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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](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.

## Red Alert

**Inside VT WOOD will suspend publication until Monday January 8, 2007.  
Happy Holidays!**

Department Staff will be on annual leave as follows:

- David Jones December 18-January 2 (returning January 3)
- Angela Riegel noon on Wednesday, December 20 - December 26
- Debbie Garnand December 22 - January 2 (returning January 3)
- Rick Caudill December 22 - January 2 (returning January 3)
- Kenny Albert December 21 - January 2 (returning January 3)

## News From Paul Winistorfer

- I am very pleased to inform you that a Technology Grant Application – “Southside Partnership for Technology-enabled Education” has been funded by the Tobacco Commission for programming on the Southside. Higher Ed Center Director Ted Bennett and Director of Program Development Ms. Amy Lammerts developed a proposal that included our interests in Wood Science, WoodLINKS and educational programming for the region that will leverage all of our interests. The proposal was funded at \$1.5 million. This will enable us to develop advanced wood manufacturing education programming in South Boston and in concert with the Higher Ed Center, Southside Community College, Danville Community College, Halifax County School System, Danville Public School system, Pittsylvania County School System. There will be monies for a faculty position, equipment, and infrastructure enhancement. We intend to move forward on a schedule to commence August 2007. My many thanks to Ted, Amy and others at the Higher Ed Center – they have been tremendous to work with. We hope for many opportunities for our program here in concert with the Southside initiative – including a seamless educational platform into our department.
- On a same note – our plans are now set to take a large delegation of Southside partners to Grand Rapids Michigan the week of January 22 to visit up to four WoodLINKS sites, as well as Stiles Education Center. This will be an overnight trip. If you are particularly interested in traveling with us – please let me know of your interests.
- Deadline for rooms at the Virginia Forest products Association meeting in Williamsburg on February 2-4 will be fast approaching in January. We are encouraging student participation in this meeting. If you have not attended a VFPA meeting – maybe this is the one for you!

- Faculty will be working on Tuesday December 19 in a 1/2 day session at the Brooks classroom to explore revisions and remake of the graduate program in the department. Our objective is to make necessary changes and get these in the system for approval spring semester.

## **Safety and Security During the Holiday**

Please ensure doors are closed and locked to department facilities over break. If you are using facilities over break – please be careful entering and exiting buildings, lock doors, and keep an eye out for unfamiliar cars and people in our buildings and labs. Dial 911 if you need to. Be safe and secure in our facilities over break. Please notify Dr. Winistorfer (home 961-4395) or Dr. Zink-Sharp (home 951-1847) in the event of an emergency.

## **Brian Perkins Defended his Thesis**

Brian Perkins, a MS graduate student, working with Bob Smith successfully defended his thesis on Tuesday, December 12. His thesis was titled “A Business Model for a Small Diameter Processing Facility in Southwest Virginia.

## **ISTA Awards R. David LeButt memorial Scholarship**

The International Safe Transit Association (ISTA) Educational Foundation, Inc. has awarded the Virginia Tech packaging science program the R. David LeButt Memorial Scholarship in the one time award amount of \$2,000. Dave was a packaging graduate, an ISTA officer and a leading expert in the corrugated industry. The Center for Unit Load Design will have the option to award this scholarship as one award or to divide it equally into two scholarships.

## **Data Tech CAD/CAM Table Finalist Under Consideration**

The Virginia Tech proposal for a rebuilt Data Tech CAD/CAM table is a finalist under consideration with the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation (ICPF). The table would be used for the corrugated curriculum (packaging science) and would be housed in the center. Final awards will be made during the first quarter of 2007.

## **Graduate Student Loft to be Reorganized**

The graduate student loft space above the pallet lab will get a cleaning and significant reorganization beginning January 3, 2007. We are cramped for space in all facilities, and with new faculty hires coming by mid-year we must take every opportunity to be efficient in space utilization. We will be cleaning out, removing old furniture, and creating individual spaces for PhD students, as well as organizing all remaining furniture in a more efficient arrangement. We will replace the unsanctioned hub and push for wireless or multiple new Ethernet lines for the loft. Our chairs and desk units are really in very bad shape and we will evaluate what we need to do to make our graduate student space a better quality space for our high-achieving students - they certainly deserve it!



## TFF Has a New MOU With the Department and College

Tom Hammett organized meetings on campus for Keister Evans, Executive Director of the Tropical Timber Foundation (TFF) this week. TFF has a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department and College. Mr. Evans was meeting with faculty both inside out department and across campus to plan how VT and TFF could work together to do research and educational programs with the mining sector.



