

25	26	27	28	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	31

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

- Congratulations to Dr. Bob Smith who received a special funding allocation from VCE for his participation in a National Utilization Marketing of Forestry and Forest Products meeting. Thanks to VCE for funding our request.
- I will be participating in the Stiles Executive Briefing Conference in Dallas, Texas Wednesday-Friday. Stiles is supporting my participation in the conference, and I will lead a table discussion during the conference on WoodLINKS and workforce development. Materials from our program at VT have been inserted into the briefing book for the 150 attendees at the conference. Please see the Stiles website for information on the program <http://www.stilesmachinery.com/services/education/ebc/index.htm>
- On Monday March 12 – Dr. Roop Mahajan is hosting an ICTAS (Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science) luncheon for the bioprocessing/biomaterials cluster faculty. Dr. Mahajan has awarded us (Wood Science) two ICTAS PhD stipends. One of these was negotiated through CNR with the support of Dean Kelly. One of the new ICTAS thematic pillars is renewable materials and we intend to participate broadly in this pillar initiative. Note the ICTAS seminar series below and plan to participate as ICTAS initiatives begin to grow.
- The transformation of the labs #246-248 in Cheatham is nearly complete. We will christen them appropriately upon completion and move-in.
- On Thursday the department will host a group of special education students from Blacksburg High School. Connie Curtis, who works at Blacksburg High School will lead the tour for about 20 students and 4 chaperons. The tour will be from 9:30 – 11:00 am.
- Dr. Mark White is recognized as the VT Scholar of the Week by the office of the VP for Research. Congratulations Mark on this additional recognition! FYI - Mark's last day with us will be April 2, 2007. We will send him off accordingly!

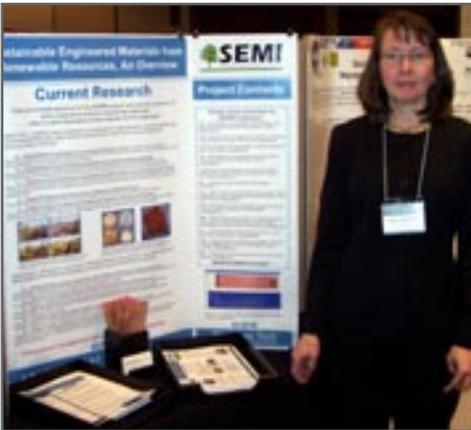
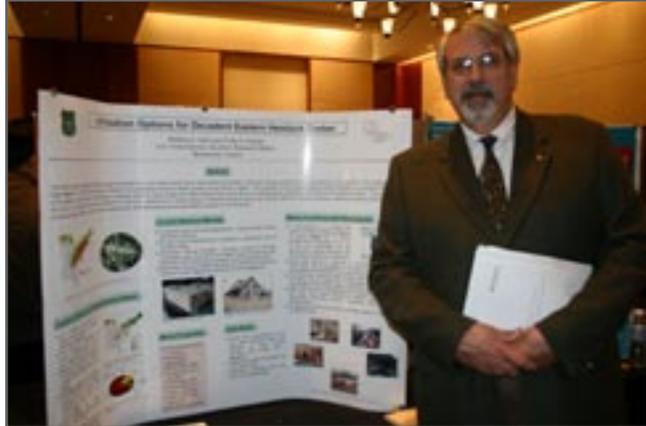
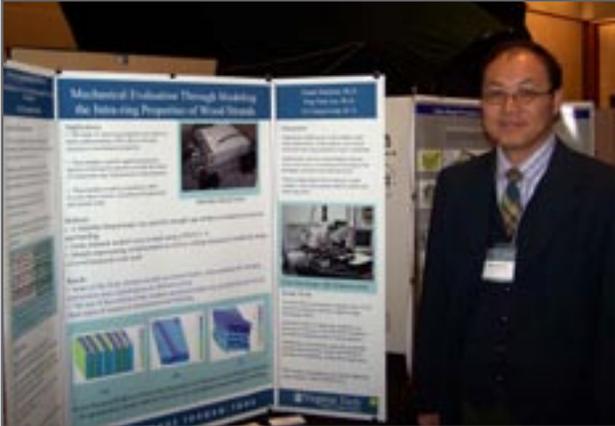
Deans' Forum on the Environment Showcased the University's Latest Research

By Audrey Zink-Sharp

The Virginia Tech Council of Deans has launched a series of Forums with the intention of bringing the academic community together to raise awareness of the diverse research pursuits by the faculty and students at Virginia Tech focusing on energy, materials, and the environment.

