

30	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

# 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

- I am meeting with the University Architect again this week in the first planning steps for our new building.
- Thanks to Dr. Earl Kline for his financial contribution to 'Building Our Future'. Contributions from within our wood science family are so very special and much appreciated. Thank you Dr. Kline for your support!
- I will participate with Deputy Secretary of Ag and Forestry Bill Dickinson and others this week in Charlottesville in the preliminary release of the summary document which highlights the methodology and major findings of the Cooper Center Study on the impact of the agriculture and forestry industries on Virginia. This data is critical to our industry and our programs at Virginia Tech. A final version of the Cooper Study will be released soon.
- I will participate in an open house and technology clinic at the Holzma showroom in Gastonia, NC this week with Southside partner David Kenealy. We are going to the clinic to learn of the latest technology as we position the Southside Initiative for success.
- May 1 marks my 7th year anniversary at Virginia Tech. I'm having the best time working with and among you. Thanks for your support. I in many ways feel like I'm just getting started – so let's go!

## Spring Semester Classes End April 30th

## Scholarship Application Deadline is May 15th

Our department scholarship application deadline is May 15th, for scholarships to be awarded effective fall 2008. Application may be made on line. You can find our downloadable application form, and link to the online application on our department website at <http://www.woodscience.vt.edu/students/scholarships/scholarlist.asp?type=I>

Notification is made during the summer, and students are recognized at our Wood Week Scholarship Recognition Reception. The reception is scheduled for September 17th, 2008 at the Inn at Virginia Tech.

## Register for Wood Week 2008 Career Fair

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. We have increased our capacity this year to 75 companies. Registration is now live and linked from the Wood Week 2008 link on our homepage. Please help spread the word on the career fair and help us reach our goal of 75 participating firms this year.



## Tropical Forestry Foundation Seminar Announcement:

Developing an International System of Training Centers to Promote Sustainable Forestry: The Role of the Tropical Forest Foundation in Sustainable Forestry in Indonesia, Brazil, Guyana, and the Congo Basin and How Virginia Tech Can Become Involved.

Presented by Keister Evans, President of the Tropical Forest Foundation  
2PM-3PM May 1 in 311 Cheatham Hall

## Student Clubs to Host End-of-Year Party

As this year comes to an end we would like to have a final, informal, party next Saturday May 3rd. This get together will be at Mike Elebash's house. Mike lives at 1021 Montgomery St. off North Main; it is the third house on the left from the end of the road. We plan to start around 6PM, and this event is open for all members of the department, meaning any faculty, staff, students, and grad students. The two clubs, IOPP and FPC are going to work together to have hotdogs and beverages available so just show up to cook out, throw some horseshoes and have a good time. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

## Dr. Robert and Nina Suen Visit Department

Robert and Nina Suen visited the department last week as guest of Mrs. Dorothy Skaar. Robert was a graduate student under Dr. Christen Skarr while both were at Syracuse and he and his wife have remained friends of the Skaar's these many years. Robert retired from the paper industry and they live in Media Pennsylvania.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Chris Skaar passed away August 1, 2006 at the age of 86. After teaching at Syracuse University for 30 years, Skaar came to Virginia Tech in 1976 and retired in 1989. Dr. Skaar graduated over 30 Ph.D. students during his career, was elected Fellow in the International Academy of Wood Sciences, held the Thomas M. Brooks professorship for over a dozen years, and brought much acclaim to our program.



Thanks Robert and Nina for stopping by to visit our department.

## Semester Projects in WOOD 1234 Introduction to Wood Science and Forest Products

Spring semester ends with a showing of the student wood projects in WOOD 1234 taught by Professor Loferski. Brooks Center wood shop manager David Jones supervised the students and helped them to learn about safe use of tools, wood working machinery and wood science. The main objective of the project is to apply wood science concepts learned in lecture, to create a useful wooden item. The students also learned how to work in teams, and they experienced efficient manufacturing methods. One of the few rules of the assignment is that the object must be joined without metal fasteners. The students worked in teams of two or three and each team developed a design, selected rough sawn wood, and processed it from start to finish. The photo below shows the 2008 class projects.



