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# INSIDE VT WOOD

## News From Paul Winistorfer

- This week, March 24-28 is Graduate Education Week at Virginia Tech! There are many activities for graduate students throughout the week, and opportunities for special recognition of graduate students. The College of Natural Resources will hold a “Special Coffee Hour” on March 28 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 315 Cheatham Hall in honor of our College graduate students and Graduate Education Week. See additional information below for activities during the week.

**We Appreciate Our Graduate Students in Wood Science and Forest Products!!**



We currently have 35 students enrolled in our Graduate Program. Students come from 8 countries: Bolivia, China, India, Ghana, Korea, Mexico, Senegal and the United States.

- Our Graduate Student Spotlight and Seminar presenter this week is Gi Young Jeong, doctoral candidate working with Dr. Dan Hindman. The title of his presentation is “Tensile properties of loblolly pine strands using digital image correlation and stochastic finite element models.” Please join us at 9:00 a.m. on Friday morning in the Brooks Classroom.
- If you are interested in following the Southern Virginia Forest Products Initiative you can get periodic updates by requesting to ‘stay informed’. The first follow up to the conference held March 13 is now available on the [conference website](#), as well as materials and information presented at the conference.
- Baillie Lumber Company’s George Thomson will be coming to campus March 25th to interview our students. George will also be lecturing in our Forest Products Marketing class and will be hosted by Dr. Bob Bush.

## Parhizkar Successfully Defends Dissertation

Omid Parhizkar successfully defended his dissertation on Friday afternoon. The title of his work was “Identifying Impact Factors on the Export of the United States Hardwood Industries to Mexico, Asia and Europe.” His committee consisted of Drs. Han, Hammett and Kline and Smith (Chair) from Wood Science and Dr. Chad Miller from Southern Mississippi University. CONGRATULATIONS to Omid on his successful defense! Omid has taken a position with US AID in Santiago Chile.

## First Annual River Cleanup a Dirty Success!!

The Institute of Packaging Professionals club and the Forest Products club joined efforts Saturday, March 16 to clean up a 1.5 mile section of the New River. 19 volunteers participated. 21 bags of trash were collected, 11 were recycled, several tires and other debris were also removed. These two clubs are now affiliated with the Virginia Department of Recreation and Conservation in the "Renew the New-Adopt-A Stream Program". The clubs have devoted to clean this section of the river two times a year. After the second cleaning, signs



will be issued stating "Adopt-A-Stream": Virginia Tech—Institute of Packaging Professionals/Forest Products Club. The next cleanup date is likely to be late August/early September (details to be addressed at a later time). Thanks to all volunteers for the success of this service project.





Gi Young Jeong  
Ph.D. Candidate

**H**ello, my name is Gi Young Jeong and I am a third year Ph.D. student working for Dr. Hindman. I was born in Gwangju city in Korea where I stayed until I finished my B.S degree in Wood Science. During my B.S., I joined the army and served in the DMZ where I could see the North Korean soldiers and landmine zones only. After my discharge from the army, I went to New Zealand to see different things and also to improve my English. I was shocked by the completely different culture and by speaking English all the time.

While I was in the third year in my B.S, I prepared to come to the U.S for graduate studies. Taking exams in English and getting the recommendation letters from professors who had no experience on writing the type of letters were not fun. I was accepted by Louisiana State University for my M.S. degree in Wood Science and Engineering. My first job was to help the post-doc make wood plastic composites (WPCs), which was a great experience. Fortunately, I had a related topic for my

research; I tested WPCs to evaluate fracture behavior and I also simulated fracture behavior of WPCs using finite element method.

I joined the Wood Science and Forest Products department of Virginia Tech in 2005 for my Ph.D. The first two years I had two small projects and helped teach wood mechanic classes as a TA. Those experiences were amazing and enhanced my capabilities in both research and teaching. Interacting with Wood Science students in class and out of class was really a great way to know them better. Also interacting with the Brooks people is always enjoyable. I would say specially Rick, Kenny, Will, and Angie are essential parts of the Brooks family.

In 2008, the biggest news for me is that I became a married man! I had met a young lady in Blacksburg in 2006, who was a first year Ph.D. student in Instructional Technology. Let me tell you this, I feel thankful to her for saving me from a lonely graduate student life and for trusting me. I plan to graduate this September. It is kind of scary to face the reality of life after graduation but at the same time exciting, too. I am glad I still feel young so I can eagerly challenge for the wood mechanics and engineering field!

