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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.

News From Paul Winistorfer

- I am pleased to report to you our success in gaining a PhD Fellowship supported by ICTAS under the heading of Renewable Materials Development and Utilization. Dr. Mahajan, director of ICTAS, generously supported a proposal submitted by the four department heads of Biological Systems Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Wood Science. The Fellowship is valued at \$30,000 per year.
- We had a strong presence at the VFPA meeting in Williamsburg over the weekend. Taking our students and supporting their attendance at this meeting is critical for their professional development, critical for our industry partners, and critical for our program. We need a growing presence with our state industry association and industry partners. See photos below from the meeting.
- I made a joint presentation at VFPA with Southside partners Mr. Ted Bennett from the Higher Education Center and Dr. Carlyle Ramsey, President of Danville Community College. We presented our joint educational partnership on Southside. Our presentation and following discussions were very well received and generated considerable interest.
- The VFPA Board approved a motion to create a student membership in VFPA. We intend to get our students engaged at the state level via this mechanism.
- The VFPA Board also approved our draft plan for the First Annual Virginia Forest Industry Technology Day to be held at Virginia Tech in September or early October. Planning will begin immediately.
- Freshman student Dan Roethle was selected as the Wood Digest Student of the Month. This national publication has a circulation of 50,000 and is great recognition and exposure for both Dan and our program. Congratulations Dan! See the article on Dan below and the url link to an on-line version of the publication.
- I attended a portion of the Wood Enterprise Institute meeting last Wednesday evening (meets every Wednesday at 5:30 pm Brooks classroom). There is excitement and energy in this group of students and I encourage you to drop by one of these weeks to listen in. Thanks to Earl Kline, Brian Bond and David Jones for shepherding this exciting experiential learning environment for our students.
- We had another successful Graduate Program work session. Faculty please mark your calendars for Friday February 9 for our next work session. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm in the Brooks classroom.
- Assistant Department Head Audrey Zink-Sharp and I are putting together the outline for the relaunch of our department newsletter WoodScapes. Please help us with information gathering and content as we request it. We plan to have in print in March.

Department of Wood Science students attended the Virginia Forest Products Association Winter Conference in Williamsburg, VA last weekend. The meeting included a reception Friday evening, a 1/2 day technical session on Saturday and a reception Saturday evening.



Shown here are John Foster, Dan Roethle, Richard Bonsi, Garrett Norman, Adam Scouse, and VFPA President Randy Bush, Jon Frey, Dean Mike Kelly, Dr. Paul Winistorfer and Dr. Earl Kline.



The VFPA Winter Conference was held at the Williamsburg Lodge. Shown here are Dan Roethle, Garrett Norman, Dr. Brian Bond, Adam Scouse, Jon Frey, Richard Bonsi and John Foster.



The Department of Wood Science is engaged with Southside partners on an educational platform for the wood industry. Shown here are Mr Ted. Bennett, Executive Director of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, Dr. Carlyle Ramsey, President of Danville Community College, Randy Bush, President of the Virginia Forest Products Association, Dr. Mike Kelly, Dean of the College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech and Dr. Paul Winistorfer, Head of the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech. Mr. Bennett, Dr. Ramsey and Dr. Winistorfer made a joint presentation on the educational initiative in Southside to the VFPA attendees. Nearly 100 participants attended the meeting in Williamsburg.

Student of the Month

By Wood Digest Magazine (<http://www.wooddigest.com/publication/article.jsp?publd=2&id=751>)



NAME: Daniel Roethle

SCHOOL: Virginia Tech

MAJOR/PROGRAM: Wood Science & Forest Products

AGE: 19

How did you become interested in working with wood?

As a child I was always interested in making things. After graduating from Legos, wood seemed like the perfect material to work with. When I was in elementary school, my dad helped me carve out a small toy canoe, and while in middle school my neighbor, Ron Wiskerchen, got me started in wood turning.

How would you describe your style?

With my early wood turning projects, I learned that often the idea in mind is not always the appearance that is produced. This phenomenon still applies to my style today. I will always be making adjustments as the project progresses, some major and some minor. Overall, I try not to stick to one "style," but rather incorporate what works in any given situation.

What kind of woodworking experience do you have?

The majority of my woodworking experience was gained in my high school woodshop at Hartford Union High School in Hartford, Wis. My teacher, Jason Kraus, would make it a point to arrive at school an hour early to allow students extra time to work on their projects, and I took advantage. Nearly every morning of my junior and senior year was spent in that shop as well as many of my study halls and sometimes after school. My senior year I worked at a local cabinet shop, J&V Lakewood Cabinets, through a co-op program. That experience really opened my eyes to the cabinet industry as well as the workings of solid surface countertops. During all this time, I began putting together a small basement woodshop.

