

31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

INSIDE VT WOOD

Splinter

The Wooden Supercar

It's sleek - it's fast - it's breakthrough technology - and it's wood.

See it at the Wood Week Career Fair

Thursday Sept. 18th 10:00 am - 4:00 p.m. under the 'big top' tent on the Drill Filed



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

- Wood Week 2008 is coming. Please promote our activities to your students, strongly encourage their participation in the Career Fair on Thursday Sept. 18th on the Drill Field. See the attached schedule of events and activities.
- New for this academic year will be weekly profiles of faculty, graduate students, alumni and state industry partners. Each month we will rotate through these groups and introduce to you our faculty, graduate students, alumni and state industry partners.
- The Wood Enterprise Institute (WEI) is open for business via online ordering. Get your table top bookshelf and custom laser engraving today! Check out the WEI at www.woodscience.vt.edu/wei

Industry Participants Registered for the Wood Week Career Fair Thursday September 18, 2008

- Mann And Parker Lumber Company
- Roy O. Martin Lumber Co. , LLC
- Universal Forest Products Inc
- Columbia Forest Products
- American Woodmark Corporation
- Morgan Lumber Company and Morgan Motorsports, LLC
- Industrial Timber & Lumber Company
- Georgia-Pacific LLC
- Moulding and Millwork
- Blair Dumond, Inc.
- The Danzer Group
- Weyerhaeuser
- George Preston Motorsports
- Huber Engineered Woods, LLC
- Rex Lumber Company
- Baillie/American Lumber
- Carolina Inspection Services, Inc.
- Joe Harmon Designs
- Augusta Lumber Company, LLC

Wood Industry Student Placement Program

The industry is using our new student placement website. Be sure to remind students and industry colleagues that the posting service is now online and available for us. You can find it on our [homepage](#).

Wood Week 2008 Career Fair Registration is Now Live

Wood Week 2008 is set for the week of September 15, 2008. Our Career Fair is Thursday September 18, on the Drillfield of the Virginia Tech campus. Registration is now live and linked from the Wood Week 2008 link on our homepage.



Best Wishes Thammarat

Thammarat Mettanurak departed yesterday for his home country of Thailand, where his family owns a small lumberyard business. Thammarat is from Pathum Thani province, Thailand, about 13 miles north of Bangkok. Thammarat has been with in the department completing an MS degree under the guidance of Professor Zink-Sharp. Best wishes Thammarat - it was great to have you with us!



Verena Becker

Exchange Student Joins Department From Germany

My Name is Verena Katharina Becker and I am a 22 year old exchange student from Germany. In 2006 I started to study wood science at the University of Hamburg. Hamburg is a big city in the north of Germany and is popular for its large harbor.

I finished my fourth semester in July 2008, the 5th and 6th semesters I will study at Virginia Tech, completing my bachelor of science. The Bachelor system in Europe is different from the US. For example we have to write a bachelor thesis at the end of the study. This is a new system of studying which was introduced one year before I started my study.

With the help of Dr. Heiko Thoemen I prepared for my exchange with Virginia Tech in the end of 2007. There were several difficulties, but because of the kind assistance of Professor Winistorfer, Debbie Garnand and the exchange office I finally got my acceptance; I received it on the day of my birthday, so it really was the best present I ever got!

The last two months were full of action for me - I had to complete much paper work for insurance and visa requirements. At the same time, I had to pass several examinations. We only have only one examination per course in one semester - this is in the end of June. But now I am more than glad to be here in Blacksburg.

Graduate student Amy Jahnke picked me up from Roanoke. My trip took nearly 20 hours, so I was very tired. She drove me to my new home in Clover Valley. Graduate student Angela Zhou helped me to find a place to live. For many exchange students it is hard to find a place to live in fall semester because there are so many freshmen, so I was more than happy get in contact with Angela. She was looking for a house, too and now we are roommates! We live together with two other roommates, one from France, one from Spain. The evening I arrived we drove to a supermarket to buy several things for me - it was amazing to see such a large supermarket. I knew they are big - but not that big! - and it so amazing for me that it is open 24 hours a day!

The time between my arrival and the start of the semester I got a lot of help and assistance from the Cranwell International Center. They made the start in my "new life" much easier with their activities. Their orientation and the kind assistance in filling out many forms was much appreciated. I really have to say "Thank you" for helping me and the other exchange students so much!

I attended classes on the first day of class, Monday August 25th. I was very taken with the kind assistance of the professors. I am sure I will never be alone if I have problems with my courses, the materials or others.

I am looking forward to a nice and successful year in our department!



Dr. Earl Kline

Hi, I am Earl Kline, a professor of manufacturing systems in the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech and the Director of the Sloan Foundation Forest Industries Center. For the past 20 years at Virginia Tech, my passion has been to teach and mentor students for the next generation of managers and leaders. Subjects I teach include computer control applications for forest products manufacturing, lean manufacturing, production operations management, and systems engineering design principles. Recently, I have been primary student advisor to the Wood Enterprise Institute, an experiential learning class where students practice what they learn in a manufacturing business environment. I have extensive training and experience in the area of industrial engineering and process control technologies to improve upon wood products manufacturing. Highlighting one of the key successes in this area, I have worked closely for many years with scientists from Electrical Engineering and from the USDA Forest Service to develop and patent machine vision technologies applied to lumber scanning and grading.