Although personally I spent most of my time in the cold graduate student loft, I do like to talk to people and do different things. At home I like to watch movies and play video games.

## Dr. Han Speaks at the Korea National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Suwon, Korea

Dr. Jongkoo Han was invited as a special guest speaker at the Korea National Institute of Agricultural Engineering. The Seminar was held on March 11 at the Conference Room in the Institute located in Suwon, Seoul, KOREA. Title and topics of his Presentation were “Standardization of Distribution Packaging of Agricultural Produces: Future of Produce Distribution Packaging including Packaging and Sustainability.” 50 researchers in the National Institute attended his presentation.



## CULD Visits ISTA's International Transport Packaging Forum



The 2008 International  
**TRANSPORT PACKAGING FORUM™**  
Presented by ISTA Orlando, Florida

March 17-20, 2008  
Disney's Coronado Springs Resort  
[www.transportpackagingforum.com](http://www.transportpackagingforum.com)

The Center for Unit Load Design was represented by Ralph Rupert, Bonnie Maccubbin, and graduate students Jim Bisha and Alex Hagedorn in the International Safe Transit Association's (ISTA) International Transport Packaging Forum, March 17 - 20, 2008 in Orlando Florida. Jim Bisha did an outstanding presentation of his thesis “Stability Evaluation and Comparison of Stretch Hooding versus Stretch Wrap Unit Loads”, which was very well received. Numerous comments from the conference attendees indicated that the topic was of great interest and further research was requested. The center also had a booth exhibit at the forum that allowed for great networking. Of additional note, our packaging science program has gained visible peer recognition within the packaging industry as our program was referenced in several other presentations. The highlight of the forum had to be the ISTA introduction of the center as the world's premier authority in pallets and unit load design!

## Graduate Education Week, March 24-28!

The Graduate School invites and encourages you to participate in Graduate Education Week (GEW) events during the last week of March. Graduate Education Week is celebrated to recognize the importance of graduate education; increase the university community's awareness of the contributions of graduate students to teaching, research and service; and to enhance the graduate student experience. Please help spread the word about these events, consider participating in some of them yourself, and find ways to recognize graduate students in your own departments/ programs.

For a full event schedule and details visit <http://www.grads.vt.edu/events/gew>

### GEW HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE:

#### Monday, March 24

- Graduate Student Appreciation Luncheon -- By reservation only, take your students to lunch in the GLC! The reservation form is at [http://www.grads.vt.edu/events/gew/documents/2008\\_app\\_lunch\\_reg\\_form.pdf](http://www.grads.vt.edu/events/gew/documents/2008_app_lunch_reg_form.pdf)

- Ethics Bowl, register at: "<https://survey.vt.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1174313911033>"

- AEL Graduate Honor Society Induction Ceremony

**Tuesday, March 25**

- Grad Study Lounge Grand Opening in the Library

**Wednesday, March 26**

- GSA Research Symposium

- Graduate Research Forum Showcase

**Thursday, March 27**

- GEW Awards Banquet

**Friday, March 28**

- Where Crazy Art Meets Fake Science - Design Contest,

- Big Cook Out on the Grad School Lawn

**Don't Miss This Opportunity - Register Now**

Dear Building and Design Professional:

I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite to the Wood Solutions Fair being held in Charlotte, NC on Thursday, March 27, 2008. As a building-industry professional, you should not miss this event!

Hosted by the Wood Products Council as part of the new WoodWorks program for non-residential construction, this day-long conference and trade show is a great opportunity to network with colleagues and see what's new in your field. International wood and design specialists will lead informative seminars on a variety of topics of interest to architects, civil and structural engineers, building designers, inspectors, and other industry professionals. Register today to guarantee a spot in the seminars of your choice.

Here are just a few things to look forward to:

NETWORK with international industry pros

LEARN at informative seminars (see the enclosed brochure for a list)

EARN continuing education credits

APPLY the latest industry trends to your next project

FREE ADMISSION to exhibit hall, all seminars, plus lunch and refreshments throughout the day

Don't miss out!