The Deans' Forum on the Environment was held February 26, 2007, at the Skelton Conference Center, Blacksburg, VA. The conference was designed to bring together research, activity, and expertise by encouraging awareness and fostering synergy of research, education, and outreach efforts at Virginia Tech in the environment-related fields.

A poster session, several keynote talks, and a panel discussion were components of this particular Forum. Poster presenters from Wood Science included Phil Araman, Richard Bonsi, Tom Hammett, Dan Hindman, Gi Young Jeong, Earl Kline, Jong Nam Lee, Matt Winn, and Audrey Zink-Sharp. In addition to poster presentations, Bob Bush serves as a Task Force member for the Forum.



Poster Presenters	
1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	

1. Jong Lee
 2. Phil Araman
 3. Audrey Zink-Sharp
 4. Richard Bonsi (right) presenting his poster to an interested researcher
 5. Brian Bond and Earl Kline

Workshop on “Globalization Impacts on the Real Estate Industry” – Berkeley, California, March 2, 2007

Earl Kline was invited to talk to a group of Sloan Foundation affiliates at the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley about VT’s “woods to goods” supply chain research. The workshop participants discussed topics relating to the interplay of globalization and real estate, as well as the supply chains that are impacted by real estate. The result of this workshop was a research agenda of topics that would involve the participation of several Sloan Industry Studies centers. Some of the topics of interest to the Sloan Forest Industries Center include:

- What is the extent of globalization of the real estate supply chain such as forest products and what risks/opportunities might such globalization pose to the real estate industry?
- Are changes in the global supply chain and corresponding changes in modes of distribution of goods (e.g. extended warehouse/distribution network, including coastal and inland hub locations) affecting real estate policy (land use, value, availability)?
- Are there links between the globalization of real estate demand (foreign investment) and the globalization of supply chains? How do the two interact?

Conference Planning Workshop on “Volatile Energy Costs and Energy Intensive Industries: Impacts and Coping Strategies” – Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, March 7-8, 2007

Earl Kline is working with a group of Sloan Foundation affiliates to plan a Sloan conference on the impact of rising and increasingly volatile energy prices on energy intensive industries such as the forest products industry. The group includes affiliates representing Sloan Industry Centers such as the Pulp & Paper, Forest Products, Airline, Trucking, Steel, and Aluminum Industries. The group is planning a conference for sometime in 2008 to raise awareness of issues for each of these energy intensive industries and to identify common issues on which the different Sloan industry centers can jointly leverage resources for more effective R&D and outreach to the benefit of all industries.

This conference is an example of the opportunities that the Sloan Industry Centers network can bring to us at VT. Support for conferences that bring different industries together to address common business constraints is currently a high funding priority for the Sloan Foundation.

Seminar Announcement



FPS Great Lakes Section Spring Seminar
Expanding the BioEconomy: “Thinking Outside the Barrel”
DeVos Convention Center
Grand Rapids, Michigan
May 15, 2007

The 2007 Forest Products Society Great Lakes Section Spring Seminar is showing the way for what future demands have in store for the forest products industry. The future of wood products is rapidly changing in our global economy. This event highlights the recent innovations in utilizing wood for alternative forms of energy. Leaders in this field will share their findings and insights into this exciting opportunity. Please join us for this highly educational and anticipated event titled Expanding the BioEconomy: “Thinking Outside the Barrel” at the DeVos Convention Center, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 15, 2007.

For technical information about the seminar, contact Anthony Weatherspoon, Forest Products Technical Services Specialist, Michigan DNR, Phone: 517-335-3332, weathera@michigan.gov.

To download the agenda and registration form, please visit <http://www.forestprod.org/glsection07meeting.pdf>.

Employment/Internship Opportunity with Mann and Parker Lumber Company

Mr. Greg Lutter (VP and Chief Operating Officer of The Mann and Parker Lumber Company, Inc.; New Freedom, PA) will be visiting the College of Natural Resources on March 21 and 22, 2007.

Please see <http://www.m-pgoldbrand.com/index.php> for information about the company.

Mr. Lutter will be interviewing those interested in:

- Permanent Positions
- Inside Sales
- Outside Sales
- Purchasing
- Production Supervision/Management
- Internships

If you would like to meet with Mr. Lutter to discuss these or other opportunities, please contact Dr. Bush (231-8834, rbush@vt.edu) to arrange and appointment. Also, contact Dr. Bush if you would like to participate in a dinner with Mr. Lutter.

