

August 2008						
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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

- Welcome to Dr. Henry Quesada-Pineada, our newest faculty member to join the department. Henry, his wife and three children arrived in Blacksburg from Costa Rica a week ago. Henry comes to our program as an extension specialist working in support of the wood industry in Virginia. He will teach our undergraduate forest products business management course and conduct research related to his area of expertise. A separate announcement regarding Henry's appointment is forthcoming.
- Join us on Friday August 15 at 10am at the Brooks Center to welcome Henry and his family to Virginia Tech.
- Faculty have a faculty work session on Friday August 15 at the Brooks Center to address curriculum and course changes.
- 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
- Our partners at the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center have received funding from the Tobacco Commission for the wood science and advanced manufacturing initiative at the Higher Ed Center. Funding for this initiative is \$6 million. Congratulations to Director Ted Bennett, Program Coordinator David Kenealy and Amy Lammerts, Director of Programs at the Center.
- Don't forget the College of Natural Resources Welcome back picnic and business meeting on August 12 from noon to about 2pm. RSVP to Peggy Quarterman by August 12 in the Dean's office.

Wood Industry Student Placement Program

Industry has begun posting job announcements on our new department student placement website. 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.



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
- Georgia-Pacific LLC
- Moulding and Millwork
- Blair Dumond, Inc.
- The Danzer Group
- Huber Engineered Woods, LLC
- Rex Lumber Company
- Baillie/American Lumber
- Carolina Inspection Services, Inc.

Glasser Authors Chapter

Wolfgang G. Glasser, Professor emeritus of Wood Science, authored a chapter in the newly released comprehensive Glycoscience series with the following specifications:

W. G. Glasser, Cellulose and Associated Heteropolysaccharides, Chapter 6.3 in Glycoscience, B. Fraser-Reid, K. Tatsuta and J. Thiem, eds., Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, pp.1473-1512 (2008).

Dr. Glasser also currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the periodical Cellulose by Springer.

WBC Holds Technical Session in Maine

The Wood-Based Composites Center recently held a technical session entitled “Trends in Green Building: Composite Materials” in conjunction with the 4th International Conference on Advanced Engineered Wood & Hybrid Composites held on July 6-10 in Bar Harbor, Maine. The half-day session, organized by WBC Director Dr. Chip Frazier, kicked off with a presentation on commercial and residential trends in the green building movement by Vicki Worden of The Green Building Initiative. Wayne Trusty, of The Athena Institute, provided an



L to R, John Bouldin, Tom Williamson, Vicki Worden, Chip Frazier, Wayne Trusty

informative talk on the role of life cycle assessment in sustainable construction practices. The APA-The Engineered Wood Association’s Tom Williamson spoke about the implications of green building trends on engineered wood composites. Virginia Tech’s John Bouldin, a PhD Candidate and owner of ProTechs Home Inspection in Blacksburg, Virginia, provided the group with an interesting look at how wood composites products are being used in residential construction. He addressed some of the challenges we face in the proper use of these product within the face of the green building movement. Finally, Virginia Tech Professor and WBC Director Chip Frazier provided a look at the social footprint of current wood adhesive technologies being used in the composites industry today. The session wrapped up with a panel discussion during which speakers responded to questions from participants.



John Bouldin

The session was well attended and received strong reviews from WBC members and non-members alike. Please visit the University of Maine's Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center website at www.aewc.umaine.edu for more information on this bi-annual conference. To learn about other WBC Center activities visit www.wbc.vt.edu.

Citizen Input Sought on Wood as an Alternative Energy Source

By Lynn Davis

BLACKSBURG, Va., August 11, 2008 -- Wood could help solve the nation's energy woes. To look at some of the possibilities, the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources Virginia Cooperative Extension, and other key partners are holding two public meetings across the state to gain input from community leaders, planners, and economic development officers; forestry industry professionals and consultants; logging and vegetation management contractors; developers and builders; forest landowners; and interested citizens.

Both meetings will cover similar topics, although each will have a different focus. The first meeting, on Sept. 4 at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, Va., will focus on rural issues. The second, on Sept. 29 at Virginia State University in Petersburg, Va., has an urban/suburban emphasis. Those interested in attending may [register](#) online. The \$25 registration fee for each meeting includes lunch and refreshments.

Woody biomass, or the accumulation of woody material above and below ground, is the most important renewable energy source in the world. "Improving the utilization of woody biomass from both rural forests and urban landscapes is a promising arena in the pursuit of a viable alternative to fossil fuels," said John Munsell, assistant professor and forest management Extension specialist in Virginia Tech's forestry department. "By tapping into currently unused sources, such wood waste typically left after harvesting operations, trees and branches removed in urban areas, and demolition debris from construction sites, we can expand renewable energy sources in Virginia."

