

28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	1	2	3

# INSIDE VT WOOD

## Reminder...

Remember to submit department news items by Friday 3 p.m. of each week to Will Pfeil at [wpfeil@vt.edu](mailto:wpfeil@vt.edu) for inclusion in Inside VT WOOD each Monday morning. All past issues of Inside VT Wood reside on our department website under the publications link.

## News From Paul Winistorfer

- Please see the attached department recruiting poster that is in final form for printing and to be included in our folder of materials going out to high schools and WoodLINKS programs as soon as it is printed. Congratulations to Will Pfeil on his great design work. Thanks to the many who provided comments and input into the poster design. Will has helped create a spectacular package of program materials for our department. When we use these up, we'll do another design and print more. We must keep our materials out there and in front of strategic student audiences.
- We had yet another productive graduate program work session last Friday. We have established the platform for our department graduate education program. A slate of new graduate courses is in the making.
- Department faculty will be invited to a reception for the bioprocessing/biomaterials cluster faculty. Nine faculty hired under the umbrella of the cluster will be attending and recognized. Senior administrators are being invited, Deans of the three colleges and department faculty from Wood Science and Forest Products, Materials Science and Engineering, Biological Systems Engineering and Chemical Engineering. The reception is meant to foster communication, collegiality, and promote the partnership of the cluster in a positive way to all stakeholders. We wish to demonstrate to all that this cluster has opportunity for real traction on our campus and that the way forward is through partnerships in strategic areas. The cluster reception will be held April 9 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm, Hillcrest. Please mark your calendar. Faculty I hope you will represent the department and our participation in the cluster with your attendance at this gathering. Your support of this initiative in renewable materials utilization and development is important to our future partnership endeavors on campus.
- The Dean's Forum on the Environment is being held today at the Inn at VT. There are over 300 posters being displayed. See the attached listing of Forum speakers for the program today.
- Our final budget and justification for programming on the Southside Initiative is due to the Tobacco Commission March 1. Once approved, funds will be released and we can proceed with formal development of a position description, curriculum and course platform, and timeline in order to deliver programming by Fall 2007.
- I will meet with our local New River Valley Economic Development Alliance this week to talk of opportunities and partnerships in recruiting wood-based manufacturing to the New River Valley. Personally, I see great synergism with our program and expertise in attracting new firms to our area.
- There has been a nice display on display in the Burruss Hall entry way titled "NanoTech at Virginia Tech". It is a mostly comprehensive display of many initiatives, efforts, expertise mostly in the College of Engineering. It is worth a look if you are in need of a walk across the Drillfield.

# Wood Science



Manufacturing

Global Commerce

Engineering, Wood Structures and Materials

Fiber and Fiber-based Products

Building with Wood

Chemistry and Chemicals

Energy

Industrial, Distribution and Consumer Packaging

Carbon Storage, Carbon Bank and Carbon Sink

Recycling and Recovery

Nanocomposites

Composite Wood Materials

Industrial Design

Solid Wood

Biomass to Biomaterials

Art, Business and Science

Architecture

Marketing

Cellulose Reinforced Polymer Composites

Living with Wood

Wood and renewable-materials utilization is emerging as a critical endeavor for human health, national security, mitigating global climate change, and sustainability of the planet and people.

*The Department of*  
**Wood Science & Forest Products**  
*at Virginia Tech*

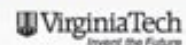
A Leading North American Program in **Discovery, Learning and Engagement**

**Department of Wood Science and Forest Products**

College of Natural Resources  
 230 Cheatham Hall (0323)  
 Virginia Tech  
 Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

phone: 540.231.8853  
 fax: 540.231.8176

web: [www.woodscience.vt.edu](http://www.woodscience.vt.edu)



## Energy and Environment Speaker Series – Monday February 26, 2007

Six leaders in energy and environment policy from government and business, including Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and James R. Schlesinger, are scheduled to speak at Virginia Tech in February, March, and April.

“The Deans’ Task Forces on energy and environment 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.

Three speakers will be on campus for the Virginia Tech Deans’ Forum on the Environment on Monday, Feb. 26.



Gilman

Paul Gilman, founding director of the Oak Ridge Center for Advanced Studies (ORCAS) and former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency assistant administrator for research and development, will speak at 9:45 a.m. in the Alumni Assembly Hall at the Inn at Virginia Tech. ORCAS is a new consortium of research universities, government, industry, and non-governmental organizations focused on critical issues with strong science and technology content. Before his 2001 nomination to EPA, he was director of policy planning for Celera Genomics; the executive director of the life sciences and agriculture divisions of the National Research Council of the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering; the associate director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Natural Resources, Energy, and Science; and executive assistant to the Secretary of Energy. Gilman has 13 years of experience working on the staff of the U.S. Senate, beginning as a Congressional Science Fellow sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in the office of Senator Pete V. Domenici.