James Schlesinger, first U.S. Secretary of Energy, to speak at Virginia Tech

By Susan Trulove



James R. Schlesinger

BLACKSBURG, VA., March 7, 2007 -- James R. Schlesinger, the first U.S. Secretary of Energy and current co-chair of the Defense Science Board study of the Department of Defense energy strategy, will speak on Wednesday, March 21, at 6 p.m. at the Lyric Theater in downtown Blacksburg.

Schlesinger's appearance is one in a series of presentations being sponsored by the Virginia Tech Deans' Task Force on the Environment . and the Deans' Task Force on Energy Security and Sustainability.

As secretary of energy in the Carter administration (1977-79), Schlesinger launched the Department of Energy's Carbon Dioxide Effects and Assessment Program.

Before assuming his energy leadership role, Schlesinger taught economics at the University of Virginia (1955-63) and then was a specialist in strategic studies at the Rand Corp (1963-69). He formulated the Bureau of the Budget's energy policy in 1969. His concern for the environment played a role in his appointment as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (1971-73). However, he became a controversial figure when he allowed atomic tests to continue. After briefly directing the Central Intelligence Agency (1973), he became secretary of defense (1973-75) under President Nixon.

Schlesinger is currently a senior advisor to Lehman Brothers, a global finance firm, and counselor and trustee to the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He chairs the board of trustees of MITRE Corporation, and serves as a director of BNFL, Inc., Peabody Energy, and Sandia Corporation.

"The Deans' Task Forces launched a robust exchange with the Forum on Energy Security and Sustainability and the Energy Showcase last fall, and the Environmental Forum on Feb. 26. We want to keep that dialogue going," said Brad Fenwick, Virginia Tech vice president for research.

Hans B. (Teddy) Püttgen, director of the Energy Center at Ecole Polytechnique Federale De Lausanne (EPFL)--the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology--will speak on Friday, April 13, as the final speaker in the series.

For more information, contact Ben Sovacool at sovacool@vt.edu or (540) 231-5196.

Contact Susan Trulove at strulove@vt.edu or (540) 231-5646.

First International Conference on Hardwood Processing

Forintek, CTBA (France) and IVALSA (Italy) are pleased to invite you to participate in the First International Scientific Conference on Hardwood Processing (ISCHP) to be held in Québec City, Canada, on September 24-25-26, 2007.

The main objective of this conference is to bring together the scientific and research communities involved in hardwood processing and products to share knowledge and ideas. International experts, scientists and hardwood industry representatives are invited to discuss recent progress and innovative work in this valuable area. The conference will cover subjects on temperate as well as on tropical hardwood processing.

This first edition of the ISCHP will cover product development, process optimisation, finishing practices, supply chain management, market review, and sustainable business practices.

Attendees wishing to submit abstracts for posters or presentations have to fill out the abstract form available at the following address: <http://www.ischp.ca/presentation-request.asp> before April 30th, 2007.

Registration form to attend the conference will be available shortly.

For additional information, please visit our website www.ischp.ca.

For any question, contact us at info@ischp.ca.

Organizing Committees

Golden Leaf Foundation Grants \$2,250,000 US to Biofuels Projects in NC (G&C)

The Board of Directors of the Golden LEAF Foundation approved two grants totaling \$2,250,000 US to assist North Carolina universities in developing North Carolina's alternative energy resources.

- North Carolina State University receives \$1,500,000 US

North Carolina State University: \$1,500,000 US to design, construct and commission a pilot plant to develop technology to convert low-value biomass resources easily grown in North Carolina into ethanol. Crops initially targeted for this project include sweet potatoes, switchgrass, and loblolly pine.

ICTAS - Institute For Critical Technology And Applied Science Launches Seminar Series

By Lynn Nystrom

BLACKSBURG, VA., March 7, 2007 -- Three renowned researchers will kick off the Virginia Tech Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS) inaugural seminar series.

R. Lee Penn, a member of the chemistry department of the University of Minnesota, will initiate the series with a talk on "Chemical, Physical, and Structural Properties of Oxide Nanoparticles." Penn is focusing on a new method of growing nanoparticles that has promise for controlling their size and shape. She is also investigating iron oxide nanoparticles that can ultimately serve as a record for climate change.

Her talk will be at 3 p.m., Monday, March 12 in 3083 Derring Hall. The sponsors of her talk are ICTAS and the chemistry and geosciences departments.

