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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

- Representatives of the Blue Ridge Crossroads Region have made the decision to become the 3rd WoodLINKS USA site in Virginia, joining already established sites in Danville and South Boston. We will work with Oliver McBride, Director of the Crossroads Institute, and his colleagues from the school systems and Wytheville Community College to establish the program in the Galax region.
- I will meet this week with Therese Lovegreen, advisor to University Studies students about our major, minors and options as we seek to be more effective in recruiting on our own campus from this group of uncommitted students.
- Please plan to attend our special seminar on Wednesday October 29 titled “The Chair – A vehicle for Learning at Halifax High School” to be presented by David Kenealy of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center. Seminar will be held at 2:30 pm in Fralin Auditorium.
- The department organizers of Wood Week will be meeting this week to follow up on Wood Week activities and consider ways that we can improve this event as we begin to think of Wood Week 2009. If you have any suggestions please let any of us know (Debbie Garnand, Angie Riegel, David Jones, Kenny Albert, Rick Caudill, Will Pfeil, Drs. Audrey Zink-Sharp and Paul Winistorfer)

Bond Presents at Allegheny Kiln Drying Association in West Virginia

Dr. Brian Bond attended the Fall meeting of the Allegheny Kiln Drying Association, held in Elkins, West Virginia on October 16th. The group toured both the Bruce Hardwood Flooring Plant and Colonial Millwork in Beverly, WV. Dr. Bond presented on methods for dry storage of hardwood lumber. He was also re-elected as treasurer and secretary for the group. Other presentations included “the economic outlook for the forest products industry” presented by Matt Bumgardner of the Forest Service and “high pressure water mist systems for conditioning”, presented by Mike Ballard of Sawmill, MD

Quesada, Kline and Students Travel to Stiles Machinery in North Carolina

Dr. Henry Quesada, Dr. Earl Kline and their students travel to Stiles Machinery in Highpoint, NC on October 23 to study the latest technologies in Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAD/CAM). Special thanks go to David Kenealy from the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center for organizing a very informative presentation on CAD/CAM.

VTwood students and faculty visit Stiles Machinery in Highpoint, NC.

From Left to Right —
Becky Dawson, Jen Dvorsky, Brian Thompson, Jon Pace, Matt Black, Sarah Hutchinson, Adam Scouse, Ryan Anthony, Dr. Henry Quesada, and Jonathan Post.
Photo by Dr. Earl Kline.



Participants investigate progress of a solid wood chair seat during a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machining operation.

Wood Science Clubs Partner for New River Cleanup.



Pictured Left to Right, Row 1: Ryan Anthony, Adam Scouse, and Dr. Tom Hammett, Row 2: Angela Yu Zhou, Becky Dawson, Jim Bisha, Andrew Jackson, Matt Black, and Dr. Dan Hindman, Row 3: Jesse Paris, Bob Wright, Sarah Hutchinson, Brian Thompson, Josh Hosen, Alex Hagedorn, Ralph Rupert, Tim Stiegs, Photo by Jen Wagner.

On October 19th, the Institute of Packaging Professionals and the Forest Products Club at Virginia Tech participated in the second New River cleanup of the year. The two clubs have partnered with Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Adopt-A-Stream program. By committing to clean a 1.5 mile stretch of river frontage from the Montgomery/Giles line on down twice a year, the DCR provides bags, gloves, vests, and signage to be placed at the cleanup site recognizing the clubs. Eighteen participants assisted with this project. After two hours of hard work, 30 bags of trash, recyclables, and other debris were collected. The next cleanup will likely take place in March or April. Thanks for your time and efforts in making this project a success.

Visiting the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) in Danville, VA

Drs. Bob Bush, Tom Hammett, Earl Kline and Paul Winistorfer visited the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) in Danville last Friday to welcome Dr. Liam Leightley to Virginia and to tour the facilities. Dr. Leightley comes to IALR from Mississippi State University where he was formerly head of the Department of Forest Products. The group toured facilities, visited with IALR staff and talked of ways to be engaged with the Institute and cooperative opportunities for research partnerships. The department will be organizing a visit for any interested faculty to the IALR before the end of the year.



Pictured Left to Right Dr. Tom Hammett, Dr. Earl Kline, Dr. Liam Leightley (Director IALR), Dr. Paul Winistorfer, Dr. Robert Bush

Visiting the Regional Center for Advanced Technology and Training (RCATT Center) at Danville Community College

Drs. Bob Bush, Tom Hammett, Earl Kline and Paul Winistorfer visited the Regional Center for Advanced Technology and Training at Danville Community College last week to tour facilities and meet with work force services faculty Jeff Arnold and Gerald Sexton.



Shown here in the polymer processing lab, Jerry Franklin shows the group product development examples generated from the rapid prototyping equipment available in the lab. (L to R) Gerald Sexton (Danville Community College), Dr. Earl Kline, Jeff Arnold (Danville Community College), Dr. Bob Bush, Dr. Jerry Franklin (Danville Community College), Dr. Tom Hammett.

