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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

- I will be in Washington DC Monday-Wednesday participating in the National Association of Manufacturers Legislative Fly-In. I will be participating with several of our wood industry associations, including WMMA, WMIA, AWI and others.
- Wednesday evening I am meeting with a UK company in Farmville to further discussion in establishing new manufacturing capacity in Virginia. I have met previously with this firm.
- Thursday and Friday I will be in Greensboro, NC participating in the Carolina Woodworking Expo, representing VT and WoodLINKS USA. Several of our Southside partners might participate in this meeting given the close distance to Greensboro.
- Faculty, please encourage students in your classes to participate in upcoming interview opportunities with companies coming directly into our department. We must help our industry partners get engaged in discussion with our students.

## Careers in Corrugated Eighth Annual International Satellite Conference For Students

Live Satellite Briefing – February 13, 2007 2:00 - 4:00 PM EST

In its eighth video teleconference, beamed live from Michigan State University studios to universities in two countries, ICPF seeks to inform students about the corrugated packaging industry. This year, students will learn more about the industry's unique sustainability as well as new directions and career opportunities in the industry.

If you plan on attending RSVP:

Bonnie Maccubin  
email: [bjmac@vt.edu](mailto:bjmac@vt.edu)  
phone: 540.231.8868

## Executive Director of Tropical Forest Foundation visits Virginia Tech

During the annual meeting of the Tropical Timber Foundation (TFF) in October 2006, Keister Evans, Executive Director, and the officers of the Board of Directors signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Department of Wood Science and Forest Products and the College. Evans visited with representatives of the

College and members of the Department during December 2006 to identify key collaborators on campus and to begin discussions with several faculty members in the preparation for building a common strategy. TFF will bring a high-level delegation to Virginia Tech in March 2007 to work together with faculty and administration to form joint research and educational programs. During the December on-campus visit, Evans met with Paul Winistorfer, Professor and Department Head (pictured on the far left here) and was hosted by Tom Hammett, Professor (pictured on the far right here) TFF Board Member.



(From L-R) Keister Evans, Tom Hammett and Paul Winistorfer

## **Tropical Forest Foundation signs Memorandum of Understanding with Virginia Tech**

During the 2006 Annual Board Meeting held during October in Washington DC, officers of the Tropical Forest Foundation (TFF) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the College of

Natural Resources. Pictured here at the signing ceremony are Jim Bowyer, Chairman of the Board; Tom Hammett, Professor of Forest Products Marketing at VT and TFF Board Member; Carl Gade, President of the Board; Jerry Gilbert, Legal Advisor to TFF; and Keister Evans, Executive Director of the Tropical Timber Foundation (TFF). The MOU will initially focus on helping to educate the wood products industry and forestry officials about successful methods to reduce waste in harvesting and processing. During 2007, a



Dr. Jim Bowyer, Chairman of the Board of TFF signs the MOU with VT

major focus on developing a program in sustainable mining based in part on TFF's successful Reduced Impact Logging Program. The leadership of TFF's board will visit VT in March 2007 to form a joint VT/TFF strategy in this new area.

## **Significant Redesign in Manufacturing Systems for Improved Lead Time**

Earl Kline is working with Stanley Furniture on a continuous improvement event. This event will result in a significant redesign in manufacturing systems for improved lead time and better production effectiveness. The event is a weeklong event beginning 2/12/07 in Stanleystown, VA. This cooperation effort with Stanley adds to our research and teaching ability in manufacturing systems.

## Forest Industries Innovation Initiation

The Sloan Center is pleased to announce a request for proposals on "Forest Industries Innovation Initiation." Funding from VA Works and the Sloan Foundation is available to support the efforts of Virginia forest related industries to be more competitive and sustainable in today's global market place. The center expects to fund 3 to 5 projects at \$30 to \$50 thousand per project. Applications are due April 1, 2007.

Please contact Earl Kline ([kline@vt.edu](mailto:kline@vt.edu)) for further information.

## General Announcements

### New Facilities and Administrative Cost Rates Approved

The attached PDF file details the new F&A (Indirect Cost/Overhead) rates as approved by the Federal Government for the 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 fiscal years.