Paylor

David Paylor, director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, will speak at 1:10 p.m. in the Alumni Assembly Hall. Paylor was appointed director of the Department of Environmental Quality by Governor Tim Kaine in January 2006. Previously, he was deputy secretary of natural resources for Governor Mark Warner, overseeing all the natural resource agencies of the commonwealth. Paylor’s career began in 1973 with the State Water Control Board and continued with DEQ. He began as a field biologist and held positions as an aquatic ecologist, water resources manager, director of petroleum programs, and director of operations. Paylor is secretary/treasurer of the Environmental Council of the States.



Kennedy

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, chief prosecuting attorney for the Hudson Riverkeeper, and president of Waterkeeper Alliance, will be the keynote speaker at the Forum. The public lecture is at 7:30 p.m. in Burruss Auditorium. Tickets are free but required. Learn more about the forum and how to get tickets for the Kennedy lecture at [www.environment.cod.vt.edu/](http://www.environment.cod.vt.edu/).

The speaker series is sponsored by the Deans’ Task Force on the Environment and the Deans’ Task Force on Energy Security and Sustainability.

## Brooks Center Receives Praise Following Building Inspection

By Bob Wright

Many or perhaps all members of the Wood Science and Forest Products Department already know that the Brooks Center has been preparing for a building compliance inspection conducted by the Virginia Tech Department of Environmental Health and Safety Services (EHSS). These periodic inspections are intended to inspire departments to fulfill the requirements established by OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Association) to provide safe working facilities for the employees. Responding to non-compliance issues noted by EHSS is much more easy and



'comfortable' than any non-compliance issue noted by an official employee of some division of OSHA, should that type of inspection ever occur here.

Yesterday, Thursday the 22nd Brooks was inspected by EHSS and near the completion of the inspection this comment was made:

"You guys are miles ahead of any other place on campus."

This is very gracious praise for everyone at Brooks for the efforts put forth over the past two weeks. I would like to add in this newsletter, that I truly appreciate the sense of working together that has been evident during the past two weeks.

A cake was arranged for team celebration at Brooks Friday morning; shown in the photograph. The cake was actually paid for via funds from recycling the aluminum beverage cans at Brooks, so you can clearly see that recycling pays!! Thanks Dan Hindman for shooting the photo!

Within about two weeks time we will receive an official report, and respond to the action items accordingly.

Thank You to everyone for helping!



## Education Abroad Seminar presented on February 2nd, and February 6th.

The College of Natural Resources and the Study Abroad Office (an aspect of the Office of International Research, Education and Development) have an existing arrangement with the education abroad company: American Universities International Programs ([www.AUIP.com](http://www.AUIP.com)).

Through this arrangement educational programs are offered to New Zealand, Australia and Fiji. These programs are recognized as courses within the college and have course numbers NR 3954 and NR 5954. The New Zealand and Australian courses each span 3.5 weeks in country (6 credit hours), the Fiji program is eight days in duration (3 credit hours). Program dates for 2007 are as follows:

New Zealand 16-May – 10-June

Australia 22-June – 17-July

Fiji 17-July – 24-July



Bob Wright talks to students about the Australia program with calm demeanor, despite the looming presence of one of Australia's more recognizable critters. No worries.



American Universities International Programs employee Bobby Chappell provides general organizational and financial background information to students.

The educational program is entitled: "Sustaining Human Societies and Their Natural Environment". The program of study looks intensely at the environmental issues in these countries and how humans are impacting it both currently and historically. They are open to all majors and have no pre-requisites. However, they are firmly based in understanding aspects of the biology, ecology, sociology, and anthropology of the particular environments being considered as well as the current and indigenous peoples of the areas.

All pertinent background information is presented within the program.

On February 2nd and again on the 6th Tom Hammett (Professor and CNR Education Abroad Coordinator) and Bob Wright (Instructor and Research Associate), in coordination with AUIP, presented seminars to interested



Tom Hammett talks to the Biological and Life Sciences Community about New Zealand and the benefits of study abroad.

students explaining the programs. The presentations were attended by approximately 100 total students. The second presentation was a class component of a freshman life sciences seminar for the Biological and Life Sciences Community.