My experience has shown that developing or applying a technology in isolation from the core market focus of a business usually gets in the way of its value-adding effectiveness. Such experience has shifted my focus now toward applying systems engineering technologies to help link production capability more closely to true market demand. This focus has led to the joint venture between the College of Natural Resources and Pamplin's College of Business through the creation of the Sloan Foundation Forest Industries Center at Virginia Tech. The main goal of the Sloan Center is to facilitate collaborative efforts between the two Colleges and their stakeholders to help develop sustainable methods that keep activities in the forest industry's value chain in balance with consumer demand. The bottom line message from the Sloan Center's efforts: it much easier to balance the equation "business sustainability = resource sustainability" when the end-consumer is considered as an integral part of the system.

I grew up and worked on a family dairy farm in Manassas, Virginia. While farming was good, hard, and honest work, I enrolled as an Agricultural Engineering (now Biological Systems Engineering) major at Virginia Tech as soon as I could to see if I could find an easier way to make a living. I am half Greek and I regularly visit the "old country" where most of my Mother's side of the family still live in Greece. Outside of work, I like to explore my artistic side through cooking so I am trying to learn and preserve as many of the traditional Greek family recipes as possible. Unfortunately, I love to eat all that "high energy" food so you'll likely find me on my bicycle somewhere in my spare time to help keep my energy balance sustainable.

New X-ray Diffraction System installed in 246 Cheatham Hall.

X-ray Diffraction is a non-destructive technique for analyzing a variety of properties in a wide range of materials, including fluids, metals, minerals, polymers, catalysts, plastics, pharmaceuticals, thin-film coatings, ceramics, semiconductors, inorganic solids, and natural macromolecules such as cellulose. When X-rays are directed into solids, they will scatter in predictable patterns based upon the internal structure of the solid. We plan to utilize this instrumentation to explore and characterize the crystalline structure of wood, wood fiber, and cellulosic powders and films. Other ideas include determining the distribution of crystalline orientations within composite materials and exploring the thickness, roughness, and density of single layers and multilayered films. Funding for the new instrument has come from the Sustainable Engineered Materials Institute (SEMI), a research center in the College of Natural Resources.



Audrey Zink-Sharp and the new Bruker D8 Discover X-ray Diffraction system.

Hardwood Lumber Grading Short Course

HARDWOOD LUMBER GRADING SHORT COURSE

October 28 - 30, 2008
Haywood Community College

Cost: \$300.00 includes lunch each day &
course book

Tue, Wed and Thurs 8:00 am – 4:30pm
INSTRUCTOR: Benji Richards

Course Description: An introduction of the NHLA hardwood lumber grades and accepted practices.

Course Objective: To give the student the basic knowledge of hardwood lumber grades and how to apply the rules in grading, measuring, tallying and manufacturing lumber.

Please preregister or RSVP:

Rinda Green

Phone: 828-565-4243

E-mail: rgreen@haywood.edu

Lodging

Super 8 of Waynesville: 5
min. from campus 828-
454-9667

Comfort Inn of Canton: 10
min. from campus 828-
648-4881

Wood Week 2008

September 15-19, 2008

26bfgmpel 12-18 2008

MOOQ MGGK 2008

Calendar of Events

Monday
September 15th

Department Welcome Back to School Picnic
5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Hahn Horticulture Garden Pavilion

Keynote Speaker—Patrick Calello, founder of Automoblox—Kicks Off Wood Week 7:00 p.m. www.automoblox.com



Tuesday
September 16th

Wood Magic Show
Brooks Forest Products Center
www.woodmagic.vt.edu

Wednesday
September 17th

Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management Meets
The Inn at Virginia Tech

Center for Unit Load Design Advisory Board Meeting
The Inn at Virginia Tech

Department Scholarship Recognition and Reception Program
The Inn at Virginia Tech 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday
September 18th

Wood Week 2008 Career Fair
Join us under the 'big top' tent in the middle of our campus for the largest University sponsored wood industry career fair in North America. We have room for 75 wood industry companies this year.

Come to Virginia Tech and recruit students from all majors for your wood industry business needs.

Registration opens April 1, 2008 at www.woodscience.vt.edu



VirginiaTech
Invent the Future

The Department of
Wood Science & Forest Products
www.woodscience.vt.edu at Virginia Tech



First Think Light Symposium – Innovative Lightweight Panels

Virginia Tech and FDM Magazine, in conjunction with Stiles Machinery, are offering a two-day lightweight panel symposium featuring materials, processing, and design specialists in lightweight panel technology in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on November 17 and 18, 2008 (first symposium) and on November 19 and 21, 2008 (second symposium, repetition of first symposium).

The first day will be used to provide theoretical background information and learn about providers of lightweight panel solutions. Martin Stosch, a leading lightweight panel expert from Germany, with other experts will give in-depth information about lightweight panel materials and technologies including panel types, processing technology, hardware and fasteners, and consumer preferences. Their presentations will be backed up by a unique take-home document covering all aspects of lightweight panels as a tool for further learning and reference to you and your team. VT and FDM Magazine will also present details about their ongoing “Lightweight Panels in North America” survey. Lightweight panel technology, equipment, and hardware suppliers will be present to answer any questions.

A second day will be spent experiencing lightweight panel technology “hands-on” on the shop floor, making, formatting, edgebanding, assembling and finishing lightweight panel products. The hands-on technology set-up will include a lightweight panel line, a panel saw, edgebanding technology for lightweight panels, as well as hardware insertion and assembly solutions, and will be held in cooperation with Stiles Machinery. Experts from all areas of lightweight panel technology will again be available to interact with symposium attendees.

For further questions and registration visit <http://www.woodscience.vt.edu/thinklight/>, or email VTThinkLight@gmail.com or call (540) 231-7107.



Modern kitchen design using lightweight panels (source: Egger Holzwerkstoffe Austria).