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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](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.

## Red Alert

Our weekly communication schedule resumes today, Monday, August 13, 2007.

## News From Paul Winistorfer

- Congratulations to Dr. Bob Smith who has accepted the position of Associate Dean of Engagement in the College. Bob brings great experiences and a proven track record of engagement to this position and we wish him the very best in this new role. This is effectively a move out of our department and we have secured the position and salary to recruit a new faculty member and Director of the Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management. We will begin this process immediately.
- Dr. Urs Buehlmann has accepted our faculty position in manufacturing systems and extension specialist effective November 1, 2007. His arrival will come soon and we look forward to having him join our faculty community.
- The department will host a 'Welcome Back' event for all department students, staff and faculty on Wednesday September 5th under the big top tent on the Drillfield, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Food and refreshment will be provided. Faculty will be introduced. Undergraduate and graduate students will be our guests. Flyers will be available for handing out in class. Please add this event to your calendar of events for Wood Week 2007. We will secure a participation list with a deadline of Friday August 31.
- Be on the look out for the spotlight on the VT homepage the last week of August. Lynn Davis has prepared a very nice piece on our department and Wood Week that will put us on the front page of the VT website. Thanks Lynn – be watching for it.
- I enthusiastically encourage you all to register for upcoming VFPA-VT Industry Technology Conference scheduled for Saturday 8th at the Inn at Virginia Tech. The department will orchestrate registration for the event with VFPA in the coming days. All faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students are encouraged to attend this important event.
- Check out our Wood Week 2007 activities on our department homepage – simply click on the Wood Week 2007 logo for the entire calendar of events for the week. Plan to participate during



the week and register for the conference on Saturday. Help will be needed for our Career Fair on Thursday Sept. 6th – so be prepared.

## Editor of Fine Woodworking Magazine to Present the Science and Artistry of Fine Furniture in Lecture at Virginia Tech

By Lynn Davis



Asa Christiana

BLACKSBURG, VA., August 15, 2007. Asa Christiana, editor, Fine Woodworking magazine (Taunton Press) will kick-off Wood Week 2007 activities at Virginia Tech with an open public lecture titled The Science and Artistry of Fine Furniture. Wood Week 2007 is a series of events on the Blacksburg campus sponsored by the department of Wood Science and Forest Products in the College of Natural Resources to bring focus and attention to the role of wood and renewable materials in society, and the contribution of department faculty and students enrolled in the program. Christiana notes “Wood is the perfect material for furniture: It is lightweight yet strong, it cuts and polishes beautifully with relatively simple tools, and it is widely available in a magnificent palette of colors and grain patterns. To make the most of this material, custom furniture makers master a rare blend of engineering and aesthetics, crafting pieces that are more beautiful, functional, and durable than their cheap, factory-made counterparts.” As editor of the world’s leading magazine for the craft of furniture making, Christiana will use recent articles, and the makers featured within, to illustrate how the best pieces marry form and

function. He’ll demonstrate how wood science leads to solid joinery, and how classic design principles are applied to the most beautiful furniture and home interiors. In this age of disposable goods, the audience is sure to leave with an appreciation for things built to last.

Asa Christiana is the editor of Fine Woodworking magazine. A winding path led him to the Taunton Press, beginning at a technical high school, where he learned the machinist trade. In college Asa started in the engineering school and then migrated to the English department. After college he took a number of teaching jobs, first in the Peace Corps in Africa (teaching math in French) and then, back home, as a high-school and college English teacher. He eventually fled the classroom for the relative safety of the newsroom, becoming an editor at a daily paper and later at Woodshop News. About that time he set up his first woodworking shop. In retrospect, his left-brain/right-brain background was good preparation for his career at Fine Woodworking, which he began in 2000 as an associate editor. Asa lives with his wife and two girls in the Connecticut woods, in a house he helped design and build.

