supervisors

Internships

*Majors: Natural Resource Recreation

Degrees Sought: Associate in Science

Bachelor of Science

*Position Types: Full-Time Entry Level

Internship

Bureau of the Census

Positions Available: Geographer
Cartographer
*Majors: Geography
Degrees Sought: Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Science
Doctoral Degree
Master of Arts
Master of Science
*Position Types: Full-Time Entry Level
Full-Time Experienced

GeoEye

Positions Available: Associate Geospatial Analyst Principal Geodetic Engineer
Chief Architect Research Scientist
Contracts Manager Scientific Programmer
Geospatial Analyst Senior Geospatial Scientist
Mission Manager Senior GIS Project Coordinator
*Majors: Geography
Degrees Sought:
*Position Types: Full-Time Entry Level
Full-Time Experienced

Huber Engineered Woods LLC

Positions Available: **Quality Assurance in Training**
Majors: Forestry/Environmental Resource Management Option
Forestry/Forest Resource Management Option
Forestry/Graduate Level Forestry/Industrial Forestry Operations Option
Forestry/Urban Forestry Option
Wood Science & Forest Products/Graduate Level
Wood Science & Forest Products/Marketing & Management Option
Wood Science & Forest Products/Wood Products Option
Degrees Sought: Bachelor of Science
Masters of Science
*Position Types: Full-Time Entry Level

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Positions Available: Geospatial Intelligence Analyst Marine Analysts
Imagery Intelligence Analyst Nautical Cartographic Analysts
Imagery Scientist Police Officers
Cartographic Analyst Program Management
Contracts Specialist Execution Officer
Finance/Budget Analyst Systems Engineers
*Majors: All Majors
Degrees Sought: Bachelor of Architecture Master of Arts
Bachelor of Arts Master of Business
Bachelor of Science Administration
Certificate of Advanced Master of Science
Graduate Study Post Doctorate
Doctoral Degree
*Position Types: Co-op Full-Time Experienced
Full-Time Entry Level Internship

NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps & NOAA Marine Operations Centers

- *Positions Available: Junior Officer
Survey Technician
- *Majors: Fisheries & Wildlife Fisheries Science Wildlife Science
- Degrees Sought: Bachelor of Science
Master of Science
- *Position Types: Full-Time Entry Level

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

- *Positions Available: Food Inspectors
Consumer Safety Inspectors
Veterinary Medical Officers
- *Majors: Fisheries & Wildlife Fisheries Science
- Degrees Sought: Bachelor of Science

Novozymes North America

- Positions Available: Research Associate, Scientist, Associate Scientist
- *Majors: Wood Science & Forest Products/Graduate Level
- Degrees Sought: Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Science
Doctoral Degree
- Master of Arts
Master of Science
- *Position Types: Full-Time Entry Level
Full-Time Experienced
Internship

USDA- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

- Positions Available: varied
- *Majors: Fisheries & Wildlife Fisheries Science Wildlife Science
- Degrees Sought: Bachelor of Science
Doctoral Degree
Master of Business Administration
Master of Science
Post Doctorate
- *Position Types: Full-Time Entry Level
Full-Time Experienced
Internship

VA DCR- Division of State Parks

- Positions Available: Recruiting for several opportunities including interns for the Park Ranger Career Development Path and supervisors for the Youth Conservation Corps.
- *Majors: All Majors
Wildlife Science
Natural Resources
Fisheries Science
Conservation – Rec
Forestry
- Degrees Sought:
- *Position Types: Internship

Wood Acres Tree Specialist

- Positions Available: Urban Forester Trainee/Woody Plant Health Care Specialist
- *Majors: Urban Forestry
Forestry
- Degrees Sought:
- *Position Types: Full-Time Entry Level

Judith Araman

Recruitment/Career Coordinator 138 Cheatham Hall
Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone: 540-231-6225 Fax: 540-231-3485

Rupert Interview in Material Handling Management

PACK EXPO Pack Expo 2009: Show Preview

Transport Packaging: From Liability to Opportunity

At Pack Expo 2009, attendees will learn how to transform transport packaging challenges into growth opportunities.



By Mary Aichlmayr

Like many aspects of material handling, transport packaging has traditionally been viewed as a necessary evil and a costly liability. A more contemporary view embraces this critical supply chain component as a path to improving customer service, accelerating material movement, boosting supply chain sustainability and reducing costly product damage.