(from left to right) Dr. John Chermak, Department of Geosciences, Tom, Keister Evans, and Tom Novak, Department Head and Erik Westman, Assistant Professor, in the Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering.

## General Announcements

To: Deans, Department Heads, and University Center Directors

From: Karen Eley Sanders (kasandel@vt.edu), Assistant Provost and Director of Academic Support Services

Virginia Tech undergraduates are invited to participate in the 5th Annual Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research and Prospective Graduate Student Conference on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 at the Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown. Sponsored by the Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence and the Graduate School, the conference offers a professional forum for undergraduates to showcase the results of their involvement in scholarly research and gain essential information relevant to their pursuit of graduate study.

Please ask your undergraduate researchers to hold the date and to look for additional information early in the spring 2007 semester.

Karen Eley Sanders, Assistant Provost &  
Director of Academic Support Services  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
110 Femoyer Hall (0276)  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
Ph: (540) 231-5499  
Fx: (540) 231-2618

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Release No. 0463.06

Contact: Brenda Chapin (202) 720-5447

### **USDA ANNOUNCES 83rd ANNUAL OUTLOOK FORUM**

Agriculture at the Crossroads: Energy, Farm & Rural Policy

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8, 2006 — Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today announced that the 83rd annual Outlook Forum, "Agriculture at the Crossroads: Energy, Farm & Rural Policy," will focus on bioenergy and its implications for agriculture. The conference will be held March 1-2, 2007, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

"USDA's 2007 Forum will consider the outlook for renewable energy and the enormous opportunity it represents for agriculture and rural America," said Johanns. "Perspectives on the next farm bill will also be featured during the two day event."

The Forum is an opportunity to hear, meet and debate with leaders and colleagues who are at the forefront of the bold changes occurring in agriculture. USDA has invited four of America's leading CEOs to a panel discussion on "Renewable Energy – Inroads to Agriculture" that Scott Kilman of the Wall Street Journal will moderate. The keynote address will be delivered by Secretary Johanns.

A distinguished guest speaker will join over 100 speakers and moderators, including agricultural producers and other experts from industry and government, associations, and the media. The Forum also presents 35 sessions, including the outlook for major U.S. commodities.

Pre-registration is required to attend the Forum. More details and registration are found at: <http://www.usda.gov/oc/forum> Registration is \$300 per person until Feb. 5. After Feb. 5, registration is \$350. Accredited press may call Press Room Coordinator Priscilla Smith at 202-694-5022 or Forum Coordinator Brenda Chapin at 202-720-5447 for more details.

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## **CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Annual Meeting of the FPS Mid-South Section Innovation and Technology in the Primary and Secondary Forest Products Industries. Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee, USA January 17-18, 2007

Just a friendly reminder that the hotel room block cut-off date is fast approaching, Saturday, December 16.

To download the program and registration/hotel information, please visit <http://www.forestprod.org/mssection07meeting.pdf>

The conference is designed for those seeking to position themselves strategically in wood products industry by improving their knowledge base of the latest development in the primary and secondary forest products industries in the south.

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To: Department Heads and Graduate Coordinators  
From: Donald W. McKeon, Instructor of English 0014

### **SPEAK & TEACH Test Schedule & ENGLISH 0014 Course Schedule, Spring '07:**

Would you please disseminate this information to your faculty and international graduate teaching assistants who may be given teaching assignments? Thank you.

Here are the schedules for the SPEAK/TEACH Tests and the English 0014 classes for Spring 2007:

Important Note: The SPEAK/TEACH Test is required for all international teaching assistants who have or will have teaching duties (lab or classroom).

- I. SPEAK/TEACH Test: Students may choose to take either one: descriptions of the tests and the sign-up sheet (individual half-hour appointments) will be posted on my office door (Rm. 49, Graduate Life Center).

Test Room: Meeting Room B (Rm. 41), Graduate Life Center  
Thurs., Jan. 11: 1:00-5:00pm  
Fri., Jan. 12: 1:00-5:00pm  
Tues., Jan. 16: 9:00am-3:00pm

- II. English 0014 (ESL II: Oral Communication for International Teaching Assistants; CRN 12481; 1 cr., P/F); Two Sections (students who fail the oral test may choose to take either section): M & W: 2:30-3:45pm; Meeting Rm. C (Rm. 47), Graduate Life Center M & W: 4:00-5:15pm; Meeting Rm. C (Rm. 47), GLC

If you have any questions, please contact me at [dmckeon@vt.edu](mailto:dmckeon@vt.edu). Thank you.

