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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30	31	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 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

- Faculty – remember that our graduate program curriculum _ work session was rescheduled for Friday January 19th 8:15 am Brooks classroom.
- Our manufacturing system faculty position search committee begins screening applicants anytime after Monday January 23 application/initial screening deadline.
- I am meeting this week with State of Virginia Economic Development personnel and a private off-shore firm and investors exploring relocation to Virginia to establish a wood product manufacturing base here.
- Last Monday our funding request for the Southside Initiative was approved by the Tobacco Commission.
- Our final printed materials of our undergraduate program will be delivered from the printer this week and a mailing of 500 folders in-state (high-schools and community colleges) and another 500 to WoodLINKS programs nationwide will immediately follow.
- Last week we purchased used systems cubicle furniture from the VT Foundation when they vacated the CRC in the last few weeks. Graduate students Jim Bisha, Garrett Norman and Braden White once again stepped up to do the relocation of this furniture to the grad loft at Brooks. First they cleaned it – now they've relocated the furniture. THANKS for your efforts.
- The Word on Wood will be published this week. Please submit any items you want included in this newsletter to our students. Submit by Wednesday 3pm to Will Pfeil (wpfeil@vt.edu).
- Faculty please join us for our 'all student meeting' on Tuesday January 23rd at 4: 30 pm for a reception and information session. Your presence and engagement with our students is highly valued by the students. Please plan on joining us for this informal meeting and get together with our students.

All-Student Meeting January 23rd – 4:30 pm Brooks Center

The department is hosting all undergraduate students for an informal reception and meeting on January 23rd, 4:30 pm Brooks Center. All faculty are encouraged to attend. Important topics for this meeting include:

- Selecting an option in the major
- Spring Scholarship deadlines
- Summer internships
- Transition to new faculty advisors for each undergraduate degree option

- Wood Manufacturing Enterprise Institute Organization
- Travel to Williamsburg for Virginia Forest Products Association Winter meeting

Travel to Stanley Furniture to Collect Data for “Woods to Goods” Project

January 11, 2007 - Earl Kline, Garrett Norman, Tim Stuess, and Omar Espinoza traveled to Stanley Furniture to collect data for the “Woods to Goods” project supported by the USDA Forest Service Wood Education and Resource Center (WEREC) and the Sloan Forest Industries Center. Many thanks to Stanley Furniture for their cooperation and willingness to help us in our research.

Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Section of FPS

On January 18 Dr. Earl Kline will give a presentation to the Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Section of the Forest Products Society, in Memphis, TN on “Lean Production” philosophies and their applications to the secondary wood products industry. Phil Araman will also present at this conference on “Rough Mill Automation.”

Future of Wood Composites in Housing Market

Article from Structural Building Components magazine

The housing market is one of the largest uses of wood and wood composites in the United States. For the past several years, the housing market has been one of the shining stars in the economy. As the downturn in housing starts happened in 2006, the wood products industries (especially composites) are seeing temporary layoffs and shift consolidation. This article provides some good news for the future in increased and hopefully more sustainable levels of housing growth. This article came from the Structural Building Components magazine which sends out a weekly listing of industry headlines. More information can be found at http://www.sbcmag.info/kb/KB_SBC_NewsDetails.php?KBID=6291

General Announcements

Graduate Research Funding

The Graduate Research Development Project (GRDP) is a program administered by the GSA which provides monetary support for degree contingent research conducted by graduate students. This funding opportunity is available to graduate students twice a year in two cycles.

Cycle I – July 1 - December 31

Cycle II – January 1- June 30

The GRDP funding application consists of four parts and is submitted online (any necessary attachments are sent via E-mail) when completed. The applications are judged by a panel of graduate students, a faculty member within the department of the applicant, and by a faculty member not within the department of the applicant. Up to \$400 may be awarded for selected master proposals and \$600 for doctoral proposals. There is also a diversity scholarship available for qualified applicants (\$500).

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 23rd, 5:00 PM via online submission.

Any questions, contact the GRDP program chair (Joe) at gsa.grdp@vt.edu

Application and additional information available at: <http://www.gsa.uusa.vt.edu/GSA/Programs/GRDP.php>

Resolution to Change the Name of the University Core

By Charles W. Steger

Approved by UCCC: April 3, 2006

Approved by CUSP: April 24, 2006

Approved by University Council: October 2, 2006

Approved by the President: October 2, 2006

Effective Date: Fall Term 2006

The University Council on Recommendation of the University Core Curriculum Committee and with the endorsement of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, approved a resolution to change the name of the University Core Curriculum and the University Core Curriculum Committee.

Following is the text of that resolution.