Pre-register by March 26, 2008 to guarantee your choice of seminars

Register online at [www.woodworks.org](http://www.woodworks.org), or by phone, fax or mail.

Tel: (916)-608-8686 Fax: (916)-608-8787



Where:	Charlotte Convention Center 501 S. COLLEGE ST.CHARLOTTE, NC 28202
When:	Thursday, March 27, 2008
Why:	Earn 6 credits (CEU credits)



**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.



## **Forest Foundation Study Finds Four Wildfires Send 38 Million Tons Of Harmful Gases Into Air, Equivalent Of 7 Million Cars On The Road For One Year In California**

AUBURN, Calif., March 12, 2008 – When a wildfire strikes California, the state’s efforts to stop global warming go up in smoke.

A study released today of four large California wildfires shows they collectively will put an estimated 38 million tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere through fire and subsequent decay of dead trees.

Together emissions from fire and decay undo much of the progress California is making to fight global warming.

Consider that the estimated 38 million tons of greenhouse gases is the equivalent of emissions from 7 million cars – for one year.

Nearly 10 million tons of harmful greenhouse gases were emitted from the fires themselves, with an estimated 28 million additional tons of carbon dioxide emitted from decay, mostly in the next 50 years.

“Reducing the number and severity of wildfires may be the single most important action we can take in the short-term to lower greenhouse gas emissions and fight global warming,” said Dr. Thomas Bonnicksen, a professor emeritus of forestry at Texas A&M University and author of *America’s Ancient Forests: from the Ice Age to the Age of Discovery* (John Wiley, 2000). Dr. Bonnicksen, who holds a Ph.D. in forestry from the University of California, Berkeley, has studied California forests for more than 30 years.

The study was conducted for the Forest Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes education about the state’s forests. The study is based on a ground-breaking analytical tool developed for the Forest Foundation that allows scientists to estimate greenhouse gases emitted by wildfire and subsequent forest decay.

The tool, called the Forest Carbon and Emissions Model, analyzes the impact of wildfires on global warming by considering a number of factors, including vegetation density, tree species, mortality caused by a fire, and the removal of dead trees and replanting new trees.

The study included extensive analysis of four fires:

- The Angora Fire, which burned more than 3,100 acres near South Lake Tahoe in June and July of 2007.
- The Fountain Fire, which destroyed nearly 60,000 acres east of Redding in August 1992.
- The Star Fire, which burned more than 16,000 acres in September 2001 in the Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests.
- The Moonlight Fire, which burned more than 65,000 acres in September 2007 in and around the Plumas National Forest in the northern Sierra Nevada.

“California as a state is committed to reducing greenhouse gases,” Dr. Bonnicksen said. “But these fires demonstrate that much of the effort is wasted when wildfires spew huge amounts of harmful gases into the air and then continue emitting gases for decades as trees decay.”

Even today, fires that ended months and years ago are still releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere as dead trees left in the forest continue to decay.

“While everyone sees – and smells – the harm wildfires cause to the environment, the damage is needlessly made worse by our failure to remove dead trees and replant new forests,” Dr. Bonnicksen said.

“Removing fire-killed trees does two important things to fight global warming: it reduces the amount of harmful gases released after a fire by reducing wood available for decay and it stores the carbon that would have been lost in long-lasting wood products,” Dr. Bonnicksen said.

Dr. Bonnicksen added that, “removing dead trees and replanting to restore the forest can reverse the impact of wildfires on global warming by recovering most - if not all - the carbon dioxide lost to the atmosphere from fire and decay.” In addition, he said, “it would also help protect surrounding forests and communities from a second wildfire or re-burn, which often occurs in un-restored forests that become brush fields filled with dead trees.”

Unfortunately, Dr. Bonnicksen noted, the federal government doesn't move quickly to remove fire-killed trees and replant. For the Angora and Moonlight fires of 2007, no removal of dead trees has occurred on federally owned lands and there is no plan to replant those areas.

In contrast, private forest landowners swiftly remove dead trees, turning them into wood products used by consumers rather than allowing them to decay and send carbon dioxide into the air, and then they replant a new forest.

"These wood products continue to store carbon and a young, replanted and well-managed forest absorbs carbon at a fast rate," Dr. Bonnicksen said. He added, "If we care about our forests and fighting global warming then we must reduce the threat of wildfire and remove dead trees and replant if a wildfire occurs."