Renovation Kick-off Event at the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center in South Boston, Virginia

Drs. Bob Bush, Tom Hammett, Earl Kline and Paul Winistorfer attended the renovation kick-off event last Friday evening of the American Tobacco Warehouse on the campus of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center in South Boston. The warehouse was gifted to the Higher Education Center in the past year and will be renovated to house programming of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center. The Higher Education Center initiative titled 'The Business of Art & Design' includes the Wood Design and Technology and Advanced Wood Manufacturing initiative – which will eventually inhabit space in the American Tobacco Warehouse after renovation is complete in about 18-24 months. The Virginia Tobacco Commission recently awarded \$6 million toward this program at the Higher Education Center.

The Higher Education Center and Halifax High School are the inaugural site of Virginia's first WoodLINKS USA program and students at Halifax High are working on an innovative project this semester that uses design and manufacture of a chair as the learning vehicle.



The American Tobacco Warehouse will be renovated to house the Wood Design and Technology and Advanced Wood Manufacturing initiative of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center. There is much renovation work to do!

Drs. Tom Hammett (kneeling), Earl Kline and Bob Bush (far right) visit with David Kenealy (far left) and Clint Johnson of the Higher Education Center about the 'chair' and plans for the renovation of the American Tobacco Warehouse.



Dr. Paul Winistorfer inspects the chair first hand with prototype builder Kevin Chrystie of the Higher Education Center and is joined by Higher Education Foundation board members looking on.

Bond Presents at Keystone Kiln Drying Association's Fall Meeting in Pennsylvania

Dr. Brian Bond traveled to Westline, Pennsylvania to present at the Keystone Kiln Drying Association's (KKDA) Fall Meeting. The KKDA toured the sawmill and drying facilities of Kane Forest Products, a member of the Collin's Company and then a meeting was held at the Westline Inn. Dr. Bond's presentation entitled "Biomass and Bioenergy: a threat or opportunity" introduced the concepts of bioenergy from wood and discussed potential problems and opportunities that wood biomass utilization will have on primary forest products manufacturers. The meeting was attended by kiln operators and plant managers from Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and New York.



Special Seminar

Wednesday October 29, 2008

2:30 – 3:30 pm

Fralin Auditorium

“The Chair – A Vehicle for Learning at Halifax High School”

Presented by David Kenealy, Southern Virginia Higher Education Center

Halifax High School in South Boston Virginia is Virginia’s inaugural WoodLINKS site (www.woodlinksusa.org) delivering courses in wood products manufacturing at the high school level. Halifax High School has partnered with the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center for expertise and program delivery.

Instructors David Kenealy, Kevin Chrystie and Clint Johnson from the Higher Education Center and Warren Penick from Halifax High School have teamed up to develop an innovative learning approach this semester that utilizes the design and manufacture of a chair as the educational vehicle.

Teams of students are each manufacturing this chair. To bring an additional ‘real-world’ approach to the project, each student team will ‘bid-out’ the back rest component of the chair for value-added manufacture by a third party. Students must make contact with an outside vendor, arrange for shipping, agree on value-added manufacturing for the back rest and incorporate this component into the finished chair. This exercise exposes students to concepts of the supply chain management and working with a 3rd party to the learning environment.

Students from Halifax High School also traveled to Stiles Machinery in High Point, NC for advanced manufacturing

of the chair seat, using CAD/CAM software and CNC machinery to execute machining of the seat. Students were exposed to the most modern software platforms available today and CNC manufacturing equipment during this phase of the learning environment. A group of Virginia Tech Wood Science students participated in this exercise for one day with instructors Earl Kline and Henry Quesada.



The seminar will be presented by David Kenealy, Coordinator of Wood Product Design and the WoodLINKS program at the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center in partnership with Halifax High School. David formerly taught fine and creative woodworking at Rockingham Community in North Carolina for nearly 20 years before joining the initiative in Southern Virginia at the Higher Education Center early in 2008.

Come and learn about the initiative in Virginia to create educational pathways in wood science and advanced wood manufacturing that spans K-12 through community colleges to Virginia Tech. Get a glimpse of what high school students at Halifax High are creating this semester!

Cassidy is CSREES National Program Leader for Forest-Based Bioenergy

Daniel Cassidy is the new CSREES national program leader for Forest-Based Bioenergy. Since 2006, Cassidy has served as a program specialist in the Natural Resources and Environment unit, focusing on forestry, rangelands, grasslands ecosystem services, and supporting the Renewable Resources Extension Act and McIntire-Stennis programs.

Prior to joining CSREES, Cassidy served in a post-doctoral research and extension position at the University of Georgia where he assisted in the management of the Sustainable Forestry for Bioenergy and Biobased Products program with the Southern Forest Research Partnership, the Southern Regional Extension Forestry Office, and other university partners. Cassidy recently served a detail with the USDA Forest Service as a deputy team leader for Woody Biomass Utilization. He has a B.S. in forestry from Mississippi State University, a master's degree in forestry and a Ph.D. in natural resources, both from the University of Tennessee. Cassidy can be reached via email at dcassidy@csrees.usda.gov.