What was your latest project?

My latest project was a rocking chair. After two years of design and construction, and many complications along the way, I created what is my most intricate project to date. While the finished product is far from perfect, the design is, to my knowledge, completely original. The entire frame of the chair is one laminated piece of wood in a figure eight that bends at the intersection to form both the seat and back of the chair. I intend to cane the seat and back, but college has taken me far away from home, the chair and the shops I worked in.

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

phone: 540.231.8868

The Biobased Information System®

The Biobased Information System® is an online database of news and information related to Biobased Products, Bioenergy, and Green Technology that has been operating continuously since 2000. The Biobased Information

System is expanding the amount of news and information available to its users and has added a number of new features. If you are interested in biobased products, renewable fuels, and sustainable development, this the best source of regularly updated information available. We encourage you to visit our information-filled site and invite your suggestions to make it better. We will continue to upgrade and add new and powerful features throughout 2007.

<http://www.biobased.org>

If you are interested in reaching the broadest biofuels audience in the industry, please contact us to discuss charter sponsorship opportunities that are available.

For more information contact:

Steve Smith

ssmith@biobased.org

Biobased Information System

<http://www.biobased.org>

General Announcements

SPECIAL SEMINAR

Tuesday, February 6th, 2007

10:00 a.m.

Fralin Auditorium

Enhanced Performance of Polymer Nanocomposites and
Nanostructured Membrane Systems through Controlled Morphological Development

Robert B. Moore

Department of Polymer Science, The University of Southern Mississippi

118 College Drive #10076, Hattiesburg, MS, 39406-0001

rbmoore@usm.edu

Abstract

Ionomers are a subclass of ion-containing polymers that generally contain less than ca. 15 mol% of ionized monomer units. As a result of strong electrostatic forces, these polymers often exhibit a unique range of physical properties and morphologies that may be exploited in a variety of technologically important applications. In the broad field of nanostructured polymeric materials, ionomeric materials offer remarkable control over specific interactions between the polymer matrix and inorganic nanoparticles in polymer nanocomposites, and the ability to tailor functional domains in membranes for enhanced transport properties. In this presentation, the form and function of ionomeric materials will be explored with respect to nanoparticle dispersion in polymer-clay nanocomposites and the development of nanostructured domains in proton exchange membrane fuel cell (PEMFC) systems and ionic polymer metal composite (IPMC) artificial muscles. With polymer-clay nanocomposites, we will demonstrate that ionomers act as efficient exfoliation agents facilitated by favorable amphiphilic interactions. For membrane applications, we will demonstrate that the morphological development in ionomers may be controlled through alterations in electrostatic interactions and processing procedures to provide enhanced PEMFC performance and anisotropic actuation behavior in artificial muscles.

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Robert B. Moore is a Professor of Polymer Science and Engineering at the University of Southern Mississippi. He received the Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Texas A&M University in 1988, followed by a post doctoral research appointment in the Department of Chemistry at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec under the direction of Professor Adi Eisenberg. He joined the faculty of the Department of Polymer Science at The University of Southern Mississippi in 1991. Professor Moore's current research interests include: Nanoscale characterization

of morphological and physical property modifications of semicrystalline polymers via the incorporation of small quantities of ion-containing monomer units, Control of morphology-transport property relationships in PEM fuel cell systems via tailored processing procedures and controlled molecular/supramolecular architecture, Characterization and control of actuation behavior in nanostructured ionic polymer metal composite (IPMC) artificial muscles, The use of small-angle x-ray and neutron scattering methods for the characterization of morphology and dynamics in nanostructured materials, and polymer-based nanocomposites for improved chemical and physical properties.

Call for nominations for the Diggs Teaching Scholar Awards

By: Peter Wallenstein, Chair, Diggs Teaching Scholar Awards Committee

Nominations are due Monday, February 19, 2007, no later than 5:00 pm.

The Diggs Teaching Scholar Awards honor teachers of all academic ranks who forge exceptional, innovative, and mutually-beneficial connections between a department's academic mission and the teacher's own pedagogy, and between an individual's teaching and scholarship.