For a copy of the full report, please visit [www.calforestfoundation.org](http://www.calforestfoundation.org). To view a video on YouTube on the affects of wildfire on wildlife, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vrTRg3WnDI>

### **About The Forest Foundation**

The Forest Foundation is a non-profit organization that strives to conserve our forests and keep them sustainable and healthy by sharing the knowledge of forestry experts with the public. Based in Auburn, Calif., its programs include scientific research, community outreach, education programs, and forestry exhibits. For more information, visit [www.calforestfoundation.org](http://www.calforestfoundation.org).

## **Weyerhaeuser Sells Containerboard, Packaging and Recycling To International Paper for \$6 Billion in Cash**

FEDERAL WAY, Wash., March 17, 2008 — Weyerhaeuser Company (NYSE: WY) today announced the sale of its Containerboard Packaging and Recycling business to International Paper (NYSE: IP) for \$6 billion in cash, subject to post closing adjustments. Weyerhaeuser said it expects to use a substantial portion of the after-tax proceeds from the sale to pay down debt.

The transaction includes nine containerboard mills, 72 packaging locations, 10 specialty-packaging plants, four kraft bag and sack locations and 19 recycling facilities. (See list at end of release for locations.) The transaction affects approximately 14,300 employees.

Steven R. Rogel, chairman and chief executive officer, said the announcement completes the company's strategic review of the CBPR business.

"We are pleased with the outcome and we will continue to focus on those areas that present the greatest opportunities for the future," Rogel said. "This future begins with the trees and the land, and our outstanding stewardship of these resources. To this we add our unique expertise in growing and extracting value from the trees and the land on which they grow.

"I want to thank the CBPR employees for their dedication, patience and professional approach during this review. Their efforts continue to improve the performance of this business and I'm confident that this transaction positions CBPR for an even more successful future."

The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions including regulatory review and receipt of financing by International Paper. The transaction is currently expected to close in the second half of 2008. International Paper has committed financing for the entire purchase price. Weyerhaeuser CBPR and International Paper will continue to operate separately until the transaction closes.

Morgan Stanley acted as financial advisor to Weyerhaeuser in the transaction.

Weyerhaeuser Company, one of the world's largest forest products companies, was incorporated in 1900. In 2007, sales were \$16.3 billion. It has offices or operations in 13 countries, with customers worldwide. Weyerhaeuser is principally engaged in the growing and harvesting of timber; the manufacture, distribution and sale of forest products; and real estate construction, development and related activities. Additional information about Weyerhaeuser's businesses, products and practices is available at <http://www.weyerhaeuser.com>.



## Spring 2008 Seminar

Seminar meets in the Brooks Forest Products Classroom

Date-Friday 9:00 AM	Presenter	Topic
January 18	Brian Perkins Ph.D. Candidate	Modeling Factors that Influence Firm Performance of Eastern Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers
January 25	John Bouldin Ph.D. Candidate	Defects in engineered wood products in residential construction
February 1	Thammarat Mettanurak M.S. Candidate	Effect of Suppression and Release on Compression Parallel to Grain Property for Small-sized Yellow-poplar ( <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> L.) Specimens
February 8	Omid Parhizkar Ph.D. Candidate	Improving the international competitiveness of U.S. sawmills to Middle Eastern markets: An assessment of market segments
February 15	Tim Stuess Ph.D. Candidate	Information Flow in the Hardwood Supply Chain
February 22	Jim Bisha M.S. Candidate	The effect of load stabilizer selection on load slip within unit loads
February 29	Alex Hagedorn Ph.D. Candidate	Identifying pallet size incompatibilities within the global supply chain
March 14	Omar Espinoza Ph.D. Candidate	Quality Measurement in a Wood Products Supply Chain
March 21	Hezong Wang Ph.D. Candidate	Polyelectrolyte complex formation between cellulose nanocrystals and chitosan
March 28	Gi Young Jeong Ph.D. Candidate	Tensile Properties of Loblolly Pine Strands Using Digital Image Correlation and Stochastic Finite Element Method
April 4	Braden White M.S. Candidate	Verification of Finite Element Model Estimates of Wooden Pallet Performance
April 11	Angela Zhou M.S. Candidate	Nano-coating on wood veneers for adhesion and durability
April 18	Ji Youn Yoo M.S. Candidate	Quantitative Analysis of the Static Stress Distributions across Pallet Decks for the Unit Loads of Selected Packaged Product Forms and Stacking Patterns
April 25	Garrett Norman M.S. Candidate	Just-In-Time Manufacturing System Design for Rough Mill Systems: A Case Study

