The Department of Wood Science & Forest Products at Virginia Tech
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INSIDE VT WOOD

News From Audrey Zink-Sharp, Interim Department Head

• News for Ethernet users at the Brooks Forest Products Center:

Lon Weber has worked with CNS network engineers to enhance computing at Brooks. Last week, all the Ethernet portals were upgraded from 10 BaseT to 100 BaseT. Everyone out at Brooks should have significantly faster connections now at no additional cost. Thanks very much Lon.

• Defending Student Status Clarification

To qualify for DSS, a student must have a thesis/dissertation ready for defense at the beginning of the semester and must be considered on active status. If a student has not been enrolled for more than one year, readmission is needed and that process must be completed prior to requesting final exam scheduling and DSS status. To be ready to defend, the student's Advisory Committee members must agree that the work is in a form ready for defense; that is, the thesis/dissertation must be finished.

The DSS registration period is the first three weeks of an academic semester and qualifying students must have their examination scheduled by the end of that time. Although the examination can be held beyond the first three weeks, to qualify for DSS the thesis/dissertation must be finished and examination scheduled during the first three weeks. To facilitate this process, please submit the scheduling forms as early as possible, preferably by the end of the second week of classes. The Graduate School had been allowing such delayed examinations by exception when circumstances required delay in the Spring 2009 CGS&P formalized policy wording to support this practice. International students should consult with one of the immigration advisors in the Graduate School concerning visa implications and enrollment requirements for examinations held beyond the first three weeks of the semester.

• Fellowships for Graduate Environmental Study

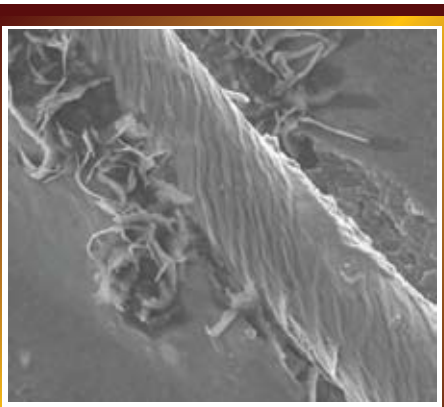
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Fellowships for Graduate Environmental Study. Through this RFP, EPA is offering Graduate Fellowships for master's and doctoral level students in environmental fields of study. 16 Topic Areas identified which include, but are not limited to: Global Change; Energy; Green Engineering/Building/Chemistry/Materials; and Environmental Behavior and Decision Making. $4.5 million expected to be available, up to 120 awards anticipated. Responses due 10/22/09. For more info, contact Brandon Jones at 2009FellowshipsRFA@epa.gov or go to: http://epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2009/2009_star_gradfellow.html. Refer to Sol# EPA-F2009-STAR. (Grants.gov 8/19/09)

Lin, Renneckar, Hindman-Article Makes List of 10 Most Downloaded Publications in CELLULOSE

The article "*Nanocomposite-based lignocellulosic fibers. I. Thermal stability of modified fibers with clay-polyelectrolyte multilayers*" authored by Zhiyuan Lin, Scott Renneckar and Daniel P. Hindman and published in the journal CELLULOSE 15(2), 333-346 made the list of 10 most down-loaded articles for CELLULOSE in 2008! This study presents a facile method of modifying the surfaces of wood fibers with clay in order to enhance the durability of natural fiber-based composites. Lead author and PhD student Zhiyuan Lin indicates, "The clay wraps the fiber surface like a suite of armor with potential to protect it from microbes and wood destroying insects." The work is supported by the Sustainable Engineered Materials Institute and director Audrey Zink-Sharp comments that "The project goal of SEMI is to insure an economically and environmentally sustainable supply of renewable resources to match future demand for building construction materials. Lin's work demonstrates a novel route for improved performance from sustainable raw materials." The work is part of Dr. Renneckar's research focus on green nanotechnology solutions to enhance performance of biobased materials.

CELLULOSE, which has been the top-rated periodical in the subject categories ***Materials Science, Paper & Wood*** as well as ***Textiles*** for the past several years according to the *Journal Citation Reports*, publishes an average of more than 1000 pages, and more than 100 scientific articles, in 6 issues per year. Its impact factor of 1.84 exceeds that of any other journal publishing in the wood (and related sciences) fields. The journal is published by *SPRINGER*. CELLULOSE has been edited by Wolfgang G. Glasser, Professor emeritus of Wood Science of Virginia Tech, since 1999.