The award was established in 1992 under the auspices of the University's Faculty Rewards Project. Sponsors of this program are the Diggs Endowed Professorship Fund and the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

The Diggs program emphasizes the benefit that accrues to students when exceptional teachers work well in a collective, collegial context. The Diggs Awards are as much about the mutual connection of faculty and their departments as they are about individual achievement in the classroom. The Diggs program thus honors departments and programs, as well as individuals dedicated to excellence in teaching and student learning. The recipients of the award receive \$500 and formal recognition at the Diggs Teaching Roundtable. The departments or programs that nominate the recipients each receive a matching \$500 award preferably for use toward some special purpose related to undergraduate teaching.

Three Diggs Teaching Scholars are selected annually. These individuals agree to (1) make a presentation about an aspect of their teaching at the Diggs Teaching Roundtable, a public discussion by all three new Diggs teaching scholars, devoted to pedagogical and curricular issues at Virginia Tech. In addition, they each will (2) have a stand-alone time in the coming year to present their approach in greater detail. And as Diggs teaching scholars, they all (3) become part of the Diggs Teaching Scholar Association and will be asked to serve on committees and to participate in a variety of ways to enhance the University's teaching/learning environment. The Diggs is not primarily an award, though it is that too; it is intended as an activity that will continue to benefit the recipient's department and the University as a whole.

Eligibility: Individuals teaching at all instructional levels at Virginia Tech (i.e., named and full professors, associate and assistant professors, adjunct faculty, instructors, and graduate teaching assistants) are eligible. Departments and programs are encouraged to re-nominate excellent teachers who were nominated in the past but not selected.

Nomination: The letter of nomination for the Diggs Teaching Scholar Award should meet the following specifications:

1) The department chair, head, or program director must sign the

letter, although members of a teaching awards committee or a colleague may prepare it.

2) The letter should include a description of the nominee's

qualifications and a brief description of the teaching duties, abilities, and performance of the individual. In particular, the letter should identify the unique talents of the nominee and indicate how he/she has significantly enhanced the learning environment and overall teaching mission of the department, program, college, and/or University. The letter should not exceed three pages in length, single or double-spaced. Included in the text of the letter should be comments from colleagues or students, descriptions of unusual accomplishments or assignments, and mention of teaching awards or recognition.

3) Finally, a one to two page statement, single or

double-spaced, from the nominee should be attached that describes the proposed topic, issue, or idea relevant to education, pedagogy, learning, and/or curriculum development that the nominee would contribute to the annual public forum of the Diggs Teaching Roundtable (which will take place in early fall semester 2007) and at a subsequent stand-alone session. The nominee may also use this statement as an opportunity to reflect on his/her favorite teaching/learning strategies or to report on a particularly successful experience.

No other written documentation will be considered beyond this letter of nomination. Submission of a dossier is expressly discouraged.

Selection: The selection process consists of three stages:

- 1) The selection committee reviews the applications and generates a short list of finalists.
- 2) The finalists are interviewed by the committee and other members of the Diggs Teaching Scholar Association.
- 3) The selection committee meets to choose the three new Diggs Scholars.

Twelve copies of the letter of nomination and nominee's statement should be sent to:

Peter Wallenstein, Chair, Diggs Teaching Scholar Award Committee Department of History, Campus Mail Code 0117

Nominations may not be submitted by FAX or email. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 5:00 pm on Monday, February 19, 2007.

Questions regarding the process may be directed to Peter Wallenstein (pwallens@vt.edu or 231-8376). For additional information about the Diggs Teaching Scholar Award, including a list of previous recipients, see www.diggs.vt.edu.

To: Deans, Department Heads, and University Center Directors

From: Elaine Humphrey (elaine@vt.edu), Associate Director for Research and Assessment, CAEE

Please share this message with your faculty:

On behalf of the Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence, we invite you to attend our first Student Success Summit on Wednesday, February 28th from 8:00 - 11:00 am at Owens Banquet Hall. The purpose of the summit is to discuss student success at Virginia Tech -How do we define student success? What is our role/responsibility in the facilitation of student success? How can we work collaboratively to implement successful student success programs? How might teaching faculty and student services collaborate? Please bring your own questions as well! We know it will be an engaging discussion!

The morning will include: An opening discussion about student success at Virginia Tech, a keynote speaker, and roundtable discussions. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Deborah DiCroce, President of Tidewater Community College (<<http://www.tcc.edu/welcome/president/about.htm>><http://www.tcc.edu/welcome/president/about.htm>).

She has 30 years of experience in higher education spanning both teaching and administrative roles. She holds adjunct faculty appointments at the University of Virginia, The College of William and Mary, and Old Dominion University. She will share with us the challenges of student success and provide us a bigger picture of why this all matters!