With regard to the implementation of these new rates, all sponsored agreements with award dates beginning with July 1, 2006 are eligible to use the new rate structure in determining the amount charged for university F&A (indirect/overhead) costs. The new F&A rates will be phased in over a period of time as proposals are submitted using the new rates and awards are made based on those submissions. In other words, these increases will not require a rebudgeting of current projects. Effective immediately, the new F&A cost rates should be used to develop proposal budgets for all new grants and contracts submissions.

[http://www.research.vt.edu/announcement/FA\\_Memo\\_Feb\\_2007.pdf](http://www.research.vt.edu/announcement/FA_Memo_Feb_2007.pdf)

### Oak Ridge Center for Advanced Studies (ORCAS) Paid Summer Research Internship

By Terry Herdman ([herd88@vt.edu](mailto:herd88@vt.edu)), Associate VP for Research Computing

Announcing a Paid Summer Research Internship in Science, Engineering and Public Policy sponsored by the Oak Ridge Center for Advanced Studies (ORCAS)

Areas of focus for the program include:

- \* Nanotechnology applications and implications
- \* Climate modeling for regional decision making
- \* Energy technologies and policies
- \* The American landscape: Changes in land use, population, and housing

This program is open to graduate students attending Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) member institutions. More information about this 10-week internship, eligibility criteria, and instructions for applying can be found at: <http://orcas.orau.org/internships/overview.htm>

Applications are due March 2, 2007.

ORCAS is a consortium of research universities, government, industry and non-governmental organizations focused on critical issues with strong science and technology content.

### British Oil Giant BP Announced an Award of 500 Million Dollars for "Big Science" Research Into Green Energy

By Glenn Chapman Thu Feb 1, 5:54 PM ET

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP)

BP will fund an Energy Biosciences Institute (EBI) with a mandate to "perform ground-breaking research aimed at the production of new and cleaner energy" with an initial focus on biofuels for cars and trucks.

EBI research will be conducted at the University of California, Berkeley and its affiliated Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and at the University of Illinois.

BP said as many as 50 of its employees will be involved in EBI research.

The US institutions were selected from a worldwide pool of applicants, according to BP.

“The proposal from UC Berkeley and its partners was selected in large part because these institutions have excellent track records of delivering ‘Big Science,’” said BP group chief executive John Browne.

Browne described big science as “large and complex developments predicated on both scientific breakthroughs and engineering applications that can be deployed in the real world.”

The institute will merge academia and the private sector to create “the discipline of Energy Biosciences,” Browne said.

LBNL deputy director Graham Fleming stressed that the institute “is not going to have any vested interest in a particular outcome” because of funding by one of the world’s largest petroleum companies.

“We are going to try to draw on the best science and information to come up with an unbiased analysis of where the opportunities are, what the problems are, and then what the solutions to those problems are,” Fleming said.

BP contends it is “already a top player” in the global biofuels market with a 10 percent stake.

BP reported that in 2006 it blended 718 million gallons (2,717,925 kiloliters) of ethanol with gasoline, a 25 percent increase from the previous year.

EBI is the first public-private research lab dedicated to renewable fuels and clean energy, according to California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s office.

“I can’t tell you how excited I am,” Schwarzenegger said of the grant.

“This is a perfect complement to our new low-carbon fuel standard which will more than triple alternative fuel demand in California by 2020. With research facilities like (EBI), California will continue to be the leader in the Cleantech industry.”

Schwarzenegger met with BP executives “on many occasions” in recent months to discuss the EBI grant, according to his office.

The governor included 40 million dollars in funding for the institute in the state’s budget for 2007 to 2008, a move that strongly influenced BP’s grant decision, Schwarzenegger’s representatives said in a release.

In September of last year, Schwarzenegger signed a landmark bill to cap greenhouse gas emissions in California.

## **Virginia Tech Awards for Exemplary Academic Advising: Call for Nominations**

By Kimberly Brown, Director, University Studies/University Academic Advising Center

Virginia Tech sponsors three Exemplary Academic Advising Awards annually in an effort to recognize the outstanding efforts of faculty and professional advisors and the role they play in retaining students and developing an advising partnership which fosters a supportive environment. I am pleased to announce this year’s call for nominations for each of these awards. Please consider nominating eligible advisors. More information is available at [www.advising.vt.edu](http://www.advising.vt.edu).

Nomination Deadline for all Awards: March 30, 2007

Each year, the university recognizes the importance of advising excellence through the awards described below.

