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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](mailto: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

- The department of Wood Science and Forest Products was created 30 years ago in 1979! In these 30 years we have become one of the leading programs in North America. Congratulations to everyone for your role in our success! We will bring recognition of our 30 year anniversary during our Wood Week 2009 events in September.
- Dr. Liam Leightley, Executive Director of the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research ([www.ialr.vt.edu](http://www.ialr.vt.edu)) in Danville, VA has been appointed Adjunct Professor in the department of Wood Science. We all look forward to working with Liam and his colleagues at the Institute on collaborative research and education projects.
- Thank you to Laura Lavid of Denver, Colorado for her recent generous contribution to the E. George Stern and Jean Fromberg Stern Memorial Scholarship.
- I will participate in the Woodwork Career Alliance of North American Skills Standard work group on Washington DC this week.
- I will attend The Forest Council of Virginia annual Legislative Breakfast on Friday morning in Richmond, following the Agribusiness Banquet the evening before.

## Mark your calendar:

Virginia Forest Products Association Spring Meeting March 20-22, 2009 Williamsburg, VA.

Virginia Forestry Association Annual Convention April 24-26, 2009 Norfolk, VA.

## Regional Virginia Initiative Meeting a Success

A curriculum/articulation meeting was held in Roanoke on December 16th to move forward with specifics of course and curriculum planning for the Virginia Initiative. Public school systems, community colleges, the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center and Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources participated with the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products. Photos of the meeting can be viewed on [Page 5](#).

## The Ultimate Wooden Plane: The De Havilland Mosquito

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3mGOLmWWbg>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De\\_Havilland\\_Mosquito](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_Havilland_Mosquito)

## Wood Connects Cheatham Hall and Latham Hall

The new connector is going up between Cheatham Hall and Latham Hall in the Northeast corner of Cheatham Hall. Wood is the material of choice for this project! This is a beautiful timber-frame structure and is worth seeing before it is complete!



## Modern Materials Handling Blog Recognizes Mark White, Professor Emeritus

Excerpts of an online BLOG by Bob Trebilcock have been reprinted here:

A new year in supply chain management and automated materials handling

January 6, 2009

Bob Trebilcock

I just went back into our archives and found that I wrote 88 briefings in 2008. That was 88 conversations with industry leaders about topics as varied as inventory control and warehouse management systems (WMS), network design, conveyors, the latest in bar code scanners, RFID, automated storage and retrieval, and whatever else was on the minds of the executives who were willing to share their time and thoughts.

When I look back over the year, several conversations stood out.

I hope systems-based approach to unit load design gets wider play: Okay, that's a mouthful, but a systems-based approach to unit load design is a concept developed by Mark White, a professor emeritus at Virginia Tech and a former director of the Pallet & Container Lab and the Center for Unit Load Design. Mark's idea is that pallets, industrial packaging, and materials handling systems are too often designed in a vacuum. The folks designing pallets never talk to the packaging engineers who don't have a say in the systems design. The result: The money saved by designing the conveyor system a certain way may be lost many times over in extra pallet and packaging expenditures. Instead, White and his Virginia Tech colleagues are training a generation of engineers who are familiar with all three disciplines. His biggest challenge is getting the ear of supply chain executives who can implement his concepts. Caveat Emptor: I've known Mark for years, going back to my days in the pallet industry. But I still think it's a great idea.

Here's hoping that 2009 is as interesting and provocative to write about as 2008.

## Wood Products Operations Management Students complete a “Total Productive Maintenance” project.

Students in Professor Earl Kline’s Wood Products Operations Management course successfully completed their final Fall 2008 project by applying Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) concepts to the Department’s portable sawmill. For many years, the portable sawmill broke down frequently during laboratory classes causing delays, extended lab periods, and necessitated expensive emergency repairs. The student team determined the sawmill was out of service for maintenance issues nearly a third of the time during lab sessions! This downtime is not only costly in terms of lost time and expensive expedited maintenance but it also takes the fun out of the teaching and learning experience for students, instructors, and staff. As such, the sawmill was an ideal case study for students to test and apply “hands-on” maintenance management concepts learned in Kline’s class.

TPM is a comprehensive preventative maintenance management and improvement system that was developed by General Electric in the 1980s and has been proven in application to be an outstanding cost savings method by many manufactures in the U.S. The goal of the student project was to restore the sawmill back to its original equipment condition and create a standard year-round maintenance schedule that would sustain equipment uptime to 99 percent or better. Downtime statistics are currently being collected and maintenance audits are regularly conducted in 2009 to ensure that the sawmill uptime goal is sustained.

Please contact Earl Kline if you are interested in learning more about the students’ sawmill TPM project.



The TPM Team — L-R: Jonathan Pace, Ryan Anthony, Becky Dawson, Sarah Hutchinson, Jennifer Dvorsky, Adam Scouse, Matt Black, Jonathan Post, David Jones (instructor), Brian Thompson, Daniel Fore



## ICPF Donates Squeezer Compression Test System

As part of their mission to support packaging schools, the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation donated a Squeezer Compression Test System to the Center for Unit Load Design. The Squeezer, manufactured by Lansmont Corporation and sold to ICPF at a discounted rate, is valued at \$35,000. Housed in the new packaging lab, the equipment will allow our students to design and test packages, as they would do in a job application, as part of the classroom environment. Unlike the center's current unit load and pallet compression testers, the Squeezer is dedicated to box/package top-to-bottom compression strength (up to 5,000 lbs./30 x 30 in. platen) with more precision measurement. The system is



specifically designed to quantify box performance so that the effect of various board mediums, closures and interior partitions can be factually compared. The Squeezer will also expand the center's contract testing offerings.

## Lansmont Corp. Donates Field Data Recorder

Additionally, Lansmont Corporation donated a SAVER™ 9x30 Field Data Recorder to the center. This neat little gadget, when placed in a box, captures drops, impacts, vehicle motion and vibration during box transport. It's GPS capabilities allow you to track the package during transport by downloading to Google Earth - every bump, jostle, and



transport speed is recorded along the way. The center first tested the device by placing it in Ryan Anthony's trunk for his Thanksgiving break journey home to Baltimore. Every movement of Ryan's (aka Speed Demon's) vehicle was recorded on the trip, including every fast food stop, traffic jam, and detour to his girlfriend's house. To see the SAVER and the fascinating data from this trip, contact Ralph Rupert.

## Photos From Regional Virginia Initiative Meeting