There is no cost to attend the event but registration for the event is required. We ask that you please complete your online registration no later than Wednesday, February 21st. A continental breakfast will be served, so it is important that we have an accurate headcount. You can find the registration at:

<https://survey.vt.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1169649829159>

We will have information tables set up to share information about current VT student success programs. If you have student success programs that you would like to share with those in attendance, we ask that you have those materials mailed to our department no later than Wednesday, February 21.

We hope to see you there! Thank you!

Jessica Grimes

Assistant Director, Learning Assistance Programs Center for Academic Enrichment & Excellence (CAEE) 110 Femoyer Hall (0276) Blacksburg, VA 24060 Phone (540) 231-5499 Fax (540) 231-2618 www.caee.vt.edu

Elaine Humphrey

Associate Director for Research and Assessment Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence 110 Femoyer Hall (0276) Blacksburg, VA 24060 elaineh@vt.edu

Ph: 540-231-5499

Fax: 540-231-2618

USDA Release: JOHANNNS UNVEILS 2007 FARM BILL PROPOSALS

Also See: <http://www.usda.gov/2007/01/0019.xml>

Fact Sheet: A Commitment to Rural America

Click to View News Release:

<http://www.usda.gov/2007/01/0020.xml>

Contact:

USDA Press Office (202) 690-5000

ANR Forum Alert

2007 Farm Bill

This morning USDA Secretary Johanns held a webcast on proposals for the 2007 Farm Bill on a title by title basis. Among the many items of interest, he mentioned reorganizing and revitalizing the Research, Education, and Economics Mission Area to better coordinate internal USDA research with external university research funded by USDA.

See <http://www.usda.gov> for the title by title proposals, news release, powerpoint presentation, and fact sheets.

JOHANNNS UNVEILS 2007 FARM BILL PROPOSALS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 2007 - Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today unveiled the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2007 farm bill proposals. The more than 65 proposals correspond to the 2002 farm bill titles with additional special focus areas, including specialty crops, beginning farmers and ranchers, and socially disadvantaged producers.

"We listened closely to producers and stakeholders all across the country and took a reform-minded and fiscally responsible approach to making farm policy more equitable, predictable and protected from challenge," said Johanns. "We started with the 2002 farm bill and propose to improve it by bolstering support for emerging priorities and focusing on a market-oriented approach."

USDA began preparations for the 2007 farm bill in 2005 by conducting 52 Farm Bill Forums across the country. More than 4,000 comments were recorded or collected during forums and via electronic and standard mail. These comments are summarized in 41 theme papers. USDA economists, led by Dr. Keith Collins, studied the comments and authored five analysis papers.

The proposals unveiled today represent the final phase of a nearly two year process. Each detailed proposal provides information about why a change is needed, the recommended solution, and relevant background information about the impacted program or policy.

Highlights of the proposals include (funding reflects ten year totals):

-Increase conservation funding by \$7.8 billion, simplify and consolidate conservation programs, create a new Environmental Quality Incentives Program and a Regional Water Enhancement Program

Provide \$1.6 billion in new funding for renewable energy research, development and production, targeted for cellulosic ethanol, which will support \$2.1 billion in guaranteed loans for cellulosic projects and includes \$500 million for a bio-energy and bio-based product research initiative

Target nearly \$5 billion in funding to support specialty crop producers by increasing nutrition in food assistance programs, including school meals, through the purchase of fruits and vegetables, funding specialty crop research, fighting trade barriers and expanding export markets

Provide \$250 million to increase direct payments for beginning farmers and ranchers, reserve a percentage of conservation funds and provide more loan flexibility for down payment, land purchasing and farm operating loans

Support socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers by reserving a percentage of conservation assistance funds and providing more access to loans for down payments, land purchasing and farm operating

Strengthen disaster relief by establishing a revenue-based counter-cyclical program, providing gap coverage in crop insurance, linking crop insurance participation to farm program participation, and creating a new emergency landscape restoration program

Simplify and consolidate rural development programs while providing \$1.6 billion in loans to rehabilitate all current Rural Critical Access Hospitals and \$500 million in grants and loans for rural communities to decrease the backlog of rural infrastructure projects

Dedicate nearly \$400 million to trade efforts to expand exports, fight trade barriers, and increase involvement in world trade standard-setting bodies

-Simplify, modernize, and rename the Food Stamp Program to improve access for the working poor, better meet the needs of recipients and States, and strengthen program integrity

The Administration's 2007 farm bill proposals would spend approximately \$10 billion less than the 2002 farm bill spent over the past five years (excluding ad-hoc disaster assistance), upholding the President's plan to eliminate the deficit in five years. These proposals would provide approximately \$5 billion more than the projected spending if the 2002 farm bill were extended.