To explore cutting-edge concepts in transport packaging and get a feel for the products likely to appear on the Pack Expo 2009 show floor, MHM interviewed Ralph Rupert, a thought leader in the art and science of transport packaging.

Rupert is director of the Center for Unit Load Design at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), an organization known for its research and expertise in packaging, palletization, material handling and unit-load design.

The center develops methods to optimize the relationship between the design and performance of unit loads and maximize the overall efficiency of unit-load material handling systems. Its team of experts studies the mechanical interactions among containers, pallets and unit-load material handling equipment, focusing on total system optimization.

Rupert manages all testing for the Center for Unit Load Design and Virginia Tech's Pallet and Container Research Laboratory, which performs research and development, provides technical assistance and offers educational programs focusing exclusively on pallets and containers.

MHM: What are your thoughts on the immediate future of the industry of transport packaging? What are some of the biggest trends you are seeing?

Ralph Rupert: The future is growing—more and more companies understand the benefits of transport packaging. They no longer view packaging as a liability but an opportunity to move product faster and with less damage. To compensate for better use of packaging, companies are looking to automate packing lines to improve throughput.

Less maintenance and less operator involvement—basically, doing more with less—are the new trends.

MHM: How do you think sustainability will continue to impact transport packaging?

Rupert: I am a firm believer that packaging has been working on sustainability for years. We just need to call it “cost savings.” Sustainability will continue to be a focus, and it will take suppliers time and effort to prove sustainable issues.

The bigger problem is the apparent lack of performance in the equation. It is implied that the product will still be protected, but many decisions are based on the bottom line, whether that is cost or sustainability.

MHM: What are end users looking for today in a transport packaging solution?

Rupert: Moving product faster has been, and will continue to be, the prime motivator; however, many facilities are recognizing that damage reduction must be part of the operation. If product is damaged in transport, it is harder to use the excuse that the product was not adequately protected. What is needed is a total system evaluation of the packaging, pallet and material handling systems interaction. Many suppliers are missing their design staff to understand these interactions. It is no longer just the cost of the equipment but the total cost of the system, including operating capital—packaging, pallets, etc.

MHM: What types of automation, machinery and equipment can we expect to see at Pack Expo 2009?

Rupert: I expect most of the equipment to be the same as in previous years. With the current economy, most capital investment is either replacement or traditional expansion. Companies are not looking to push the envelope and are looking for proven technology and quick paybacks. Equipment will be more automated, not so much in software, but in lower manpower required for operation that may be achieved with faster throughput.

MHM: What do you see on the horizon in terms of automatic identification, data collection and information management?

Rupert: This is still a distant-horizon issue. Internal data collection will continue, and the need for barcodes, etc., will exist. When the collected information can be transferred between the product manufacturer and the downstream entities, the demand for this information will boom. But that time seems to be pretty distant.

MHM: What are some projects currently underway at the Center for Unit Load Design?

Rupert: Most of our research focuses on the interaction between packaging, pallets and the material handling system. One long-term project is comparing the unit-load stability of the new stretch hooding with traditional stretch wrap. The stretch hood material provides a greater vertical tension than stretch wrap that may provide better overall unit stability.

The second project is using pressure-sensitive films to map the load distribution across pallet decks under deck deflection. This will help package designers better understand how unit-load forces are distributed onto individual product containers.

The center is also heading the packaging program at Virginia Tech. This current study option in the Wood Science Department is expanding to a full major within the next couple of years. We will continue to focus our education and research in the area of transport packaging, including corrugated packaging and pallets.

More information about the Center for Unit Load Design can be found at Booth C-570 at Pack Expo 2009 or at www.unitload.edu.

Ralph Rupert

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The September 2009 issue of Material Handling Management (Strategic Supply Chain Execution) contains a 2-page spread interview with Ralph Rupert titled “Transport Packaging: From Liability to Opportunity,” a phrase coined by Rupert in the article. This issue, which focuses on the upcoming Pack Expo tradeshow, engages Rupert (described as “a thought leader in the art and science of transport packaging”) in a discussion of his thoughts on the future of transport packaging. Attached is a copy of the article. The article is also nice publicity for the Center for Unit Load Design and the packaging program. Rupert and Bonnie Maccubbin will be representing CULD and the packaging science program in the educational pavilion at Pack Expo in Las Vegas the week of October 5.