Christiana’s lecture will be Tuesday September 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Fralin Building on the Virginia Tech campus. The public is invited to attend. Wood Week 2007 also includes a career fair with 40 participating companies from the industry, a student scholarship reception awards program, and a technical conference on Saturday September 8 focusing on competitiveness of the industry with topics covering workforce development, globalization, and biofuels and biomaterials. Contact department head Paul Winistorfer at 540.231.8853 for more information.

The department of wood science and forest products ([www.woodscience.vt.edu](http://www.woodscience.vt.edu)) in the College of Natural Resources is the leading program in North America engaged in wood and renewable materials utilization. Faculty focus on the science and business of wood and renewable materials utilization through learning, discovery, and engagement. The department is home to the Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management, the Center for Unit Load Design, the Wood-Based Composites Center, the Sustainable Engineered Materials Institute and the award winning Wood Magic Show for 4th and 5th grade children and their teachers. Through cooperation with the department of marketing in the Pamplin College of Business, the department co-directs the Alfred P. Sloan Forest Industries Center. Students learn from the leading wood and renewable materials scientists in the world, who bring the latest science and application of principles to the classroom.

## Look Who's Coming to Our Career Fair

The response has been great! Help us get the word out to students in your classes!

Susan Day	VT-Dept. of Forestry
Bob Smith Brian Perkins Tom Hammett	VT-Marketing Center
Judith Johnson	Danzer, Edinburgh, Indiana
Steve Franklin	Columbia Forest Products, Old Fort, NC
Mike Gaudreau Aaron Vaughan Janice Ketchum	Dreaming Creek Timber Frames Homes Powhatan, VA
Linda Caudill Charles Frazier	WBC–Wood-Based Composites Center
Terry Campbell Glenn Knowles	Augusta Lumber Waynesboro VA
Robert Parrish Allison Perry	Rocky Top Building Products Rocky Mount, VA
Caroline Zito	MeadWestvaco, Glen Allen VA
Earl Kline Jesse Paris Kevin Eberling Wes Sanders	WEI–Wood Enterprise Institute, VT
Timothy Hinkle	Coastal Lumber Co, Buckhannon WV
Robert Youngs	SWST–Society of Wood Science and Technology
Greg Heuer Bruce Cody	Architectural Woodwork Inst Nellysford, VA
Jan Canepari	Louisiana Pacific, Nashville, TN
Greg Lutter	Mann and Parker Lumber, New Freedom, PA
Casey Mickelson	Richmond International, Glen Allen, VA
Larry Turner Christy Landon Jennie Greytak	Stanley Furniture Co Stanleytown, VA
Jeff Kern	Fortress Wood Products, Martinsville, VA
Stephanie Casen Denise Johnson George Pattmore	Swedwood Danville Danville, VA

Bob Browder Terry Roberts	Southern Pine Inspection Bureau Pensacola, FL
Hank Goldberg Marilyn Newsome	Weyerhaeuser Heaters, WV
Paul Winistorfer	Dept. of Wood Science & Forest Products
Ashley Wright	Georgia Pacific Wood Products, Roxboro, NC
Eddie Cartee Debbie Brower	Huber Engineered Woods Commerce, GA
Mike Couture Howard Hughes	Hardwoods Specialty Products Livermore, CA
Jason Sweedyk Stuart Clontz Dana Rector	Universal Forest Products Grand Rapids, MI
James Green	VA Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Richmond, VA
Judy Cisler Owen McGee	Stiles Machinery, High Point, NC
Johnette Synder Candy Gerace Donna Bailey	Roy O. Martin Alexandria, LA
Carol Lewis	Forest Products Society, Madison, WI
Judith Araman	VT-College of Natural Resources
Janis Conklin	JELD-WEN Windows & Doors, Columbia, SC
Michelle Tuohy	Georgia Pacific, Atlanta, GA
Randy Bush	Virginia Forest Products Association
Brannon Smith Jon Frey Jim Keane	American Woodmark Corp Winchester, VA
George Thomson	Baillie Lumber Company

## Graduate Enrollment Grows to Almost 35 Students

Graduate enrollment in the department has grown to 33 students for fall 2007. This is considerable growth in our graduate education and research programs over the past several years. A cross-section of our graduate enrollment is as follows:

- 21 PhD students
- 12 MS students
- 28 male
- 5 female
- 14 domestic students
- 19 international students
- 6 MACR (interdisciplinary doctoral degree program)
- 1 Chemistry student

## **Heads Up Graduate Students on Changes in Department Graduate Curriculum**

During our recent graduate program curriculum revision, the departmental faculty elected to require a fundamentals course intended as the foundational course that defines the basics of wood material science for subsequent in-depth graduate courses in wood science. This new course, WOOD 5984 Special Study: Fundamentals of Wood Material Science, is required for all incoming Wood Science and Forest Products graduate students.

Specific topics include advanced wood anatomy and formation, wood polymer science, structure/property relationships, hygro-thermal relationships, mechanical and physical properties of wood and wood-based composites.

There will be several instructors for this course, one for each major topic covered, however, Dr. Audrey Zink-Sharp will serve as the course coordinator. She can be reached at 230 Cheatham, 231-8820, agzink@vt.edu. Students should register for Wood5984 using CRN 97486.

CRN 97486, WOOD 5984, SS: Fundamentals of Wood Material Science, 4 credit hours, lecture 9:30-10:45 TR in JCH 212, and lab 2:30-5:15 M in JCH 213

## **Admissions Advisors Tour of Brooks Forest Products Center Monday August 13**

The University Admissions Advisors will be at Brooks for a long lunch period learning about our programs in the department. Our stop is part of the broader introduction to the College.

## **Department Welcome Back Picnic September 5th on the Drillfield**

Join us on September 5th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the Drillfield under the big top tent for a department 'Welcome Back and Welcome New Students' picnic. Watch for RSVP information in the coming week. Food and refreshments will be provided. Department faculty and staff will be introduced, as well as new students.

## **Informal Open House of Cheatham Hall Labs 246 and 248**

Join us on Friday August 17 at 10:00 am for an informal open house and inaugural debut of our new biomaterials/instrumentation labs in rooms 246-248 Cheatham Hall. These two labs have had an extreme makeover and are now up and operational for Drs. Edgar, Roman, Rennekar, Frazier and Zink-Sharp. We are thankful for the opportunity to have more laboratory space in Cheatham Hall and welcome you to come by to see the new additions to our research capacity.

## **New Graduate Course: Polysaccharide Chemistry**

WOOD 5424, Fall 2007 Class Schedule

Cheatham 317A, Tuesday – Thursday, 8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Instructors: Kevin J. Edgar (kjedgar@vt.edu), Maren Roman (maren.roman@vt.edu)

Polysaccharide Chemistry (WOOD 5424) is a graduate level course on polysaccharide structure-property relationships, sources, synthesis, and utilization. It is specifically designed to be of broad appeal to graduate students in scientific disciplines with an interest in polysaccharides. Knowledge of organic chemistry and some knowledge of polymer chemistry are assumed. Contact Dr. Edgar for more information.

## **Changing Needs For a Changing Market Place**

Bob Smith presented a paper by himself and Victor Cossio titled "Changing needs for a changing market place" at the Federation of Societies for Coating Technologies 2007 conference, "Coating Wood and Wood Composites: Designing for Durability" in Seattle Washington in late July. The paper was also published in the proceedings from the conference.

## Wood Enterprise Institute Gathers 240 Orders for Customizable Bookshelf

Our student-run Wood Enterprise Institute (WEI) gathered up 240 orders for product over the past month and the students are in a race to the finish to get product manufactured, packaged and delivered! This has been a great experience for our students this summer and a full assessment of the activity and student feedback will be gathered for our use in



reflecting on our goals and vision for this experiential learning environment. The students were a hit with some of our administrative leadership on campus and helped to get the word out about our program.

## WCMA Makes Contribution to WoodLINKS USA Program

Steve Lawser, Executive Director of the Wood Component Manufacturers Association, presented a check from the WCMA in the amount of \$2,500 to Paul Winistorfer and Mark Smith of WoodLINKS USA during the AWFS Vegas Fair recently held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The WCMA has supported the WoodLINKS program since 2002.

