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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.

Red Alert

Inside VT Wood will move to a summer publication schedule of twice per month beginning on June 1. Our weekly communication schedule will resume August 13, 2007.

News From Paul Winistorfer

This may be the thinnest issue of Inside VT Wood in over a year – a good sign that things are calm and that folks are away on vacation taking a break. I will be out of the office all week – if you need assistance please see Dr. Audrey Zink-Sharp for signatures or you need help in processing things.

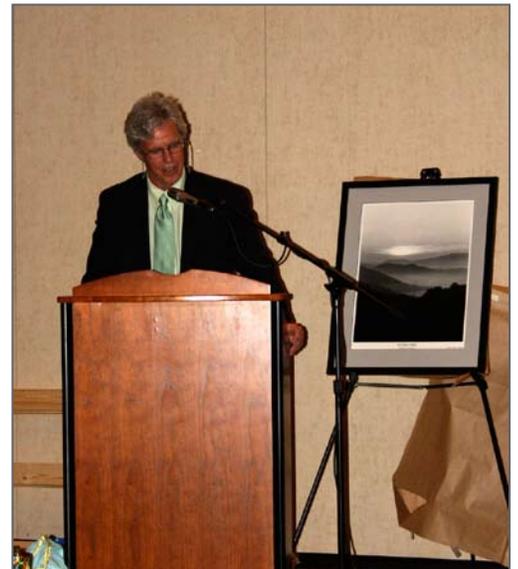
We had a great career recognition reception for Dr. Mark White and his family last Thursday evening at the Inn at Virginia Tech. What a celebration of 32 years among, with great stories, appreciation and accolades for Mark!

CULD Spring Advisory Board Meeting



Mark views the print given to him by the CULD Advisory Board.

The spring meeting of the Advisory Board of the Center for Unit Load Design was held on May 24, 2007 at the Inn at Virginia Tech. This is the first meeting of the board since Ralph Rupert was named director for the center following the retirement of Marshall White. The meeting was held in conjunction with the retirement reception for Dr. White later that evening. This meeting was the first for Dr. White as a member of the advisory board. Fourteen members of the advisory board attended the meeting with most



Mark White addresses those attending his retirement reception on May 24th.

remaining for the reception. At the reception, Lannes Williamson (Advisory Board Chairman) presented Mark with a beautiful Terry Redlin print entitled "The Saw Mill".

Rennekar Presents Nanocomposite-based Wood Fibers at the 9th International Conference on Wood and Biofiber Plastic Composites

On May 22nd, Scott Rennekar presented on research conducted by SEMI supported graduate student Zhiyuan Lin with co-authors Dan Hindman, Rick Davis (ChE), and Yuri Lvov (Louisiana Tech). In the talk, Rennekar described how montmorillonite clay, in the form of nanoplatelets (1 nm in thickness, ~250 nm in diameter), could be systematically deposited onto the surface of steam-exploded fibers with a controlled thickness. Rennekar comments that the research is part the growing field of nanoscience related to biobased nanocomposites, where nanoparticles with dimensions of less than 100 nm in one dimension are directed to locations where they will have the largest impact on performance. In this case, Lin's work demonstrates how these nanoclay coatings placed on the fiber surface can improve the thermal stability of lignocellulosic fibers.

Preventing and Eliminating Mold on Hardwood Pallets: A Manufacturer's Perspective

By Peter Hamner

When: June 7 & 8, 2007

Where: Wood Education & Resource Center (WERC), Princeton, WV

The USDA Forest Service's Wood Education and Resource Center and Virginia Tech's Center for Unit Load Design are pleased to co-sponsor a one-day conference (repeated a second day) that will address all aspects of preventing and eliminating mold on hardwood pallets and lumber. This conference will provide a consolidated and comprehensive educational curriculum designed to inform primarily eastern U.S. hardwood lumber and pallet manufacturers about mold related problems, the causes of mold growth on raw wood surfaces, and how to prevent and eliminate it. Exhibitors from the wood drying and chemical treatment industries will be present.

Wood Enterprise Institute Building Momentum

What is it – the WEI. Who are these people – the WEI students. What are they doing – getting ready to bring a concept-to-market real world experiential learning environment to our program. Find out for yourself what this is all about.