Whereas, it has been recognized by the 2005 report of the Ad Hoc Core Curriculum Steering Committee on Integrating Virginia Tech's General

(Liberal) Education into the Undergraduate Curriculum that the University Core Curriculum as presently structured is not a "core" curriculum, but a curriculum in general and liberal education; and,

Whereas, said report recommends that students be provided with the opportunity to integrate their general and liberal education more closely into their major fields of study; and

Whereas, there is a long history of the term "liberal education" at Virginia Tech as evidenced by the 1981 interim report of the University Committee on Liberal Education and the Professions and the 1992 report of the University Forum on Liberal Education,

Therefore, be it resolved that the "University Core Curriculum" be renamed the "Curriculum for Liberal Education;" furthermore, be it resolved that the "University Core Curriculum Committee" be renamed the "University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education," and that its charge be to provide leadership to the Curriculum for Liberal Education and to make final curricular recommendations to the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies concerning the inclusion of courses in the Curriculum for Liberal Education, effective Fall Term 2006.

TOWN HALL MEETING – Enhancing the Quality of Student Learning: Developing a Plan for VT

By Mike Ellerbrock, Chair QEP Committee

Tuesday, Jan 30th, 4-6 pm, Squires Old Dominion Ballroom

Faculty, staff, students, administrators and alumni are invited to participate in a campus dialogue on ways to strengthen student learning.

As you may know, Virginia Tech will be reviewed for another 10-year accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) during 2008-09. A new and major component of the process is a requirement for institutions to develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) in which we identify specific innovative courses of action and commit significant resources to enhance the educational experience of our undergraduate and/or graduate students. Our QEP must emanate from a campus-wide dialogue and will complement our University Strategic Plan and other existing initiatives (available under the Provost's homepage).

In five meetings this Fall, our committee of 26 members decided to focus our QEP at the undergraduate level on the issue of student engagement. We aim to elicit greater student ownership of their education through a dynamic process of holistic education: helping applicants prepare for VT, utilizing university resources (via the 1st Year Experience, learning communities and technology), planning their curriculum through proactive advising (to enable opportunities for education abroad and research endeavors), integrating sequential courses (exploring modes of inquiry), building intellectual capacity (communication and globalization skills, career development and life-long learning), engendering citizenship (ethics, diversity, environmental awareness, political activism, service-learning), and

conducting value-added assessment. Consistent with Boyer's model of "Connections," our Pathways goal is to help students link the "curriculum, campus climate, and community with their character and projected career path."

At the Town Hall Meeting, we will: Introduce Committee Members, Outline the Required Parameters of a QEP, Share Our Ideas to Date for a QEP Topic(s), and Solicit Your Input. We expect to have additional Town Hall Meetings and are also establishing a website for your continued input.

Please discuss ideas with colleagues and participate in our Town Hall Meeting.

Fellowships Available

By Peggy Layne, AdvanceVT Program Director

Information about AdvanceVT PhD fellowships for the 2007-2008 academic year is available at http://www.advance.vt.edu/Funding_Opportunities/doctoral_fellowships.html. The deadline for applications is January 26, 2007. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Peggy Layne, P.E.
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Call for Presenters for SAF's Convention in Portland, Oregon

October 23-27, 2007

SAF is putting together a cutting-edge program and is looking for top-notch presenters.

Deadline: All proposals must be submitted online at www.safconvention.org by Wednesday, February 14, 2007.

We are looking for a variety of presenters:

- Consultants
- Business professionals – banking, insurance, high tech, and natural resource retailers
- Resource managers
- Researchers and educators
- Family forest owners
- Conservation groups
- Students

Submit your presentation under one of these 12 exciting Program Tracks:

- Measurement Technology for Management and Planning
- Healthy Forests and Watersheds
- Changing Private Forest Ownerships
- Silviculture for Multiple Values
- Forest Certification and Auditing
- Bio-Energy and Bio-Refinery Development
- Tree Improvement and Forest Genetics
- Forest Ecology and Conservation Biology
- Education and Communication
- Urban and Community Forestry
- Forest Recreation
- The Business of Forestry

We are looking for seminars, panels, and posters that will:

- Share experiences, expertise, and best practices
- Impart new information
- Showcase creative programs and services
- Demonstrate innovative ideas and solutions
- Enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of those working in natural resources and forestry

Sponsored Technology Sessions / End-User Meetings: Organizations and companies who want to present commercial or proprietary information, products, or services can register for a session, a half day, or a full day. For more information, contact William V. Brumby, SAF director of advertising, exhibits, and corporate relations, at (866) 897-8720 ext. 129 or at brumbyb@safnet.org.