In the face of a critical shortage of skilled workers entering the wood manufacturing industry, WoodLINKS was established as a partnership between industry and education. The mission of the WoodLINKS program is to help the wood products industry attract new employees who are better trained and higher skilled as well as introduce today's young people to the career opportunities in woodworking.

WoodLINKS programs are developed at the high school and trade school level. They teach manufacturing processes and technologies that are used in today's high tech wood industry. Industry partners set skill standards, recommend equipment and curriculum and share ideas, materials and other resources with the WoodLINKS schools. Students receive certifications and are work ready for the equipment and methods in use today.

Currently, there are WoodLINKS programs in 125 schools in 23 states throughout the U.S. There are five schools sponsored by WCMA members. Companies support their local programs by providing advice, encouragement, materials if possible, and opening their doors to make students and teachers aware of the technologies being used today.

For more information on WoodLINKS or to set up a program in your area, visit their website at <http://www.woodlinks.com>.



Paul Winistorfer, WoodLINKS President accepts the WCMA's 2007 contribution from Steve Lawser, WCMA Executive Director; along with Mark Smith, WoodLINKS National Program Director.

## Hindman Receives NIOSH Grant

Daniel Hindman and Maury Nussbaum are the recipients of a NIOSH R 21 grant entitled “Investigating Lateral Buckling of Joists As A Cause of Falls From Elevation.” This grant was submitted through the Center for Innovation in Construction, Safety and Health. The purpose of this research is to explore the wood mechanics phenomenon of lateral buckling of wood composite I-joists as a possible cause of falls from elevation on residential construction sites.

Lateral buckling is a failure mode of an unbraced beam where the beam twists and deflects laterally from a vertically applied load. Lateral buckling is a concern during the construction phase, but does not occur when sheathing is placed on the joists. Recent research studying lateral torsional buckling has demonstrated that the weight of a single worker may cause lateral buckling of longer span wood composite I-joists.

Falls represent 1/3 of all construction fatalities. While there is a large amount of demographic information on fall victims, there is very little explanation of the causes of falls. One area of concern is residential construction sites, where the use of safety devices may be minimal.

“This work represents an expansion of typical wood engineering projects into the area of safety and causes of accidents” said Dr. Hindman.

## Biomass Energy — A Track With Five Sessions

Commonwealth of Virginia Energy & Sustainability Conference – COVES  
October 16 – 18, 2007: Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia

Energy from algae, wood waste, and chicken manure?

It may not sound sexy, but it can play a vital role in helping Virginia and the US to become more energy efficient, sustainable, and competitive. From the Office of the President to local governments there is great interest in biomass energy.

The Commonwealth of Virginia Energy & Sustainability Conference (COVES) will offer an in-depth look at opportunities and challenges of expanding biomass energy in Virginia.

Biomass energy is using any organic matter that is available on a renewable or recurring basis to generate power. It can be used as transportation fuels, heating (or cooling) sources, power machinery and equipment or to generate electricity.

The COVES Conference Biomass Energy Track will elaborate on what to expect and how to deal with this increasingly important form of energy.

Speakers in the biomass sessions will cover:

- Biomass 101
- Government and biomass energy development
- The environmental footprint of biomass energy production and processing
- The balance in demand and supply that will support sustainability, and
- What is on the horizon for feedstock and technology?

COVES will offer workshop, plenary sessions, and eight concurrent tracks. We invite you to come to Lexington this fall to hear the latest on energy options for a secure and sustainable future and to network with the Commonwealth’s top energy leaders in the private and public sectors.

With a new Virginia Energy Plan, new federal energy legislation, concerns about climate change, energy costs and volatility, electricity re-regulation, and more, the time is right for a state wide conference on energy. Please plan to attend.

Register before August 31 to receive the early registration rate!