ICTAS-Biobased Materials Center Symosium



ICTAS-Biobased Materials Center Symposium

October 1, 2009

The symposium is to kick-off the newly formed Biobased Materials Center (BBMC) at Virginia Tech devoted to biobased polymers and biomaterials. The BBMC is the result of a university-wide initiative to build a focus in this area.

ICTAS
INSTITUTE for CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY and APPLIED SCIENCE at Virginia Tech

VirginiaTech
Invent the Future

Keynote Speakers

Prof. Anthony Atala

W.H. Boyce Professor, Director of the Institute for Regenerative Medicine, and chair of the Department of Urology at Wake Forest University

Dr. Atala is a surgeon in the area of pediatric urology and a researcher in the area of regenerative medicine. His current work focuses on growing new human cells, tissues and organs. Dr. Atala works with several journals and serves in various roles, such as Editor-in-Chief of Current Stem Cell Research and Therapy and Therapeutic Advances in Urology; as Associate or Section Editor of Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine, The Journal of Rejuvenation Research, the Journal of Urology (Investigative Urology), and Current Reviews in Urology; and as Editorial Board member of the Journal of the American College of Surgeons, Urology, Current Opinion in Urology, BioMed Central-Urology, the Journal of Laparoendoscopic and Advanced Surgical Techniques, Stem Cells and Development, Expert Opinion on Biological Therapy, and Biomedical Materials.

Dr. Atala is a recipient of the US Congress funded Christopher Columbus Foundation Award, bestowed on a living American who is currently working on a discovery that will significantly affect society, and the Gold Cystoscope Award for advances in his field. Dr. Atala was named by Scientific American as a Medical Treatments Leader of the Year for his contributions to the fields of cell, tissue and organ regeneration. In 2006, he was named by Fast Company magazine as one of 50 people who "will change how we work and live over the next 10 years, his work was listed as Discover Magazine`s Number 1 Top Science Story of the Year in the field of medicine, and as Time Magazine's top 10 medical breakthroughs of the year in 2007. A Time Magazine poll ranked Dr. Atala as the 56th most influential person of the year in 2007. Esquire Magazine in 2008 named Dr. Atala one of the 75 most influential persons of the 21st century.

Dr. Atala has led or served several national professional and government committees, including the National Institutes of Health working group on Cells and Developmental Biology, and the National Institutes of Health Bioengineering Consortium. He is currently an NIH "Quantum Grant" awardee. Dr. Atala heads a team of over 150 physicians and researchers. Ten applications of technologies developed in Dr. Atala's laboratory have been used clinically. He is the editor of 8 books, including Methods of Tissue Engineering, Principles of Regenerative Medicine, and Minimally Invasive Urology, and has published more than 200 journal articles and has applied for or received over 200 national and international patents.

Prof. David Kaplan

Endowed Chair, the Stern Family Professor of Engineering, at Tufts University.

Dr. David Kaplan holds an Endowed Chair, the Stern Family Professor of Engineering, at Tufts University. He is Professor & Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering and also holds faculty appointments in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Department of Chemistry, the Tufts University School of Medicine and the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. His research focus is on biopolymer engineering to understand structure-function relationships, with emphasis on studies related to self-assembly, biomaterials engineering and functional tissue engineering. He has published over 400 papers and edited eight books. He directs the NIH P41 Tissue Engineering Resource Center (TERC) that involves Tufts University and Columbia University, and the Bioengineering and Biotechnology Program at Tufts University. He serves of the editorial boards of numerous journals and is Associate Editor for the journal Biomacromolecules. He has received a number of awards for teaching, was Elected Fellow, American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering (2003) and received the Society for Biomaterials Clemson Award for contributions to the literature in 2007.

More information:

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Program and schedule available at http://www.ictas.vt.edu

CENTER FOR WORKER HEALTH SEMINAR

Presents

Vanessa Casanova, PhD

Labor Studies and Employment Relations
School of Management and Labor Relations
Rutgers University

DUST UP:
OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS FACED BY FOREST WORKERS IN THE SOUTHEAST

Friday, September 25, 2009

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Kitty Hawk Room
1st Floor, Piedmont Plaza One
1920 West First St., Winston-Salem

⁎ Lunch Provided ⁎

CENTER FOR WORKER HEALTH

Wake Forest University School of Medicine

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