· To make a nomination, visit the appropriate link to print the nomination form ([www.advising.vt.edu](http://www.advising.vt.edu)) and submit it to Kimberly Brown, Director of University Academic Advising Center/University Studies by March 30, 2007.

I. Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising: for excellence in undergraduate advising. The nominee must be a full-time faculty member and must hold the rank of professor or instructor

One award of \$2000 is given each year. The awardee also will receive membership in the Academy of Advising Excellence. The committee reviews nominations made by students, alumni, faculty, departments, or self-nominations, and selects a recipient. An individual who has received any one of these awards is ineligible for another major award for a period of seven years and can receive any particular award only once.

- II. Alumni Award for Excellence in Graduate Academic Advising: for excellence in graduate advising. The nominee must be a full-time faculty member and must hold the rank of professor, associate professor, assistant professor or instructor.

One award of \$2000 is given each year. The awardee also will receive membership in the Academy of Advising Excellence. The Advising Award committee reviews nominations made by students, alumni, faculty, departments, or self-nominations, and selects a recipient. An individual who has received any one of these awards is ineligible for another major award for a period of seven years and can receive any particular award only once.

- III. The Provost's Award for Excellence in Advising: to recognize an individual who serves undergraduate advisees in exemplary ways.

One award that includes a \$2,000 cash prize, a plaque, and membership in the University's Academy of Advising Excellence is given each year. The nominee must be faculty (Instructor or other rank) or a classified staff member with assigned undergraduate advising responsibilities. The Provost's Award for Excellence in Advising is given annually to recognize an individual who serves undergraduate advisees in exemplary ways. Supporting documents are required for the Provost's Award for Excellence in Advising. For more information, please visit:

[http://www.advising.vt.edu/provosts\\_award.pdf](http://www.advising.vt.edu/provosts_award.pdf)

## **USCIS is Considering Raising the Fees for Certain Immigration Petitions**

By Jerry Berkley-Coats ([gberkley@vt.edu](mailto:gberkley@vt.edu)), Assistant Director for International Support Services

We have just received notice that US Immigration (USCIS) is CONSIDERING raising the fees for certain Immigration Petitions. If this takes effect, it will probably happen in May, 2007. And, while one can NEVER be certain about U.S. Government action, especially Homeland Security, the chances of these increased fees becoming a fact in the not-too-distant future, are good. As for certain fees - Departments MUST pay the I-129 filing fee and the Fraud Prevention Fee (if applicable) - the Premium Processes Fee is negotiable. The Fees and PROPOSED INCREASES are as follows:

I-90 - Replacement of a Green Card - is currently US\$190 - proposed increase to US\$290

I-102 - Replacement of Arrival/Departure Card (I-94) - currently US\$160 - proposed increase to US\$320

I-129 - Used for H-1B/TN/O-I Petitions - currently US\$190 - proposed increase to US\$320

I-131 - Travel Document associated with a Green Card Petition - currently US\$170 - proposed increase to US\$305

I-140 - Green Card Petition - currently US\$190 - proposed increase to US\$475

I-485 - Green Card Petition - currently US\$325 - proposed increase to US\$905

I-539 - Change of Status - usually to J-1 - currently US\$200 - proposed increase to US\$300

I-765 - Application for Employment - usually for a J-2 - currently US\$180 - proposed increase to US\$340.

I have yet to see anything about raising the US\$500 "Fraud Prevention Fee" for VT's initial H-1B Petitions or for the use of Premium Processing Fee of US\$1,000 for H-1B Petitions.

Finally, and just to try and add some good news, it is now possible to issue/extend a J-1 for up to five (5) years.

Questions/Comments - [gberkley@vt.edu](mailto:gberkley@vt.edu)

## **Blackboard Course Removal Maintenance**

By Kim Gausepohl ([kgansepo@vt.edu](mailto:kgansepo@vt.edu)), Manager, Online Course Systems, Educational Technologies

We ask Department Heads and appropriate administrators to contact Online Course Systems and let us know if they have teaching faculty that are away on leave or on sabbatical. We are planning to remove old (before Fall '04) Blackboard courses and would like to retain all sites for faculty on leave or on sabbatical (please see below). Thank you.

