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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

- Inside VT Wood Celebrates 3 years of department communication this week. We started this endeavor in April 2006! Thanks to everyone for your contributions to communicating about your work, our students, and program. You can find all past issues posted to our website under the publications link.
- Our Graduate Student Spotlight this week is Baidy Ba. Baidy is an M.F. student from Senegal working on small enterprise development under the direction of Dr. Urs Buehlmann. Baidy will complete degree requirements this Spring and then return to Senegal.

Wood Science Initiatives in Distance Learning and Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning

APR

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Seminar 1 – 2 PM Brooks Classroom, Wednesday, April 8.

Our seminar this week is presented by Dr. Sam Conn, Director of the Institute

for Distance and Distributed Learning. Dr. Conn and his colleagues have been working with a group of faculty in our department to develop distance learning courses for industry. Don't miss the opportunity to learn more about IDDL and their work with us as we enter the distance learning world. Dr. Henry Quesada has been championing this effort.

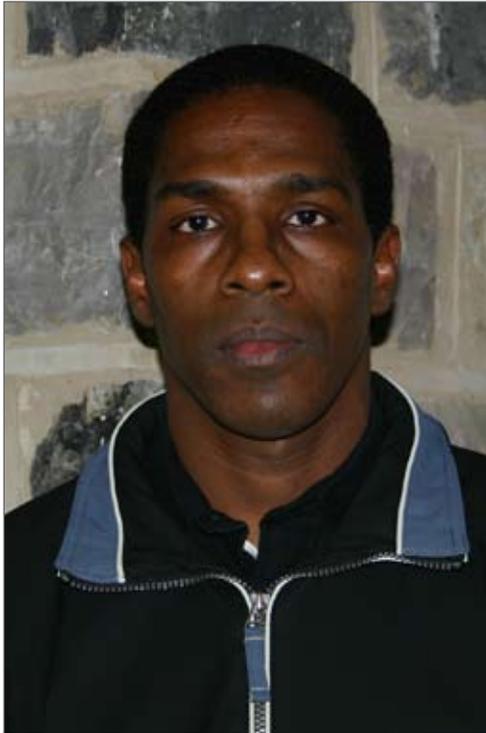


Dr. Sam Conn

Dean Kelly Contemplates the Future

Dean Mike Kelly tried out the corrugated lounge chair at the showing of Creative Works by VT art students, in cooperation with the department of Wood Science and Forest Products. The display was held in the lobby of Cheatham Hall last week. Professor Steve Bickley's art students created quite a display of chairs from corrugated.





Baidy Ba
M.F. Candidate

My name is Baidy Ba and I am from Senegal. I joined the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products in August 2007. I am seeking a Master of Forestry graduate degree and I plan to graduate in May 2009. I hold a degree of Forestry Technician from the School of Rural Technicians, Bambey, Senegal. I also have an Agronomist Degree with specialization in Rural Engineering, from the Advanced National School of Agriculture, Thiès, Senegal.

In December 2006, I completed a double MBA degree from the Institute of Business Administration, Poitiers, France and the African Center for Advanced Management Studies, Dakar, Senegal.

I have participated in training courses in the Netherlands, Japan, Tunisia and Kenya.

As the former National Coordinator for a large natural resources management program in Senegal funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), I was awarded a scholarship for my performance in project management.

In my MS special project I am describing and evaluating strategies for developing small-scale (non-timber forest products (NTFP) forest enterprises through appropriate laws and policies that might enable Senegal to reduce poverty, especially in rural areas. The socio-economic analysis of five cases studies will provide propositions for poverty reduction strategies through NTFPs-based small-scale enterprises in Senegal.

I have worked as a senior manager with over 15 years of experience in development projects in agriculture and natural resources management in Senegal. I have a special interest in small-scale forest enterprises development in rural communities and have been involved in building local capacity, promoting dialogue and forging consensus among communities, government and the private forestry sector.

During my stay in the U.S. I have been fortunate to visit Georgia, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, North Carolina, New York and Washington, DC.

My dream: to live in a world in which no children will suffer.

Dr. Urs Buehlmann serves as my graduate advisor and I am thankful for his contributions to my advanced study.

Workshop For Remaining Competitive in Hardwood Components Production

With business activities contracting, residential housing markets down by more than 50%, and offshore producers fighting to maintain and increase their shares of the U.S. market for hardwood products, remaining competitive is no small feat for today's domestic producers of hardwood components. While there are many aspects of the current business climate that can't be controlled, leading companies want information on the general economic situation, how it might affect them, what the forecast is, and where there are opportunities they might take advantage of to benefit their businesses.

A discussion of these issues is planned at the upcoming "Workshop for Remaining Competitive in Hardwood Components Production" in Princeton, West Virginia on April 20 - 21. This workshop is sponsored by Wood Digest, the USDA Forest Service's Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC), the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA), the Wood Component Manufacturers Association (WCMA), Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), the Sloan Foundation Forest Industries Center, and Virginia Tech's Department of Wood Science and Forest Products.

This workshop is designed for hardwood industry managers to learn more about the current economic situation and opportunities for wood component products. The "Big Picture" will include a presentation on the U.S. economy and housing industry from Al Schuler, economist with the USDA Forest Service; the primary wood industry by Bill Luppold, USDA Forest Service; the dimension & component industry by Steve Lawser, Wood Component Manufacturers Association; and the state of the secondary wood industry by Art Raymond of A. G. Raymond & Company.

A highlight of the program will be a tour of Merillat's cabinet door & component plant in Atkins, Virginia. Participants will have an opportunity to tour this "Shingo" prize-winning, lean manufacturing component manufacturing facility. Pre-approval for this tour is required and will be sought immediately when your registration is received or email buehlmann@gmail.com to seek pre-approval.

The second day's session will focus on "Certification — Threat and Opportunity." All aspects of certification will be discussed. A presentation on the outlook for certified lumber & components will be given by George Barrett, Hardwood Review; Customer expectations for certified products by Margaret Fisher, Saunders Wood Specialties; export markets and certification by Michael Snow, American Hardwood Export Council; Forest certification, carbon banking, and Forest Landowners by Catherine Mater, Mater Engineering LTD; and the future of certification by Dan Cumbo, Hardwood Market Report. Several opportunities for discussions and networking are also planned.

For more information on the Remaining Competitive in Hardwood Components Production workshop, visit <http://www.woodscience.vt.edu/woodcomponents/> or contact Urs Buehlmann, VTWood Products Extension at (540) 231-9759, buehlmann@gmail.com.