## Family Business Portrait, Innovation, Terra Research Magazine

[Source: Terra Magazine - Oregon State University](#)

Family businesses are the bedrock of the United States economy. But as company founders and CEOs age, failure to plan for the future puts many family firms on uncertain footing.

That is the conclusion of a national survey conducted by OSU and Seattle University with Seattle-based Laird Norton Tyee, the Northwest's largest privately held wealth management firm. The 2007 survey found that 60 to 70 percent of family businesses with revenues topping \$5 million have neglected to lay the groundwork for the next generation of company leadership.

"The most surprising finding of our survey is the lack of formal planning, including strategic business and succession plans, for many family businesses," says Rich Simmonds of Laird Norton Tyee, who collaborated with OSU's Austin Family Business Program, which offers succession planning workshops, and Close to the Customer (C2C) program to design and execute the study. "If the trend continues, it could have a detrimental long-term effect on these companies."

Two big roadblocks hamper planning: the pressure of managing day-to-day operations, and the difficulty of confronting old age, illness, disability and death. Family-business heads tend to see themselves as indistinguishable from the company itself. They often have a tough time imagining the business carrying on without them, the survey found. But if the business is to remain viable when the founder is gone, steps should be taken long before a crisis strikes to designate and prepare a successor, Laird Norton Tyee counsels.

Red flags popped up in other areas, including a lack of written strategic plans and reliance on informal governance structures. "The survey was designed to paint a broad overview of what's going on in family businesses across America," says C2C's Director Nicole Brown, who executed the survey with marketing professor Hal Koenig.

To read the complete study, Family to Family: The Laird Norton Family Business Survey 2007, visit [familybusinesssurvey.com](http://familybusinesssurvey.com).

## **Roseburg Forest Products Set to Make Wood Pellets**

DILLARD, OR: Through a tentative agreement, Roseburg Forest Products (RFP) has announced that it expects to market wood-fuel pellets with West Oregon Wood Products, based in Columbia City. Production would take place at RFP's particleboard manufacturing facility in Dillard in time for the 2008-09 home-heating season.

"The addition of a pellet mill will give Roseburg the flexibility to substitute pellets for commodity particleboard production during the home-heating season," said Darrell Keeling, vice president of composite manufacturing at RFP. "We will put our wood fiber to the best use while continuing to serve our panel customers."

Roseburg's initial production capacity will be 22,000 tons of pellets per year with potential to expand in the future. The companies are targeting the Oregon and California home-heating markets.

Pellet production will have a minimal impact on employment at the Dillard facility, Keeling said.

"Particleboard remains our primary product at the Dillard composite panel facility," he said. "The addition of the pellet business will allow us to stabilize our raw material supply."

Based in Roseburg, RFP is a family-owned manufacturer of lumber, particleboard, softwood plywood, engineered wood products and specialty panels. Established in 1936 by the Ford family, it has land and facilities in the northwest and southeast United States.

West Oregon Wood Products produces a variety of wood products, including commercial-grade sawdust, animal bedding, all-wood fire logs, and fuel and barbecue pellets.

## **Eastern Hardwood Region Woody Biomass Energy Opportunity Study Released**

A study conducted by Summit Ridge Investments, LLC under contract for the USDA Wood Education Resource Center in Princeton, WV is now available. [Go to link now.](#)

## **Appalachian Enterprise Center Opens in NC**

Interesting story about the recent opening of the Appalachian Enterprise Center in Boone, NC. The center houses a number of economic development agencies, as well as 17 available business spaces.

<http://www.wataugademocrat.com/2008/04/14/0418center.php>

## **Job Announcements**

### **Sales and Marketing - F&W**

F&W is a family business that is over 100 years old. The company has changed a lot over the years and today operate a dimension or component plant, dry kilns and a concentration yard. We employ 90 people and are located in the small village of Ellicottville, NY, which is 50 miles south of Buffalo. We have two ski areas here.

Ron Mercer will be retiring and I am intersted in bringing in a young person to train in sales and marketing of hardwood lumber and components. Exports have been an important market for us for over 30 years.

We have a full time Forester on staff and he manages several thousand acres of timberland the company owns. We did close our sawmill six years ago and now buy in green and KD lumber for our kilns and dimension plant.