The proposals are available at <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>. Also posted on USDA's website are the Farm Bill Forum transcripts, farm bill comments submitted by the public, theme papers summarizing the comments and USDA analysis papers.

USDA News

oc.news@usda.gov

202 720-4623

The Graduate Student Assembly is sponsoring the 23rd Annual Research Symposium on Wednesday, March 28, 2007. The Research Symposium provides a unique opportunity for students to bring together ideas and research findings from different disciplines and showcase their scholarly pursuits and achievements. It is also intended to highlight the importance of research and other scholarly pursuits of students. This year there are eight categories covering every department at Virginia Tech. Awards will be given under each category and each award carries a cash prize and a certificate. The abstract submission opens on February 2nd and closes on February 23rd at 5.00 pm.

The Graduate Student Assembly would sincerely appreciate if you could forward this message to the graduate students and the graduating seniors in your department and encourage them to submit an abstract of their current research.

The details about the Research Symposium and the abstract submission form are available on the GSA website <http://www.gsa.uusa.vt.edu/GSA/Programs/RS.php>

Thank you so much for your help in continuing to make the Annual Research Symposium at Virginia Tech a continued success.

Sundar Narayan
Research Symposium Chair-GSA
Graduate Research Assistant, VTECCCL

Virginia Tech
Mechanical Engineering Department
103 Randolph Hall

(540) 231-4775
FAX (540) 231-9100
Blacksburg, VA 24061



**International Corrugated
Packaging Foundation**

STUDENTS -MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PARTICIPATE ON YOUR CAMPUS!!

Careers in Corrugated Eighth Annual International Satellite Conference For Students

**LIVE SATELLITE BRIEFING
TO U.S. & Canadian
PACKAGING SCHOOLS
February 13, 2007
2:00 – 4:00 p.m. EST
Michigan State University
Television Studios
East Lansing, MI**

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.

**Careers in Corrugated:
Sustaining Your Future!**

- **Brings the latest information on corrugated careers to packaging and graphics students.**
- **ICPF's Sixth Annual "Best of the Best" Student Winners Run-Off Competition by Satellite! The briefing will go live to each school to hear these student winners "pitch their winning entry to their peers, explaining its structure, graphic application and use.**
-

The first- and second-place winners in two categories in the 2006 AICC Student Corrugated Design Competition will compete by satellite for cash prizes. Winners in the "Design to a Problem" and "Open Design" categories will be tasked to "show, tell and sell" their corrugated entry as they might to a prospective customer.

February 13, 2007 at 2:00 PM -4:00 PM EST

Durham 463

Participating Campuses– Michigan State University, Wisconsin–Stout University, Cal Poly Tech, VA Poly Tech, Clemson University, Wisconsin–Stout University, Christian Brothers University, Michigan State University, Western Michigan University., Humber & Mohawk Colleges, University of Florida North Carolina A & T University, Fox Valley Technical College & Indiana State University.

ICPF Careers in Corrugated International Satellite Conference

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Eastern Standard Time

2:00 PM-2:15 PM Welcome & School Roll Call

(Cal Poly, VA Tech, Clemson, Wisconsin-Stout University, Christian Bros. University., MSU, Western Michigan Univ., Humber & Mohawk Colleges, Univ. of FLA, NC A & T Univ., Fox Valley Tech. & Indiana State Univ.)

2:15 PM-3:15 PM Panel Presentation

Four Panelists will address sustainability in the Industry as well as new directions and opportunities. Speakers include Wilfred (Wil) Cote- Product Regulatory Affairs Mgr., International Paper; George D'Urso- I2 Operations Mgr., Georgia-Pacific Corporation; Art Tyska-Graphic Design Mgr. /Retail Experience Network, Weyerhaeuser; and Nick Phillips- Packaging Development Services Mgr., Weyerhaeuser.

3:15 PM -3:25 PM Student question & answer period

3:25 PM -3:30 PM Introduction “Best of the Best” Competition

3:35 PM -3:55 PM Student Competition Presentations

“Best of the Best” design competition among four student teams, representing Cal Poly State and University of Wisconsin-Stout, that won the top awards in two categories this past year
(http://www.aiccbox.org/News/News_Display.asp?ID=982).

3:55 PM -4:00 PM Judging, Announcement of Winners, Award Presentations and Satellite Broadcast Sign Off.

Durham 463
February 13, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM EST

WWW.CAREERSINCORRUGATED.ORG