For more information visit <http://www.covesva.org>

Link to full Biomass Track <http://www.energyvacon.org/Program/Breakouts/Biomass.pdf>

## Facility turning wood into ethanol

By Dan Daly, Journal staff



The company's grinder turns the wood pulp into a mash that can be broken down further into glucoses.

RAPID CITY - The newly built plant on the outskirts of Upton, Wyo., looks a little like a cross between a sawmill and an oil refinery. And, in a way, it is.

The plant recently began grinding up wood chips, sawdust and logging refuse, called slash, into ethanol fuel for automobiles.

Western Biomass Energy, operated by KL Process Design Group of Rapid City, operates the new wood-waste ethanol plant. It can produce about 1.5 million gallons of ethanol per year.

That's small by today's ethanol standards. Some of the new Midwestern corn-based ethanol plants are being built to produce 110 million gallons a year. But KL officials say the new plant shows their process for unlocking the sugars from cellulose, or plant fibers, can be viable.

And, as the development of biomass technology progresses, more types of plant-life - wood, sugar beets and switchgrass - could be converted to liquid fuel.

"Our internal goal is to improve our process," Dave Litzen, vice president of KL, said. "Our external goal is to present this as a flagship for marketing the technology."

Randy Kramer, KL's president, said there's been interest from some of the big lumber companies such as Louisiana Pacific and Weyerhaeuser.

For KL Process Design Group, the primary focus is ethanol technology, rather than ethanol production. The company designs, builds and does project management work for ethanol plants throughout the Midwest.

Ethanol is, simply put, old-fashioned grain alcohol - white lightning on a massive scale. Feedstock, usually corn, is ground up into mash, cooked, fermented and distilled into alcohol.

But with cellulose as a feedstock, the process is a little different. The polymers in the wood are broken down by an enzyme and turned into glucose, which can be fermented and refined.

The challenge for cellulose processing, Litzen said, is to find an efficient way to free up those fibers so the enzymes can do their job. "The way we grind the feedstock is what separates us from other cellulous plants," Litzen said.

One problem with corn, Kramer said, is that the ethanol producers are at the mercy of the Chicago Board of Trade and other markets that determine corn prices. But with cellulose, the feedstock is considered garbage. Transportation is the primary cost.

Litzen said their process uses pine cones, pine needles, bark and tree branches too small to be of interest to sawmills. Often loggers throw that slash into piles to be burned later on.

"We want those piles," Kramer said. As the technology improves, the potential for drawing more sugars - and energy - from slash piles will increase, Litzen said.

"The issue we will need to deal with is purely a transportation cost issue," Kramer said. He admits that the small scale of the Upton plant makes wood a less cost effective feedstock. "However, on a scaled-up version to 20 million gallons per year, the economics are certainly in favor of the wood waste as a feedstock."

And in this summer of forest fires, KL's partners point another potential side benefit of cellulosic ethanol production. It's a way to mitigate the fuel load - pine needles, dogwood pines and underbrush - in the forest.

Bill Baker of Baker Timber Products in Rockerville has agreed to be a supplier of wood waste for the new plant.

"It's real exciting. I hope it works," Baker said. "This would be a win-win for everybody involved," Baker said.

The U.S. Forest Service and other Black Hills land managers want to thin the forest of its small-diameter trees and other low-value wood materials. A thinned forest is less susceptible to catastrophic fires. It's also less susceptible to pine beetle infestation.

Processing it into ethanol would provide a use other than simply piling it up and burning it, Baker said. Ethanol could also give the timber industry a new market, and American energy users would have a home-grown supply of fuel.

Western Biomass can use bark and other wood that particleboard manufacturers such as Merillat don't want, he said.

But corn is in no danger of being replaced by pine cones in ethanol plants anytime soon. Corn plants are still the mainstay of the ethanol industry. KL operates its own corn plant near North Platte, Neb.

And the corn industry supports the cellulose-based refining, said Lisa Richardson of the South Dakota Corn Growers Council.

Anything that reduces America's dependence on foreign energy is good for the country, she said, and U.S. ethanol can be made from wheat, sugar beets, corn and wood chips and other sources. There's room in the market for feedstocks other than corn, she said.