Visit our website at [www.fitzweller.com](http://www.fitzweller.com)



## Process Control Technician - Georgia Pacific

Georgia-Pacific, a leader in the forest products industry is seeking a skilled candidate for a Process Control Technician position opening in our oriented strand board plant located in Brookneal, VA. The plant is approximately 30 minutes from Lynchburg, VA. This Plant is capable of providing a safe and financially stable work environment.

### List of Job Responsibilities

- Works with the Team Leader to resolve quality and/or production problems.
- Performs daily quality control tests as outlined by Georgia-Pacific Corporation standards and APA specifications including but not limited to: surface inspections, thickness tolerance checks, verification of flake geometry and flake moisture content, cross-panel density, internal bonding, parallel and perpendicular.

### List of Job Requirements

- Desire to work in a team-based environment.
- Willingness to work rotating shifts which will include weekends and holidays.
- Solid working knowledge of APA performance standards and polices for structural-use panels, production methods, tests and reporting procedures for quality control from receipt of raw materials to shipment of the finished product.
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills.
- Ability to compose technical material including letters, reports and proposals.
- 3 – 5 years of job related experience and/or a Bachelor's Degree in Wood Science.

### What All Applicants Can Expect

- Interested applicants should forward a current resume, cover letter and salary requirements to:

Georgia-Pacific Corporation  
Attn: Keith Scott  
Post Office Box 340  
Brookneal, Virginia 24528

- Any applicants offered employment would be required to take a post-offer drug screen.
- Deadline to apply is May 12th, 2008.



**Student Wood Enterprise Institute**  
WOOD 2984, CRN 61782  
Summer '08



### What is the Student Enterprise?

- ✓ A chance to experience what you learn in class by making it work in a real business enterprise situation
- ✓ A chance to develop skills not typically taught in the classroom
- ✓ A chance to fine-tune your time management abilities
- ✓ A chance to learn how to teach things you know to those who don't
- ✓ A chance to build your resume, build a portfolio, and showcase your abilities in more visible ways in a variety of outlets
- ✓ A chance to deal with problems, understand their root cause, and to develop appropriate countermeasures.
- ✓ A chance to learn what it really means to align business operations with market demand
- ✓ A chance to test the waters of risk, innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship
- ✓ A chance to further build your network, both in the business world and in the academic world
- ✓ And probably most importantly, a chance for you to guide and direct your own learning experience in directions that are both meaningful and fun! The enterprise is owned by you and it is what you want to make it.

The Wood Enterprise Institute (WEI) introduces an actual wood product “concept-to-market” business project during the Summer Semester 2008. Students will continue last year’s successful inaugural start-up of WEI. Learning experiences include how to improve, make, and market a wood product, organize a business to make and sell it, measure and assess key performance areas, and manage the quality of the processes necessary to sustain a profitable and timely business. Sponsoring faculty and industry representatives will interact with students throughout the project for business models, technology, and practical advice that would be necessary to sustain a competitive business venture. This study is offered as a 6 credit full summer semester course.

**Next Information Meeting:**  
5:30pm --- Tuesday, April 1, 2008  
317 Cheatham Hall

Please contact Dr. Earl Kline ([kline@vt.edu](mailto:kline@vt.edu)) for more information about WEI.





## 11<sup>th</sup> International IUFRO Wood Drying Conference

*Recent Advances in the field of Wood Drying*

**January 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010, Skellefteå, Sweden**

The organizer: Luleå University of Technology, LTU Skellefteå, Division of Wood Physics & IUFRO 5.04.06 Wood Drying.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Papers and Pre-registration

The first IUFRO Wood Drying Conference was held in Skellefteå, Sweden 1987. We are now happy to invite you for the second time to attend and contribute to the 11<sup>th</sup> International IUFRO Wood Drying Conference in Skellefteå, Sweden in January 18-22, 2010. The conference will provide a forum and an opportunity for international researchers to get together and exchange the latest research and developments within the field of wood drying in theory and applications.

### Topics

We would be pleased to receive papers and posters from interested authors that follow the conference theme "Recent Advances in the field of Wood Drying" in the following topics

- Drying quality and wood properties
- Physics of Wood Drying: Modelling
- Applied wood drying
- Miscellaneous drying technologies
- Wood modification related to drying
- Kiln control, sensor technology
- Energy and Environmental issues
- General