The "Woody Bioenergy in Virginia" public meetings will cover the operational and economic challenges and opportunities related to large-scale woody bioenergy in Virginia. The goal is to gain an understanding of how woody bioenergy markets improve sustainable economic opportunities. Speakers include Congressman Rick Boucher, Congressman J. Randy Forbes, State Forester Carl Garrison, and Stephen A. Walz, senior energy policy advisor to Gov. Tim Kaine.

Meeting planning partners include Virginia Tech's Department of Forestry and [Conservation Management Institute](#); Virginia Cooperative Extension; Virginia Department of Forestry; Virginia Forestry Association; Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy; Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation; U.S. Forest Service; and Southern Forest Research Partnership.

- For more information, e-mail [John Munsell](mailto:John.Munsell@vt.edu) or call (540) 231-1611.
- [Listen](#) to excerpts of an interview with John Munsell.

Contact Lynn Davis at davisl@vt.edu or (540) 231-6157.

USGBC Invites comment on Certified Wood Revisions

Today, USGBC opens the First 30-day Public Comment Period for proposed revisions in how the LEED Green Building Rating System awards points for the use of certified wood. Comments are being sought on: (1) the proposed revisions to the credit's intent and requirements and (2) the criteria proposed in the USGBC Forest Certification System Benchmark. The Public Comment Period will be open Friday, August 8 through Sunday, September 7, 5:00 PDT.

<http://www.usgbc.org/LEED/LEEDDrafts/RatingSystemVersions.aspx?CMSPageID=1458>

2009 Fresh Wood Student Competition

In July 2009, AWFS® will once again sponsor its Fresh Wood Student Woodworking Competition at our biennial trade show in Las Vegas, Nevada. The competition is FREE to enter. All of the competition forms and information are available [here](#), or click on the title of each form below to directly access it:

The following two forms must be returned before students can submit entries:

- [School Registration Form](#)
- [Instructor Release Form](#)

The following three forms must be submitted with each entry:

- [Student Entry Form](#)
- [Project Questionnaire](#)
- [Student Release Form](#)

(You may also contact us at education@awfs.org or (323) 838-9440 to request any of these forms be mailed to you.)

The competition deadline is May 1, 2009

Additionally, I wanted to call your attention to some modifications to the competition:

- Eligibility is open to full-time students in an accredited high school or post secondary woodworking or related program (post secondary schools include colleges and universities as well as trade, art and union apprenticeship schools) and part-time students in an accredited post secondary woodworking or related program who are **transitioning into a career in woodworking or design**.
- Students must have completed projects in the 2007-08 or the 2008-09 school year; projects must not have been previously entered in any other national competition.
- Entries are restricted to ten per school and two per student.
- Judges will award one additional point during final judging if the Presentation Board is completed following the instructions correctly.
- Project construction must be complete at the time of entry. The project may be lacking the finish coating, but student must specify in the entry essay what finishing process will be used. If selected as a finalist, the project must be completely finished and thoroughly dry in time for shipment to the AWFS®Fair (approx. July 1).
- AWFS® reserves the right to limit the amount of entries weighing over 500 pounds due to space constraints and a limited shipping budget.

There is a poster available which you can order on the School Registration form. The poster provides information about the competition and is a great way to "advertise" the competition to your students.

Also, if you have not yet visited our education resource web site WoodIndustryEd.org, please do! Your school's woodworking program is listed in the searchable database. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding the use of the site or obtaining the passwords for your school's listing, at education@awfs.org, or (800) 946-2937.

At the 2009 show we will again be offering the popular "Teacher Track," seminars specifically for educators. These seminars will be offered at a greatly reduced rate (and are free to AWFS Educational Institution Members). Watch our show web site AWFSfair.org in the spring for registration information and discounts for teachers and students.

AWFS® is a solid supporter of education and works to deliver programs to assist the industry as well as bridge the gap between industry and education. We hope to see many of you at the show!



July 15-18, 2009
Las Vegas, Nevada

- Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech -

Exploring and Understanding the Department, the Major and Career Opportunities

The department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech is the leading North American academic program in the discipline of wood science and forest products and is one of four departments in the College of Natural Resources. We are 15 faculty, 6 staff, and 10 research scientists conducting research, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses and working with the industry in the state, the region and globally. We have 40 graduate students and 50 undergraduate students enrolled in the department. The department has research expenditures of approximately \$1.8 million each year and our faculty publish about 40 peer-reviewed scientific articles each year. In addition, we develop and teach industry short-courses, make presentations at professional meeting world-wide, and publish in industry trade magazines. Our faculty are active in professional societies and organizations.