"The world is going to be full of bio-refineries," Richardson said. "We are going to be critically short of energy in this world, and anything we can come up with to solve that problem as a country, I think, is important," Richardson said. "It would be hypocritical for us to say anything other than that."

And she said corn growers also have an interest in the cellulose-to-ethanol process. They could use it to turn cornstalks, corncobs or other agriculture byproducts into ethanol.

South Dakota, with 13 operating ethanol plants and five more under construction, is expected to be producing 1 billion gallons of ethanol annually by mid-2008.

Kramer is from Platte. He taught the ROTC program at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. Kramer met Litzen when he was working with his hometown to establish some type of value-added agriculture production. Litzen, originally from Hoven, used to work for Shell Oil Co.

They formed KL in 2001, and began working on the ethanol process. By January 2006, KL Process Design Group consisted of Dave Litzen and Randy Kramer.

Today, the company has 55 employees. Once the Upton plan is in full operation, the new plant will have 13 workers.

KL also operates a corn plant near North Platte and the cellulose plant near Upton. It also sells and promotes E85 - a fuel that burns 85 ethanol and 15 percent gasoline - through the Canyon Lake Drive gasoline station.

KL has an E85 booth at the Black Hills Harley-Davidson dealership during the Sturgis motorcycle rally. Motorcycles can be converted to burn E85.

Because of Upton's isolated location, Kramer said the cost-effectiveness of the new plant is marginal.

He hopes to build a plant someday on the eastern side of the Hills, perhaps in the Whitewood area. The KL partners chose the Upton site in part because of the state of Wyoming has a program to help fund this type of technology.

Litzen insists the process is energy efficient - an issue that has dogged the corn plants for years.

Corn-based ethanol, some critics argue, requires more fossil fuel energy - diesel for tractors and trucks, natural gas to cook the corn, etc. - than the energy in the ethanol it produces. The corn ethanol industry disputes these figures.

Litzen estimates that the process at the Upton plant requires less than 20,000 British thermal units to produce a gallon of ethanol, which has about 80,000 BTU of energy.



# Virginia Forest Products Association - Virginia Tech Forest Products Industry Technology Conference September 7 - 8, 2007



*The Inn at Virginia Tech • Blacksburg, VA*

## Preliminary Program

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### Friday, September 7, 2007

- 5:00 p.m. **Registration opens** - *Latham Ballroom Foyer*  
6:00 p.m. **VFPA Reception - Wood Week at Virginia Tech Student Awards Recognition** - *Latham Ballroom*  
**Dinner** - *You're On Your Own . . .*  
Dine in the elegant Preston's Restaurant in the hotel or in one of Blacksburg's many restaurants.