April 30 classes end

For more information please contact the department at 540/231-8853

# Wood Week 2008

## September 15-19, 2008

### 26bfgwper 12-18 2008

### MOOQ M66K 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](http://www.automoblox.com)



Tuesday  
September 16th

**Wood Magic Show**  
Brooks Forest Products Center  
[www.woodmagic.vt.edu](http://www.woodmagic.vt.edu)



Wednesday  
September 17th

**Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management Meets**  
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](http://www.woodscience.vt.edu)

Friday  
September 19th

No activities

# Job Announcements

## *Technical Team Member* – Sutton Structurwood OSB

Location: Heaters, WV

### **Position Accountability**

The Technical Team Member is accountable and responsible for the continuous monitoring of the quality of products and to optimize the product and process in response to current operating conditions and must provide immediate feedback and recommendations on problems and opportunities. This position also requires the following:

- Is a Safety, Housekeeping, & Total Quality role model
- Works toward using Actively Caring Safe Work Practices
- Attends and participates in team meetings, team feedback, team building, and performance reviews
- Meets attendance expectation for the mill
- Identifies potential quality problems and takes corrective action
- Identifies opportunities for optimization of resin/wax/wood usage based on current operating conditions and panel tests
- Utilizes software systems for quality SPC on key mill areas and interfaces with functional area leaders for quality and process improvement opportunities
- Identifies quality in unit appearance
- Able to teach quality observations/checks to others and audits operations
- Interfaces with 3rd party certification agency
- Conducts quality discussion in Shift Exchange meetings
- Uses TQ techniques and tools to continuously improve board properties and process
- Interfaces across the organization on quality status and opportunities
- Follows all safety expectations and provides coaching to others on safety
- Interfaces with maintenance on quality monitoring equipment
- Provides technical assistance in the development of new RM's
- Leads and/or provides assistance on special projects on an as needed
- Acts as functional area expert to support the manufacturing process

### **Knowledge/Skill and Ability**

- 2 – 5 years experience in continuous process manufacturing/ quality lab or BS degree in wood technology or like technical degree
- Must be able and willing to work within safe work practices
- Ability to communicate effectively in writing and verbally
- Able to perform and use personal computers – excel, minitab, access
- Able to independently analyze data and recommend alternate courses of action
- Able to take direction and willing to take on new tasks
- Able to organize and plan priorities
- Ability to problem solve and troubleshoot
- Able and willing to read and comprehend technical and non-technical information
- Able and willing to safely operate lab saws
- Able to handle materials no greater than 50 lbs
- Able and willing to work in a cooperative work system
- Able to change to meet customer requirements and needs
- Able and willing to work rotating shifts, weekends, holidays, etc.
- Able and willing to meet attendance requirements
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Strong leadership skills
- Able to use applied math skills/ statistical methods

Please send resume and cover letter to:

Hank Goldberg, HR Manager ([Hank.Goldberg@Weyerhaeuser.com](mailto:Hank.Goldberg@Weyerhaeuser.com))

Weyerhaeuser

HC 65 Box 1A

Heaters, WV 26627

## **Graduate Research Assistant Position**

**Announced: March 20, 2008**

**Oregon State University  
Dept. Wood Science & Engineering  
Corvallis, Oregon**

**Field of study:** Wood-based composite science and technology

**Starting Date:** September 2008 or January 2009

### **Qualifications:**

Candidate must enroll as a graduate student at Oregon State University with a major in Wood Science. Successful candidates must have a BS, MS or equivalent degree in one of the fields of wood science, industrial engineering, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, or materials science. Good verbal and written communication skills in English are required. For further information regarding admission to Graduate School at OSU visit:

<http://woodscience.oregonstate.edu/gradprog.php>

### **Tuition and Stipend:**

Stipend is 0.49 FTE, 12-month appointment. Tuition is paid by OSU. Annual salary is \$19,000 to \$22,000 depending on qualifications.