For further information please contact: Tom Hammett, [himal@vt.edu](mailto:himal@vt.edu), 231-2716; or Bob Wright, [rswright@vt.edu](mailto:rswright@vt.edu), 231-8838

## General Announcements

### High School Spring Break Brings Visitors

By Norrine Bailey Spencer ([nspencer@vt.edu](mailto:nspencer@vt.edu)), Associate Provost and Director of Undergraduate Admissions (by way of Kimberly MacInnis, [kimmac@vt.edu](mailto:kimmac@vt.edu))

Between April 2 and 13, 2007, there will be an increase in the number of visitors to our campus as a result of the high school spring break schedule. Last year we averaged 170+ families each day with as many as 800 total visitors one day during this period. In order to accommodate these families we have increased the number of information sessions and tours available, as indicated below.

As you make preparations for these families, please contact Kim MacInnis if your information session schedule or location for these sessions should change. If you don't usually give an information session but would like to do so during this time, again, please let Kim know. We will need to receive notice of any changes or additions to your schedule by March 7, 2007, so that we can update our visit planner (created specifically for this time period).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kim at x14221 or email [kimmac@vt.edu](mailto:kimmac@vt.edu). Thank you for helping us welcome our future Hokies and their families to campus.

Admissions Information Session Schedule 4/2-13/2007

Juniors: M-F at 9:00, 11:00, and 2:00. Saturdays at 9:00 and 11:00

Seniors: M-F at 10:00 and 1:00. Saturdays at 10:00

Campus tours will leave on the hour M-F between 9:00 and 3:00 (with the last one leaving at 3) and on Saturdays between 10:00 and noon.

## Apply For a Limited Number of Small Grants

By Michael Bertelsen ([bertel@vt.edu](mailto:bertel@vt.edu)), Associate Director, Office of International Research, Education, and Development (by way of Sarah Mitchem, [agia-resc@vt.edu](mailto:agia-resc@vt.edu) or [oapia@vt.edu](mailto:oapia@vt.edu))

The Office of International Affairs and OIRED invite Virginia Tech faculty to apply for a limited number of small grants to support new initiatives in the following areas:

1. Curricular projects for development of academic programs dealing with global issues
2. Academic or research development projects to position grantees for larger external funding
3. The cost of planning and administering new education abroad or student exchange programs

Based on available resources, up to \$2,500 may be requested. Preference will be given to quality proposals that show a dollar-for-dollar level of matching from department and/or college sources. This match may include cash or "in-kind" contributions, extended release time for curriculum development, special staff and technology support, or plans for further development opportunities for the faculty member or program in question.

Funding for multiple grants will be provided for each application cycle (i.e., November - April: application due November 15; May - October: application due March 15). A university-wide committee will review the proposals and make funding decisions. Funds will be managed and accounted for according to established university procedures.

Please see the full announcement at:

<http://www.oired.vt.edu/Education/Faculty/grants.htm>

We apologize if some of you receive this message more than once.

Michael K. Bertelsen, Ph.D.

Associate Director, Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRED)

Associate Dean for International Programs

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Virginia Tech

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email: [bertel@vt.edu](mailto:bertel@vt.edu)

<http://www.oired.vt.edu>

## **EPA Seeks Public Comment on U.S. Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

By Roxanne Smith, (202) 564-4355 / [smith.roxanne@epa.gov](mailto:smith.roxanne@epa.gov)

(2/20/07) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking public comment on a draft report that analyzes sources of greenhouse gas emissions. The report, *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2005*, will be open for public comment for 30 days after the Federal Register notice is published.

After responding to public comments, EPA will submit, through the U.S. Department of State, the final inventory report to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, fulfilling its annual requirement as a party to this international treaty on climate change. The UNFCCC treaty, ratified by the United States in 1992, sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change.

The inventory tracks annual greenhouse gas emissions at the national level and presents historical emissions from 1990 to 2005. The inventory also calculates carbon dioxide emissions that are removed from the atmosphere by "sinks," e.g., through the uptake of carbon by forests, vegetation, and soils.

EPA prepared the annual report in collaboration with experts from multiple federal agencies. The major finding in the draft report is that overall emissions during 2005 increased by less than one percent from the previous year. Total emissions of the six main greenhouse gases in 2005 were equivalent to 7,262 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. These gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. The draft report indicates that overall emissions have grown by 16 percent from 1990 to 2005, while the U.S. economy has grown by 55 percent over the same period.

Information on the draft 2007 report and how to submit public comments: [epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/usinventoryreport07.html](http://epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/usinventoryreport07.html)

## **Call For Presentations**

By Michele James-Deramo ([deramo@vt.edu](mailto:deramo@vt.edu)), Director, Service-Learning Center

The Community Calls Forth the University

The Fourth Annual University-Community Partnership Conference  
July 18-20, 2007

Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center

An Initiative of the Virginia Tech Service-Learning Center with co-sponsorship from:

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health  
The Graduate School of Virginia Tech  
The Phoenix Project  
University of Virginia

Presentation Proposals Due MARCH 9TH, 2007 (2 weeks!)