### Saturday, September 8, 2007 - All seminars are in the Alumni Assembly Hall

- 7:15 a.m. **Registration opens, coffee service available**  
7:45 a.m. **Welcome to the Technology Conference**  
Randy Bush, VFPA President, and Dr. Paul Winistorfer, Head, Dept. of Wood Science and Forest Products, VA Tech.
- 8:00 a.m. **Globalization of the Forest Product Industries**  
8:00-8:30 a.m.: Globalization Trends and Housing: Impacts on the Forest Products Industry. (Dr. Al Schuler, Research Scientist, U.S. Forest Service, Princeton WV)  
8:30-9:00 a.m.: Issues and Answers to the Impact of Transportation on the Competitiveness of the Appalachian Forest Products Industry. (Dr. Bob Smith, Professor and Interim Associate Dean for Engagement, College of Natural Resources, Virginia Tech)  
9:00-9:30 a.m.: The Ins and Outs of the Port of Norfolk - What Does it Tell Us? (James Davis, Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager, Virginia Inland Port, Virginia Port Authority, Front Royal, VA)
- 9:30 a.m. **Question and answer session for all speakers, coffee break**  
10:00 a.m. **Biofuels-Biomaterials: The Role of Renewable Energy in Our Future**  
10:00-10:30 a.m.: Cellulosic Ethanol: Challenges and Opportunities. (Dr. Kevin Edgar, Professor, Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, Virginia Tech)  
10:30-11:00 a.m.: Bioenergy and Biofuels Research at Virginia Tech. (Dr. Craig Nessler, Associate Dean and Director, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Virginia Tech)  
11:00-11:30 a.m.: The Federally Sponsored Sun Grant Initiative and Biofuels Initiative at the University of Tennessee (Dr. Tim Rials, Director of the Sun Grant and the University of Tennessee Forest Products Center)
- 11:30 a.m. **Question and answer period for all morning speakers**  
12:00 p.m. **Lunch, Posters, VFPA Round Table Discussions** - *Latham Ballroom*  
1:30 p.m. **Workforce Development: Human Capital for Our Industry**  
1:30-2:00 p.m.: National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) Perspectives on Manufacturing. (Speaker TBA)  
2:00-2:35 p.m.: Crafting a New Workforce Development Initiative in Wood Products Manufacturing at Danville Community College. (Gerald Sexton, Coordinator, Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Wood Products Technology, Danville Community College, Danville, VA)  
2:35-3:10 p.m.: Developing a Workforce: Lessons from the Apprentice School in Newport News. (Dr. Robert P. Leber, Director, Education and Workforce Development, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Newport News Sector, Chairman of the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development and the Greater Peninsula Workforce Investment Board)  
3:10-3:40 p.m.: The Wood Enterprise Institute at Virginia Tech: An Experimental "Concept-to-Market" Wood Products Business Start-Up by Virginia Tech Students. (Wood Enterprise students from the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products and Dr. Earl Kline, Professor and Lead Advisor to the Wood Enterprise Institute)
- 3:45 p.m. **Conference Wrap-Up and Adjournment**

## Calendar of April 16th-Related Events

By Lisa Leslie (lilesle@vt.edu), Project Manager for Response and Recovery

As the beginning of the semester approaches, many divisions, colleges, and departments and their affiliated student groups may be planning events to welcome faculty, students, and staff back to campus and to recognize the impact of the April 16th tragedy. We would like for you to share your program information so that the Recovery Office can create a central calendar of April 16th-related events. Please complete the information included in the link below for each program you are coordinating to take place during the fall semester.

<https://survey.vt.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1185987112795>

If you have any questions regarding this collection of information, please contact Megan Armbruster, Recovery Coordinator for the Dean of Students Office at 231-3787 or [marmbrus@vt.edu](mailto:marmbrus@vt.edu).

Please forward as appropriate. Thank you for your assistance in helping us centralize April 16th-related information in the new University Recovery Office.

## General Announcements

### Family Day '07, Saturday, October 20, 2007 Call for Programs

Kim Lowe (lowek@vt.edu), Parent Relations, Dean of Students Office (by way of Tom Brown, [tbrown@vt.edu](mailto:tbrown@vt.edu))

The Virginia Tech Family Day planning committee is happy to announce the opportunity for campus departments, programs, and organizations to sponsor an activity during Family Day 2007.

Previously called Parents' Day (2nd year as Family Day), the event has been broadened to reflect inclusion for all members of our students' families. The Dean of Students Office, as the coordinating office, will publicize all known Family Day activities. Advertising for your event will occur in a variety of different parent relations communications including websites, special mailers, and event calendars. Possibilities for programs include academic lectures or programs, outdoor activities, movies, trivia games, trips to off campus facilities such as research sites, a tour of a campus facility, and department receptions.

Family Day will begin with the Family Day Welcome, 9:00 am to 10:00 am, followed by the Corps of Cadets Pass in Review, 11:00 am to 11:30 am. Events will continue with various university-sponsored programs during the afternoon and evening.

The possibilities are open and we look forward to your ideas that will enhance the visit of our Hokie Parents and families! Programming can occur between noon and midnight. Logistics & \*costs for each program submission are the responsibility of sponsor.

Proposals must be received by Friday, September 14. Submit proposals online: <http://www.dos.vt.edu/familydayprograms.htm>