CULD Holds Unit Load Short Course

The Center for Unit Load Design held its Unit Load Short Course, September 22 – 24, 2009, at the Courtyard Marriott. The 13 participants represented traditional pallet companies and also the industry giants of PepsiCo and Evenflo. The short course, instructed by Ralph Rupert, Mark White, and John Clarke, included a tour of the center’s labs and a trip to the university’s food service warehouse.

Visitors from Costa Rica Take Part in the Study Abroad Fair

Dr. Henry Quesada and Dr. Tom Hammett hosted a delegation from the Costa Rica Institute of Technology this week. The delegation was led by Mrs. Marisela Bonilla, Director of the Office of International Cooperation at Costa Rica Tech. Mrs. Bonilla visited Virginia Tech in April 2009 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two institutions — a mechanism to facilitate collaboration between faculty from both Universities. Under this MOU a

new student exchange agreement (SEA) signed during this visit will allow Virginia Tech students to take advantage of a wide variety of academic options through Costa Rica Tech.

The main purpose of this visit was to take part in the Virginia Tech Study Abroad Fair celebrated on September 23 — a huge tent-full show of education abroad opportunities for Tech students held on Drill Field. More than 100 students from various Departments stopped by our booth to inquire about this new study abroad course to be offered through the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products during spring break in March 2010. This VT faculty-led 3 credit course is scheduled for Spring Break 2010 and will focus on global issues in natural resources and sustainability. Students in our department also have study abroad opportunities in Belize, New Zealand, Australia, and Antarctica. For more information please about the study abroad course and our emerging opportunities with Costa Rica please contact Dr. Henry Quesada at quesada@vt.edu and Dr. Tom Hammett at himal@vt.edu



Pictured at the 2009 Study Abroad Fair, from left to right: Dr. Henry Quesada, Dr. John Dooley, Ms. Paola Ulloa, Mrs. Marisela Bonilla, Dr. Tom Hammett, and Dr. S.K. De Datta.

Environmental Groups Spar Over Certifications of Wood and Paper Products

By [MIREYA NAVARRO](#)

For more than a decade, the nonprofit Forest Stewardship Council generally has been viewed as the premier judge of whether a wood or paper product should be labeled as environmentally friendly.

But to the dismay of major environmental groups, that label, known as F.S.C., is facing a stiff challenge from a rival certification system supported by the paper and timber industry. At stake is the trust of consumers in the ever-expanding market for “green” products.

This week lawyers for ForestEthics, a nonprofit group dedicated to protecting forests, filed administrative complaints with the Federal Trade Commission and the Internal Revenue Service challenging the credibility of the rival label, known as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, or S.F.I.

The complaints, which challenge S.F.I.’s nonprofit status, accuse the certification program of lax standards and deceptive marketing intended to obscure the standards and the S.F.I.’s financial ties to the forest industry.

“They’ve essentially created a green certification system to promote their sales,” said Peter Goldman, director of the Washington Forest Law Center in Seattle, the legal firm that filed the complaints on Thursday. “We believe S.F.I. has confused the marketplace.”

Karen Brandt, a spokeswoman for S.F.I., said that the certification program was sound and that it had met all legal requirements as a nonprofit.

S.F.I. provides consumers with details about its labeling standards at its Web site, she added. “We’re happy to provide them with the facts that support the credibility of our program,” she said.

The certification program was founded in 1995 by timber and paper companies as an alternative to F.S.C., which was formed in 1993 by international environmental groups. (F.S.C. includes forest industry representatives on its board.)

The F.S.C. is bracing for a big blow if the United States Green Building Council, which rates buildings as environmentally sustainable under its so-called LEED system, starts accepting other types of certified wood next year, as it has proposed to do pending a vote by its membership.

Scot Horst, a senior vice president for the council, said the proposal was prompted partly by complaints that the supply of F.S.C.-certified wood was too limited. As a compromise, LEED officials plan to come up with their own benchmarks for wood grown and harvested in a responsible manner and to accept any certification program that meets those requirements.

LEED officials say that the S.F.I. program certifies more forest acreage than F.S.C. and that it showed more independence by breaking away from the American Forest and Paper Association in 2007.

Still, "S.F.I. is the 800-pound gorilla," said Rick Fedrizzi, president and chief executive of Green Building Council. "That's the group that we need to try to convince to do better in forest management."

