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INSIDE VT WOOD

Reminder...

Remember to submit department news items by Friday 3 p.m. of each week to Will Pfeil at wpfeil@vt.edu for inclusion in Inside VT WOOD each Monday morning. All past issues of Inside VT Wood reside on our department website under the [publications link](#).

News From Paul Winistorfer

- This week is Administrative and Professionals Week. Be sure to extend a warm thank you to our department administrative and technical staff. We are planning on recognizing our fine colleagues in an appropriate way this week. We've got the very best group on campus working in our department — Debbie Garnand, Angie Riegel, Rick Caudill, Kenny Albert, David Jones and Will Pfeil. WE APPRECIATE YOU ALL!!!
- We have a very special seminar this week on Wednesday. Visiting Scholar, Marc André Gonin from Bern University in Switzerland, will present information on their programs at Bern University and showcase their new 4 story wood frame university building! Don't miss it — Wednesday 1 p.m. at the Brooks Center.
- Next week (April 29) we also have a special seminar by college librarian Kiri Goldbeck on the topic of Google Scholar, the ISI Web of Knowledge and other tools of interest to faculty and students. 1 p.m. Fralin auditorium April 29th.

- Thanks to Casey Michelson of Richmond International who visited our department last week and presented in two classes and met with the Forest Product Club. We thank you Casey for joining us and so much appreciate the scholarship awarded annually to a deserving student in our program. Our student recipient for the 2008-2009 school year was Chris Rider!



L-R: Dr. Bob Bush, Scott McDonald, Brian Thompson, Adam Scouse, Casey Michelson, Anthony Muscatello, Sarah Hutchinson, Becky Dawson, Yu Zhou

- The department, with many co-sponsors, and under the direction of faculty Urs Buehlmann and others, is hosting a 2-day workshop at the Wood Education and Resource Center in Princeton, WV. The program — [Remaining Competitive in Hardwood Component Production](#) looks to be an engaging and informative event. Congratulations Dr. Buehlmann and partners on this relevant event for the industry.
- We welcome Dr. Toshio Yoshimura and his family to our department for the next 5 months. See the enclosed visiting scientist spotlight. Welcome!



Toshio's family at Kashii-shrine in Fukuoka
As a New Year ceremony, his daughters are wearing a Japanese traditional dress, Kimono.

Toshio Yoshimura has joined the Department as a visiting scientist for the next 5 months. Toshio is a professor of the Department of Living Environmental Science, Faculty of Human Environmental Science, Fukuoka Women's University located in the city of Fukuoka, Japan. He specializes in the chemical modification of cellulose and related polysaccharides, especially development of biodegradable superabsorbent hydrogels based on cellulose. Toshio was born and raised in Kyoto, a city famous for old temples and shrines, and graduated from the Department

of Polymer Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University. He started his career as a company researcher at Toray Industries Inc., which is one of the biggest general chemical companies in Japan. He had been in charge of development of functional polymers for semiconductor devices for about fifteen years. In 2002, Toshio moved to Fukuoka Women's University as an associate professor, and was promoted to full professor in 2006.

The city of Fukuoka has developed alongside Hakata bay in northern Kyushu Island, and now has a population of 1.4 million. It is a historically and geographically important place because it is close to China and Korea and is called Japan's gateway. It is also famous for many delicious foods such as ramen and roe of Pollack.

Fukuoka Women's University was founded as the nation's first public university for women in 1923. Its mission is to provide women with higher education enabling them to be leaders and contributors toward the betterment of the society. Currently, it has two faculties, the Faculties of Literature and of Human Environmental Science, as well as the corresponding graduate school. A major ongoing reform aims at emphasizing international student exchange activities.

Toshio will be studying cellulose derivatives useful for medical applications such as drug delivery systems. He believes that effective utilization of naturally occurring polymers is a key technology for the realization of sustainable society in the near future. Among them, cellulose is a promising candidate. Moreover, Toshio is also looking forward to enhancing his professional network, learning more about individual faculty and student research efforts.

Toshio's wife Hidemi and their three daughters will use their stay in Blacksburg to advance their understanding of American people and culture. Family plans include several trips throughout the United States. Toshio will be located in Cheatham Hall and he is looking forward to learning more about the Department and Virginia Tech.

Congratulations to Ryan Bamberg

Ryan successfully defended his M.S. Thesis, Lateral Excitation of Wood Composite I-joists, last week. Ryan earned an M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering with Drs. Hindman and Easterling as his co-advisors. Ryan is taking a job with the Department of Defense in Norfolk, VA when he is finished. Congratulations, Ryan!

Lean Thinking Workshop in Abingdon, VA

Participants of the Lean Thinking workshop conducted on April 2, 2009 at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, VA were able to turn a \$400/cycle loss from producing dovetail drawer boxes into a \$200/cycle profit by applying lean principles to their processes. The dovetail drawer box manufacturing simulation, part of the Lean Thinking workshop offered by Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Sloan Foundation Forest Industries Center, and the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech, let's workshop participants experience the power of Lean Thinking. Lean Thinking, by eliminating wasteful processes, allows businesses to increase performance significantly, achieving results that were not thought to be achievable prior to starting an organization's lean transformation. Thirteen participants from a wide variety of businesses, ranging from an automotive parts supplier working with Toyota (the

originator of the Lean approach) to penitentiary business administrators and Virginia labor department officials, brought together a wide variety of experiences, questions, and expectations. However, all participants agreed at the end of the workshop that Lean Thinking has a profound potential if applied consistently and practiced on an on-going basis.