Tissa Illangasekare of the division of environmental science and engineering at the Colorado School of Mines will speak on Friday, April 6 at 11:15 a.m. in 1060 Torgersen Hall. His talk will be on "Intermediate-scale Testing for Process Understanding, Model Validation and Upscaling of Flow and Transport in Heterogeneous Subsurface Systems."

Illangasekare is the AMAX Distinguished Chair of Environmental Sciences and Engineering and Professor of Civil Engineering, and the Director of the Center for the Experimental Study of Subsurface Environmental Processes (CESEP). He is currently on leave at the National Science Foundation as program director for hydrologic sciences.

ICTAS and the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department are sponsoring his talk.

His primary research interests and experience are in the areas of water flow, fate and transport of chemicals through porous and fractured media, and snow, numerical modeling and intermediate scale physical model testing. Recently he has developed research interests in water management in regions affected by the South Asian tsunami. He is a Fellow of American Geophysical Union, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The third speaker, Dudley S. Finch, will also speak on Friday, April 6, on “Experimental, Environmental and Engineering Challenges of Investigating Nano/Bio – Materials Interface.” His talk will be at 3 p.m. in 100 McBryde Hall. ICTAS and the Materials Science and Engineering Department are sponsoring his talk.

Finch will review the biomedical applications where new nanoscale metrology approaches are required. He will emphasize the environmental, engineering, and experimental challenges associated with investigating the nano/bio-materials interface.

Following positions with the mechanical engineering department at the University of Colorado and NIST Materials Reliability Division in Boulder, CO, Finch, in collaboration with Heidi Haehlen, co-founded AIStHesis, LLC, a company dedicated to developing Bio-M/NEMS-based devices as new metrology tools for the study of nano/bio materials and interfaces. AIStHesis is located in Ashland, Oregon.

Contact Lynn Nystrom at tansy@vt.edu or (540) 231-4371.

Higher Russian Log Tax A Boon For North American Timber Operations

The Globe and Mail
March 5, 2007

By Wendy Stueck

Aiming to nurture its domestic manufacturing sector, Russia plans to slap sharply higher export taxes on logs this year.

That change will be a boon for companies with sizable timber operations such as Vancouver-based TimberWest Forest Corp. and Washington State's Weyerhaeuser Co. that will be in a position to fill the gap left by reduced Russian supply, CIBC World Markets Inc. forestry analyst Don Roberts said in a report. Russia accounts for about 40 per cent of the world's softwood log exports and more than 80 per cent of logs flowing into China and Finland, Mr. Roberts said.

But Russia's new rules for log exports — which Mr. Roberts sees as part of the country's broader goal of exerting more control over its natural resources — come as salt in the wound to forestry interests in British Columbia that have been lobbying against increased log exports from the province. They accuse provincial and federal governments of turning a blind eye to export-related job and manufacturing losses.

“We had a mill in New Westminster that just closed, with about 300 direct jobs and thousands more indirect jobs, that was a highly profitable sawmill,” United Steelworkers Western Canada director Steve Hunt said Friday.

“They couldn't get logs, and they shut down.”

Duncan, B.C.-based Western Forest Products Inc. closed the New Westminster mill earlier this month. Western has described the shutdown as part of a restructuring that would get rid of excess milling capacity for some types of wood.

Mr. Hunt, however, maintains the New Westminster mill was making a healthy profit and was hampered only by its inability to get enough logs to keep it running.

The log supply crunch reflects regulations that have made it more viable to ship logs vast distances than to a nearby mill, he said.

“The incentive not to [process logs] is overwhelming for these companies right now,” Mr. Hunt said. “They make much more profit right now sending the logs primarily to the United States for processing.”

Under the softwood lumber agreement, reached last year after years of tough and costly negotiations, Canadian finished lumber is subject to a sliding export tax based on lumber prices. Raw logs, however, are not.

In his report, Mr. Roberts called Russia “the powerhouse of the global log market” and said the supply shock that is likely to result from the export tax changes “may well be sufficient to shift the perception of wood from being relatively abundant to relatively scarce.”

On Feb. 5, the Russian government said it would hike the export tax on logs from 6.5 per cent to 20 per cent by July, 2007, to 25 per cent in April, 2008, and to 80 per cent by January, 2009, Mr. Roberts said.

The objective is to “stimulate domestic log processing.”

It’s already tough for small B.C. manufacturers to get access to logs, and Russia’s move to crack down on exports could make it even more difficult, said Ron Dunn, chief forester with C&C Wood Products Ltd. of Quesnel, B.C.