For consumers, the array of eco-labels can be baffling. In the case of wood, Mr. Goldman noted that S.F.I. officials proudly state at their Web site that President Obama's daughters' new swing set at the White House was made from wood cut at S.F.I.-certified forests. Yet the president's inaugural invitation was printed on F.S.C.-certified paper.

"If the White House is confused," Mr. Goldman said, "everyone must be confused."

Urvashi Rangan, the director of technical policy at Consumers Union, which publishes Consumer Reports, said that it judged F.S.C. to have "more rigorous" standards. She and other experts say S.F.I. gives forest managers more latitude than F.S.C., which generally has more specific requirements for certification.

Yet Consumer Reports gives F.S.C. and S.F.I. the same rating at its GreenerChoices.com Web site: "somewhat" meaningful, as opposed to "highly" meaningful or "not" meaningful at all.

In essence, Ms. Rangan said, both programs have industry ties and could apply stricter standards in areas like preventing cutting of old-growth forests.

Certified forest products account for a small fraction of wood and paper sales in the United States, but both certification programs have reported significant growth in recent years. Today F.S.C. certifies about 100 million acres of forest in the United States and Canada as operating in an environmentally responsible manner, compared with 175 million acres for S.F.I.

Some experts said the Green Building Council's move could sharply reduce demand for the F.S.C. label if it devised watered-down requirements for wood.

"There'll be a lot less reason to get F.S.C.," said Ben Cashore, director of the Forest Policy program at Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. "Why would you go for the tougher program?"

Southern Virginia Bioenergy Conference – October 6, 2009

Beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m. and held at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville, the conference will feature demonstrations from BioStat, an ethanol mini-refinery from Allard Research & Development, and a mobile gasification power generation unit by the Auburn University's Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts.

Area entrepreneurs will share their bioenergy projects and business models including an overview of the VanDerHyde Dairy anaerobic digester project, Red Birch Energy canola bio-diesel facility, and Osage Appomattox Bioenergy plans to use barley to produce ethanol.

The conference is sponsored by the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, Virginia Cooperative Extension, & Southeast Agriculture & Forestry Energy Resources Alliance as a component of the EDA Project: Leveraging R&D for Economic Development-A Commercialization System for Southside Virginia.

Although the conference is free to the participant, you must register by Friday, October 2, 2009. Click below to register or by phone: Theresa Lewis (434) 766-6756; email: theresa.lewis@ialr.org

[Conference Website](#)

[Register Now](#)

Workshop: International Marketing for Forest Products Industries – October 20

The Department of Wood Science and Forest Products is organizing a workshop on International Marketing for Forest Products Industries. The event is scheduled for October 20, 2009 in Princeton, WV. The workshop is sponsored by the Wood Education Research Center, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Department of

Agriculture and Consumer Services, Purdue University, and Virginia Forest Products Association. This workshop is designed to assist wood products companies from primary and secondary sectors to better understand and seize exporting opportunities.



Speakers will cover aspects ranging from marketing principles to logistic issues in preparation to capture international markets will. For more information go the web site http://www.woodscience.vt.edu/workshops/intl_marketing/ or contact Henry Quesada at quesada@vt.edu

Workshop: Introduction to Business Process Management – November 19

Presented by Henry Quesada, Assistant Professor of Business Management, Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, Virginia Tech

Workshop description:

Business Process Management (BPM) is defined as an improvement framework that relies on the concept of value chain management by Michael Porter. By implementing basic principles from methodologies such as balanced scorecard, lean thinking, six sigma, total quality management, and process automation, BPM can help your organization to increase customer satisfaction levels, align your business processes with your strategy, and increase the productivity of your internal operations.

Participants in this workshop will learn what value chains are and how to recognize them within their own company. Concepts, definitions, methodologies, and information technologies that support the BPM process will be taught in this workshop. Participants will learn how to represent their value chains in the context of business process management. Also, an overview of most important requirements of BPM information technologies will be presented so participants will know what technology is most applicable to their own needs.

Course outline:

- BPM principals: The Value Chain Concept
- Process Basics
- Business Performance
- Business Improvement Frameworks
- Tools for Process Modeling
- Information Technologies for BPM
- Examples and Applications of BPM

Location and Registration:

Workshop is scheduled for November 19 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Roanoke Higher Education Center <http://www.education.edu/> . Registration is \$35 and includes coffee breaks, and materials. Lunch is on your own. Please contact Henry Quesada at quesada@vt.edu for registration or further details.