To allow for more disk space and to preserve the long-term performance of Bb, we are planning to remove older Blackboard courses on February 26th 2007.

We have flagged older Blackboard courses (courses created on or before Fall 2004 semester) with the prefix "\*\*\*TO BE REMOVED 02/26/07". All older Blackboard courses will be removed on Monday, February 26th, 2007 unless you request an exception by contacting [ocs@vt.edu](mailto:ocs@vt.edu) with the CourseIDs (eg, ENGL\_1234\_1111\_200409) of the courses to retain. You can determine your CourseIDs using the Courses tab in the portal. The CourseID for each course is listed beneath the title.

Please note that you must contact OCS for an exception by February 25th 2007. If you do not contact us but manually remove the "\*\*\*TO BE REMOVED-02/26/07" flag beside your old course, it will still be removed.

Please contact OCS if you have questions or concerns.

## **Faculty Experiences in Distance Learning: A Panel Discussion**

By Tammy Smith ([tjsmith@nuh.iddl.vt.edu](mailto:tjsmith@nuh.iddl.vt.edu))

Date: Wednesday, February 21

Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Location: Torgersen 1100

Methods used to teach distance classes can vary greatly from course to course. In this session you will meet with faculty members who have integrated synchronous and or asynchronous online elements into their distance class. Come learn from some of Virginia Tech's eLearning instructors as they lead the discussion and suggest possible practices to maximize your efforts and minimize your headaches. These instructors have had experiences that are quite different from one another, as the content, discipline, student academic level, and experience with distance learning vary between them.

## **NHLA Member Hotline: 1-800-933-0318**

We want to hear from you. NHLA is devoting its toll-free phone number specifically as a member hotline. Need the services of a NHLA inspector? Have a question about the rules? Want to attend the NHLA Inspection School? Or just want to talk about an issue of concern to you? Use the hotline. The toll free number, 1-800-933-0318, is available in the United States and Canada. We hope to hear from you soon.

### **Hardwood Matters Magazine**

The February 2007 Hardwood Matters is now available online. The magazine is a fully interactive .pdf file with embedded links and email addresses. Also, we have started placing past issues of the Hardwood Matters on the NHLA website. So far, we have issues dating back to March 2006. Below is a link to the page on the NHLA website to view Hardwood Matters.

February 2007 Hardwood Matters

[http://www.nhla.com/pdf/HM\\_feb.pdf](http://www.nhla.com/pdf/HM_feb.pdf)

Past Issues

<http://www.nhla.com/HM.asp>

## **Academic Support and Advising Afternoon Chats, Spring 2007**

By Kimberly Brown ([ksbrown@vt.edu](mailto:ksbrown@vt.edu)), Director, University Studies/University Academic Advising Center and

Karen Eley Sanders ([kasandel@vt.edu](mailto:kasandel@vt.edu)), Assistant Provost/Director of Academic Support

In an effort to enhance academic support and advising on campus, we are pleased to present the first session of Academic Support and Advising Afternoon Chat schedule for the spring of 2007. We encourage faculty, staff, and administrators who work directly with students to join us. The complete schedule of sessions for this spring will be available shortly at [www.advising.vt.edu](http://www.advising.vt.edu). Contact Tabatha Stanley at 231-8440 or [stanley4@vt.edu](mailto:stanley4@vt.edu) to register and/or if you have questions.

### **Virginia Tech's eLearning and Summer Session Programs**

Wednesday, February 14, 3:00 - 5:00pm  
Squires Student Center, Cardinal Room

Dr. Tom Wilkinson, University Distance and Distributed Learning and Summer Sessions and Director of the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning

Angie Starr, Coordinator, eLearning Enrollment Services

Odessa Davis, Coordinator, eLearning Student Services

Jenise Jacques, Coordinator, Communication, Marketing & Development

Laurie Hillstock, Director of University Summer Session

More than half of Virginia Tech's 2002 entering student cohort had taken an online course by summer 2006. Last year there were 9,120 enrollments in 160 undergraduate online course offerings - a 42% increase over the previous year. The University is committed to strengthening the role of distance and distributed learning and has recently made a commitment to grow summer session. Leaders of these university-wide efforts will describe the growing national trend of educational access and flexibility and how Virginia Tech is meeting that challenge through a holistic and collaborative approach.