What is the History of the Discipline and the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech?

The Discipline

University programs began to establish faculty expertise related to wood, its properties, and how to process and make products from wood about 75 years ago. Early faculty expertise was typically one or two professors working in a forestry department, but may have included faculty in an engineering discipline or architecture as well. Wood was used to build bridges, houses, industrial buildings and for consumer goods and expertise was needed in architecture, chemistry, engineering and other disciplines to solve problems and enhance the performance of wood in these uses. World War I fueled a critical need to advance our knowledge of wood, its properties and performance in the design and build of wooden aircraft and boats. Federal research laboratories were established to support the war effort and evolution of wooden aircraft and boats.

Forestry as a discipline at colleges and universities began to emerge in the late 1800s, arising from botany or plant-based academic programs. These forestry programs with faculty interest in growing and managing trees and forests were the natural place to also assemble faculty expertise in how to process and use wood, as well as understand the material properties of wood. Wood science programs today either remain as a component of a forestry department or have emerged on their own as a separate academic department, such as our program at Virginia Tech. There are a few programs in North America housed in engineering or architecture departments.

There has not been a common naming of these wood programs and departments in North America as might be found in other disciplines, for example mechanical engineering and civil engineering that are so well recognized. Wood Science programs are considered a professional discipline, but are not so widely recognized as such by the general population. Wood Science academic programs can be accredited by a professional organization, the Society of Wood Science and Technology. However, wood science faculty are not typically licensed professional engineers or architects. Today, wood science faculty come from a variety of academic backgrounds such as architecture, business, chemistry, chemical engineering, economics, engineering, marketing, materials science and wood science. The diverse academic background of faculty is needed to bring necessary expertise to our wood science departments to conduct critical research, teach students and work with the wood industry in Virginia and beyond.

ABOUT
W&FP

The Department

The department of Wood Science and Forest Products was established at Virginia Tech in 1979 and has become an international leader in the arena of wood science and forest products over the past 25+ years. The department grew out of faculty expertise in the forestry department. We have graduated more than 125 PhDs during this time who have gone on to be leaders at their respective institutions and organizations. We've graduated hundreds of undergraduate students. Our faculty have been recognized with the most prestigious awards and honors bestowed by professional organizations and societies. Our faculty hold many U.S. patents for intellectual properties developed while working in our program.

Within our department are several research centers established by faculty to work directly with different segments of the industry. The department today has faculty expertise in many areas such as cellulose chemistry, nanotechnology, pharmaceuticals and cancer therapy, wood/timber engineering, wood adhesion, wood anatomy and formation, international business, marketing, manufacturing and management, wood drying, wood processing, packaging science, industrial systems engineering, and non-timber forest products. Our expertise spans the range from the chemistry of cellulose and adhesion science to processing and product manufacture, to the business aspects of our industry. We have broad and leading faculty expertise in North America. We are a comprehensive academic department offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs, conducting research, and working with the industry in the state and region.

What's in a Name?

The department name 'Wood Science and Forest Products' implies several things: knowledge of wood as a material, understanding the science behind wood as a material, knowledge of the products made from wood, including why certain species are used, how the wood is processed into these products, the properties of these products and how they are used in various applications. Other department names in the U.S. include the Department of Bio-Products, Department of Wood and Paper Science, Department of Wood Science and Engineering, Department of Forest Products and other names. There has not been a common naming of academic departments in the United States.

Careers in Wood

We boast of strong student placement throughout the industry, government, associations, and universities. Starting salaries for the 2008 BS graduating class averaged approximately \$45,000, with multiple job opportunities in many locations throughout the U.S. and beyond. Students with advanced degrees earned more in starting positions. Positions are available in sales, marketing, management, manufacturing, distribution, research and development, and many other career pathways. The wood industry is a significant business sector in our country and globally and expertise is needed in all areas. The impact of the forest industries in Virginia is estimated at \$30 billion dollars annually. Wood and renewable materials will become even more important to the global community as we consider all materials and products in a 'green' context and in the sustainability of the planet. There will be many challenging career opportunities for graduates of our program.

With our leading faculty, academic programs, curriculum and relationships throughout the sector, we offer one of the very best educational opportunities in the field of wood science and forest products in North America.

For More Information Contact:

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