Lean manufacturing simulation conducted at the Lean Thinking workshop in Abingdon, VA on April 2, 2009. Participants included (from left to right): Patricia Moore, Ralph Bates, and Chrissy LaDuca. Not pictured: Perry Parks, Thomas Gibson, Lance Cole, Benjamin Hall, Shannon Walls, Barry Thomas, Earl Kline, and Urs Buehlmann.

Additional Lean Thinking workshops will be conducted at the following dates and locations: May 7, 2009 in Virginia Beach, VA; and on May 14, 2009 in Danville, VA. For more information on the Lean Thinking workshop series, visit <http://www.woodscience.vt.edu/leanthinking/> or contact Urs Buehlmann, Virginia Cooperative Extension and Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at (540) 231-9759, ubuehlm@vt.edu.

IOPP and Forest Products Club Helping Keep the New River Clean

The river cleanup was held on Saturday, April 4th. Twice a year, the Institute of Packaging Professionals and the Forest Products Club conduct a cleanup from the Montgomery/Giles county line to the railroad tracks. The clubs are affiliated with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation "Adopt-A-Stream" program. The portion of the river adopted is a high traffic area, especially for Virginia Tech students from late spring through summer. Since the start of the project, the amount of trash accumulation from cleanup to cleanup has decreased. Thanks to all volunteers for your time and efforts. The next cleanup will be in the fall, hope you can join us.



Pictured from left to right: Ralph Rupert, Tim Stieess, Bob Wright, Josh Hosen, Alex Hagedorn, and Jiyoun-Yoo (Kevin Knight taking photo)

Special Seminar Announcement

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Brooks Forest Products Center Classroom

Building the Program at the University of Applied Sciences, Bern Switzerland, Figuratively and Literally **A leading higher education institution**

Presented by [Marc-André Gonin](#), Visiting Scholar at Virginia Tech

Ten years ago, the University of Applied Sciences Bern developed a new four story teaching and research building for the Department of Wood Engineering. Three hundred and fifty students and 150 faculties, researchers and staff members are working in these facilities.

This building has opened new opportunities for wooden public buildings in Switzerland. The presentation will show some of the challenges and the solutions chosen for critical building issues. In essence, the new building is a showpiece for wooden multi-story public buildings and has attracted international attention.

The presentation will also provide insights into the approaches taken towards wooden buildings in Central Europe. Clearly, the European approach differs from traditional U.S. building customs.

Potentially, the insights gained from the new building at the University of Applied Sciences Bern could contribute to the discussion of the new building contemplated for the department of Wood Science and Forest Products and Your 'Building Our Future' campaign!



Special Seminar Announcement

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Fralin Auditorium

ISI Web of Knowledge and Google Scholar: Tools You can Use

Presented by [Kyrille Goldbeck](#), College Librarian for Natural Resources

Our collective need to understand current tools being used to quantify scholarly publications is critical within our academic system.

Such tools are being used to augment perception of scholarly works in decisions of annual review, promotion and tenure deliberations, and named professorship deliberations. In addition, these tools will ultimately impact the future of journals and sustainability of journals that are not perceived as 'high-impact' outlets.

This presentation will look at three tools that can be used to determine the impact of scholarship in a profession: Web of Science, GoogleScholar, and JCR (Journal Citation Reports).

Topics that will be covered in this seminar:

What is Google Scholar, ISI Web of Knowledge and the Journal Citation Reports?

- How do they work?
- Where did they come from? Who 'owns' them?
- Who uses them?
- What is the perceived effectiveness of their use?
- How do you interpret the output from these tools?
- What are the strengths of these tools?
- What are the weaknesses of these tools?
- Are there other or emerging products with similar capability in the marketplace?
- How can these tools be misused?
- As a librarian, how do you value these tools?
- As authors how should we value these tools?
- Have you seen shifts in publication outlets of choice because of these tools? Can you demonstrate these tools? Compare these tools? Bring pre-prepared output from these tools?

Kyrille (Kiri) Goldbeck has a BS in Animal Science from the University of Wisconsin — River Falls. She started her career in academic librarianship as a paraprofessional at Georgetown University in 2001 and obtained her MLS in 2004 from the University of Maryland – College Park. In August 2005 she began her current position as the College Librarian for Natural Resources at Virginia Tech. In this position she not only serves as a liaison between the College of Natural Resources and the library, but she is also responsible for developing and maintaining the collections for the CNR departments, and provides reference, research, and instructional services to anyone who asks for help. Kiri has a variety of research interests, many of which relate to information literacy, and she currently serves as a member of the LibX Team (<http://libx.org/>).