How do communities define engagement with institutions of higher education?

Last year, participants of the University-Community Partnership Conference addressed the challenge of engagement as an imperative of the higher education mission. The 2007 event seeks to extend this conversation by exploring the perspective of community partners in the engaged partnership process. What does it mean for communities to choose engagement with higher education? And what are the implications when communities call forth their universities?

You are invited to listen, respond, lead. We are soliciting proposals that outline dynamic 45, 60 or 75-minute presentations that are interactive, applied, and lead participants to a concrete outcome. Preference is given to team presentations that include both community and university stakeholders. Specifically, we are interested in the following topical areas:



1. Explore the Mechanics of Building Partnerships. These sessions follow a workshop format that is interactive. Topics may include negotiating objectives that bridge university and community interests; developing memorandums of agreement; sharing risk and other legal matters related to partnership development; clarifying roles and responsibilities; leveraging institutional support; or measuring success. You may specify a participation limit for a Mechanics Workshop.
2. Demonstrate Best Practices in University-Community Partnerships. Best practices presentations give in-depth descriptions of working partnerships that have already achieved positive results in their communities, and address how the partnership met and overcame challenges on the road to success.
3. Engaged Scholarship. These presentations demonstrate research and teaching initiatives that are substantively rooted in the work of the community and build on community assets.

It is expected that 60 and 75 minute presentations will build in a significant amount of time for discussion and question / answer. To Propose a Workshop, Presentation, or Poster:

1. Complete the cover page. Go to <http://www.vtserver.vt.edu> to download the Call for Presenters.
2. Write a one-page description of approximately 300 words of the proposed workshop or presentation. Please describe both the content of the session, as well as the format of delivery. Consider the following questions when writing your description: What is your inquiry or theory of change for this project? What community expertise does your partnership leverage? What community need is addressed? How do you demonstrate impact? How far are you in the process with this partnership?
3. Include a one sentence description of all session presenters that may be included in the conference program.
4. Send five paper copies or an electronic copy of the proposal to:

Michele James-Deramo  
Conference Planning Committee Chair  
Virginia Tech Service-Learning Center  
202 Major Williams (0168)  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
E-mail: [deramo@vt.edu](mailto:deramo@vt.edu)

Presenters Notified By: April 13th, 2007

## Departmental Cabling in University Steam Tunnels

By William M. Elvey ([wmelvey@vt.edu](mailto:wmelvey@vt.edu)), Assistant Vice President for Facilities (by way of Judy Allen, [juallen@vt.edu](mailto:juallen@vt.edu))

If your college or department currently has cabling of any type including abandoned cabling that you know has been installed in the university's steam tunnel system, please keep reading this notice.

Virginia Tech's physical campus in Blacksburg continues to expand and grow, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. A strategic plan to serve utility demands associated with the physical expansion, changing fuel and technology developments, and the evolving mission of the campus has been developed to address the university's increasing heating/cooling requirements. For more information on this plan, please refer to the executive summary located at [http://facilities.vt.edu/documents/heat\\_cool\\_exec\\_summary.pdf](http://facilities.vt.edu/documents/heat_cool_exec_summary.pdf).

A portion of the plan addresses required upgrades to existing steam distribution systems that are located in the existing campus steam tunnel system. This spring, the university will begin work on this significant project. Campus steam tunnels have also been used as pathways for the cabling (wiring) infrastructure used to provision the university's mission-critical information technology services and building control systems.

We recognize the critical nature of the telecommunications infrastructure. Therefore, an important goal for the project is to avoid interruption of essential university information technology services. The university organizations involved in the project are working together to minimize the potential for disruptions to critical communications infrastructure and to plan for contingencies as appropriate.



Over the years, some colleges, departments, and research groups have installed their own cabling in the steam tunnels. Therefore, it is essential for this “departmental cabling” to be identified as soon as possible during the pre-construction phase.

Please contact CNS via email to [imsvs@cns.vt.edu](mailto:imsvs@cns.vt.edu) if you, or any of your areas of responsibility, have any cabling - including abandoned cabling - in the steam tunnels. It is important to contact CNS by March 2, 2007 to initiate the process to ensure your cabling is properly identified and/or removed as necessary. Your assistance with identifying departmental cabling in the steam tunnels will assure this critical upgrade project proceeds on schedule and with minimal impact. CNS is coordinating the cabling identification activity for the university and will advise and assist you in this effort.