### **The Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (CEUT) Spring Program**

By Nancy Polk ([npolk@vt.edu](mailto:npolk@vt.edu)), CEUT

CEUT's Spring bulletin is available in print and on the Web ([www.ceut.vt.edu](http://www.ceut.vt.edu)). Please encourage your faculty and staff to review it and to participate in the programs of interest. An abbreviated outline follows:

#### **Designing Our Courses for Critical Thinking: A Work Group Experience**

Day/Time TBD

(Register by Friday, February 9)

#### **Welcoming Faculty into the Fold**

Friday, February 9, 1:00-3:00

#### **Designing Accessible Tests: A Clinic Experience**

Thursday, February 15, 3:00-5:00

#### **Life in Academe for Future Faculty: Disciplinary Courses in Teaching and Learning**

Friday, February 16, 1:30-3:00

#### **Integrating Research into Undergraduate Education: Challenging the Humanities and Social Sciences**

Friday, February 23, 1:30-3:00

#### **Engaging English Language Learners in Our Courses**

Saturday, February 24, 8:30-2:00

#### **The 3 "R"s of Service-Learning Partnerships**

Tuesday, February 27, 1:00-3:00

#### **Composing Ourselves: Developing and Writing a Teaching Philosophy**

Friday, March 16, 9:00-noon

(Register by Friday, March 2)

#### **Striving for Excellence in Teaching on the Tenure Track**

Friday, March 16, 2:45-4:45

**Where's the Learning in Service Learning?**

Friday, March 23, 1:00-3:00

**Teaching Excellence at a Research-Centered University**

Tuesday, March 27, 4:00–6:30

**Teaching With Our Mouths Shut**

Friday, March 30, 1:00-3:00

**Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship in Interdisciplinary Contexts**

Friday, April 6, 1:00-3:00

**Teaching for Inclusion and Diversity**

Tuesday, April 10, 1:00-3:00

**Student Engagement Through Active and Cooperative Learning**

Friday, April 13, 1:30-3:00

**The Elements of Teaching Writing**

Saturday, April 14, 8:30-2:30

**UWP Summer Workshop: Designing Our Courses to Develop Students as Writers**

Monday-Friday, May 14-18, 9:00-3:00

(Apply by Monday, April 23)

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Dr. Nancy E. Polk  
Assistant Director  
Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching  
111 Hillcrest Hall (0453)  
Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
(540) 231-8553

**Can Europe's Forests Satisfy The Increasing Demand For Raw Material And Energy Under Sustainable Forest Management?**

By Sebastian Hetsch

On behalf of the organizing committee of the workshop on "mobilizing wood resources" I would like to draw your attention to the recommendations and conclusions of the workshop:

<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/workshops/2007/wmw/recomm.htm>

Over 100 different stakeholders and country delegates presented their positions and strategies towards increasing wood mobilization and then discussed and assessed their opportunities and risks.

The results will also be considered by the MCPFE as a contribution in the drafting process of the resolutions for the 5th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe to be organized in Warsaw, Poland in November 2007.

For further information, please visit the website:

<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/workshops/2007/wmw/mobilisingwood.htm>

Or contact:

Mr. Kit Prins, Chief, UNECE/FAO Timber Section Palais des Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

E-mail: [christopher.prins@unece.org](mailto:christopher.prins@unece.org), Tel. +41 22 917 2874, Fax: +41 22 917 0041

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## Upcoming Agricultural Commodity Economic Outlook Seminars

By Mike Roberts

Please help me get the word out about the upcoming Agricultural Commodity Economic Outlook Seminars. The information and registration can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.cpe.vt.edu/ag-outlook/>

Registration is simple, easy, and economical. These seminars may promise to provide exceptionally timely information and will be worth attending by large and small producers, extension agents and specialists, and other ag. influencers such as lenders, vendors, crop insurance sales folks, and anyone else interested in agriculture or energy.

Please urge folks to register by February 16 in order to get a price discount. Further information about the agendas, etc. are on the web site. The hot topic of bio fuels outlook will be addressed, as well as outlook for many other agricultural commodities.

Thank you in advance for any support you may give to getting the word out. If you are an extension agent or specialist please contact me for information about travel reimbursement. You can find my complete contact information at the bottom of this note.

Mike Roberts

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View the latest Market Report at:

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/news/periodicals/roberts/>