C&C, which makes panelling products for the home improvement market, recently made a winning bid for a timber licence that runs for 15 years and will provide enough wood to keep the company going, Mr. Dunn said.

But it had previously made a couple of unsuccessful bids on timberland, and was beginning to wonder if it would be able to stay in business. “Had we not got this licence, we would have potentially been watching wood go right by on the highway in trucks for export that we could have used to create employment and value-added products here in Quesnel,” Mr. Dunn said Friday.

“That would have been pretty hard to take. And there are probably manufacturers out there that will fall into that category.”

The B.C. government commissioned a study on log exports last year. An expert panel recommended allowing log exports but imposing higher fees in some instances, as well as other changes. The province is considering those recommendations.

Outreach NOW

Advancing the Economic and Social Well-Being of Our Global Citizens through Community Engagement

Monday, September 24, 2007

The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center

Economic development is important to the state of Virginia and its citizenry. The focus of Outreach NOW 2007 is on how you, as a Virginia Tech faculty or staff member, play a pivotal role in improving the economic and civic vitality of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The afternoon conference begins at 1:00 p.m. and provides an opportunity to continue the dialogue on best practices in outreach and engagement and features a keynote address by Mark Warner, former governor of Virginia (invited), faculty presentations, exhibits, a poster session highlighting the work of faculty, students, and staff, and an awards ceremony acknowledging outreach scholars. A reception follows the program at 5:00 p.m.

Please mark your calendar to attend this exciting forum. More information will follow about how to register, present a paper or a poster, or exhibit at this event.

For more information, visit and bookmark <http://www.opd.vt.edu/outreachnow/>.

This third annual forum is sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs and the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs.

If you do not want to receive further correspondence regarding Outreach NOW 2007, please e-mail cereg@vt.edu with “unsubscribe” in your subject line.

Jeri L. Childers, Ph.D.

Director, Outreach Program Development
Virginia Tech
702 University City Blvd., (0364)

Blacksburg, VA 24061
540/231/9497
540/231/9886 fax

Kennedy Named Research Director At Institute For Advanced Learning And Research

By Deborah Morehead



John M. Kennedy

BLACKSBURG, VA., March 8, 2007 -- John M. Kennedy, director of the Center for Advanced Engineering Fibers and Films at Clemson University, has been named the first full-time senior director of research and development at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville, Va.

Through research, innovation, technology development and transfer, education, and outreach, the [Institute for Advanced Learning and Research](#) (IALR) promotes economic diversification and development in Virginia's southern counties, known as Southside. Virginia Tech, Averett University, Danville community college, the Future of the Piedmont Foundation, Pittsylvania County, City of Danville, local K-12 school systems, government agencies, and local businesses are partners in the institute.

"Dr. Kennedy has directed a successful research program at Clemson and has experience in topics that can help advance industry in Southside Virginia," said Brad Fenwick, vice president for research at Virginia Tech, upon announcing the appointment. "We are confident that he will expand partnerships and create innovative advanced programs, while continuing the distinctive programs already underway."

Kennedy, who had worked at Clemson since 1984, was professor of mechanical engineering. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Tech and his Ph.D. from Clemson. He has done extensive research on metal and ceramic matrix composites and fibers.

IALR faculty members are part of the Virginia Tech engineering and life sciences research community, with interdisciplinary programs in mechanical engineering, polymer chemistry, robotics, and plant genomics. Research programs underway are the Institute for Sustainable and Renewable Resources, the Advanced and Applied Polymer Processing Institute, the Virginia Institute for Performance Engineering and Research (VIPER), and the Joint Unmanned Systems Test, Experimentation, and Research center. The programs have been awarded more than \$15 million in external research funding over the past two years.

"The IALR research programs are starting to take off. Dr. Kennedy will be a great addition," said Jim Blair, recently retired associate vice president for research at Virginia Tech who has been working with IALR's research programs since his retirement. "Dr. Kennedy's experience with the center at Clemson qualifies him to provide direction and focus to help build the IALR programs."

Kennedy became deputy director of the Center for Advanced Engineering Fibers and Films in 1998 and director in 2004. Between graduating from Virginia Tech in 1977 and going to work at Clemson, he was a research engineer at NASA Langley Research Center.

He started at IALR on March 5. He will be based at the institute and live in the Danville area.

Contact Deborah Morehead at deborah.morehead@ialr.org or 434-766-6700.