### **Oregon State University:**

The Department of Wood Science and Engineering at Oregon State University is one of the leading programs in the field of wood science in the world. We offer a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of wood. Richardson Hall is a modern facility with a broad range of research equipment that is available for graduate student use. The program is well known for its industrial contacts. Graduates find themselves well prepared for a career.

Corvallis rests on the western edge of the Willamette Valley, approximately 80 miles south of Portland, 50 miles east of the Pacific Ocean, and 50 miles west of the Cascade Mountains. Corvallis is a community of 50,000 friendly people. Oregon boasts many outdoor activities, including skiing, kayaking, hiking, fishing, biking, and others. The climate is mild, with warm dry summers and wet cool winters.

### **For further information contact:**

Dr. Fred Kamke  
JELD-WEN Professor of Wood-Based Composite Science  
Dept. Wood Science & Engineering  
Oregon State University  
119 Richardson Hall  
Corvallis, OR 97331  
Phone: 541-737-8422  
Email: [fred.kamke@oregonstate.edu](mailto:fred.kamke@oregonstate.edu)

### Virginia Tech

At least three Graduate Research Assistantships are currently available for Fall 2008. A successful candidate is expected to pursue an M.S. or Ph.D. degree in the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products or related program. The thesis or dissertation topic will be related to wood or wood-fiber based composites, including: resource utilization, manufacture and/or processing, adhesion and adhesives, materials science, or performance in structures.

Students with backgrounds in wood science, civil engineering, materials science, chemistry and adhesion, and related fields are encouraged to apply.

WBC fellowships are funded by a consortium of companies who are interested in advancing the education of students who will matriculate into the wood-based composites industry. Graduate stipends are offered at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels, with financial support commensurate with the level of experience (currently \$17,900 to \$20,065 per year). In addition to the stipend, tuition costs, professional travel costs, and material costs are covered by the Fellowship.

#### **Application Procedure (Steps 1 and 2 can be done simultaneously):**

##### ***Step 1***

(Needed for admittance to the Graduate School)

Apply, and be accepted to, the Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Applications and requirements can be obtained by contacting the Graduate School at:

209 Sandy Hall  
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0325  
Toll Free (877) 453-1405  
<http://www.grads.vt.edu>

##### ***Step 2***

(Needed to be considered for financial support by the Center)

Send letter of application, resume, transcripts and three letters of reference to:

Linda C. Caudill, Managing Director  
Wood-Based Composites Center  
Virginia Tech  
1650 Ramble Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0503  
(540) 231-7092  
Email: [lcaudill@vt.edu](mailto:lcaudill@vt.edu)

**Note:** Fellowship award is contingent upon acceptance to the Graduate School.

\* Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis until a suitable candidate is identified

(Limited travel funds may be available for a recruiting visit for qualified applicants)

*For further information visit our website:*

[www.wbc.vt.edu](http://www.wbc.vt.edu)

**University of Maine**  
**Forest Bioproducts Research Initiative**  
**PostDoc Position Description**  
**Thermal Conversion of Woody Biomass to Fuels and Chemicals**

The University of Maine's Forest Bioproducts Research Initiative is seeking applicants for a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to work as part of a team developing new catalysts and processes for thermal conversion of biomass to fuels and chemicals.

The particular focus includes bench-scale catalytic upgrading of pyrolysis oils, developing new combinatorial approaches for rapid catalyst screening, understanding kinetic mechanisms of surface-mediated reactions, and characterizing physical characteristics of novel catalyst materials. Candidates with a Ph.D. in either Chemistry or Chemical Engineering and interest in any of these areas will be considered. The candidate must be able to work in a multidisciplinary team environment while supervising graduate and undergraduate students. The position is available immediately and will remain open until filled. See the following links for descriptions of research areas:

- [Micro-Array Combinatorial Catalyst Screening](#)
- [Fuels and Chemicals from Woody Biomass-Derived Syngas](#)
- [Characterization and Upgrading Pyrolysis Oils from Woody Biomass](#)
- [Innovative Reaction Schemes and Technologies](#)

Please direct enquiries to [cwheeler@umche.maine.edu](mailto:cwheeler@umche.maine.edu)