D.W. McKeon, Ph.D.

Instructor, English 0014 (ITA Training course) Graduate School, VT (MC 0325)

Office: 49 Graduate Life Center

231-9568; [dmckeon@vt.edu](mailto:dmckeon@vt.edu)

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To: Deans, Department Heads, and University Center Directors

From: Mike Ellerbrock ([mebroek@vt.edu](mailto:mebroek@vt.edu)), Special Assistant to the Provost for Undergraduate Research and Advising

**Call for Papers: 2nd Annual ACC Undergraduate Research Conference, April 12-14, 2007 at UVA**

The ACC university presidents use proceeds from the ACC championship football game to sponsor a conference on undergraduate research. This conference includes an opportunity for students to present their studies to a group of peers and faculty. Four papers are competitively selected by each home institution.

I am writing to solicit your involvement in nominating papers for the conference. Each Virginia Tech college dean (or associate dean for academic affairs) may nominate up to three student papers to be considered for selection as one of Virginia Tech's four representatives to the ACC-sponsored conference.

Please submit three hard copies of each nominated paper by 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 19th to Mike Ellerbrock (218 Hutcheson Hall - 0401). Selections will be announced by January 26th (to meet the conference's tight submission deadline of February 1st). Information on paper presentation guidelines will be provided to the selected representatives.

The conference registration, travel, and lodging expenses for the four Virginia Tech representatives will be paid for by the ACC. For more information, please visit the conference website at <http://www.acciac.org/meetingofminds.htm>.

Please call if you have questions. Thank you.

Mike Ellerbrock  
Special Asst to the Provost for Ugr Res & Adv  
1-7722

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TO: Employees Covered by the Conflict of Interests Act  
FROM: Linda Woodard, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources  
DATE: December 15, 2006

#### **Filing of 2006 Statement of Economic Interests**

The Commonwealth's State and Local Governments Conflict of Interests Act requires certain officers and employees of the Commonwealth to file written disclosure statements of their financial interests. All persons receiving this notice are required to complete and return a Statement of Economic Interests. Please note that the form must be completed annually even if you have nothing to report.

The Statement of Economic Interests form is accessible via the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website, <http://www.soc.state.va.us/StateGovernment/Conflict/conflict.cfm>. The form includes instructions that explain the financial information that must be provided and the manner in which the form must be completed. Please download and print only the form entitled "Statement of Economic Interests. It is suggested that you print the first four pages, and then print only the corresponding schedules you are required to submit. The completed forms must be notarized before returning the packet to Human Resources (mail code 0318). There are a number of individuals working on campus who are notaries public and are willing to notarize the forms. If you are unaware of a notary in your college, department, or building, please contact my office. If you file this form with another agency, please let us know.

If you have any questions, please call Lou Ann Phipps in my office at 231-7784 or the General Counsel Office at 231-6293. To allow us to meet the state's deadline for submission of all forms to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, I ask that you return this form to Human Resources (mail code 0318) no later than January 10, 2007.

Thank you for your assistance.

HRIB: 33/06

#### **Fiscal Year 2007 Wood Education and Resource Center Project Applications**

TO: Northeastern Area State Foresters

OPTIONAL REPLY DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2007

The Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) is accepting applications for cost-share demonstration projects that assist the WERC in meeting its mission of facilitating interaction and information exchange with the forest products industry that will enhance opportunities for sustained forest products production in the eastern hardwood forest region. The anticipated funding available this fiscal year is expected to be approximately \$1 million. The

amount will be determined once the Forest Service has received its official budget for Fiscal Year 2007. Completed applications are due to the WERC on or before February 15, 2007. Priority will be given to projects that accomplish one or more of the following items:

Maintain the economic competitiveness of the primary and secondary hardwood industries.

Bring information and technology about processing, marketing and business-related skills to existing and emerging businesses involved in the development and manufacturing of wood products.

Bring information and technology to existing and emerging businesses that focus on urban wood utilization, hazardous fuels reductions, utilization options geared to improving stewardship or use of low value woody biomass.

Encourage the adoption of new technology to improve competitiveness and profitability.

Provide support and key information to entrepreneurs and start-up businesses.

Address global issues such as: phytosanitation of wood packaging materials and, assisting communities and industries facing threats from invasive species such as the Emerald Ash Borer.

Increase the use of woody biomass as an economic feedstock for meeting our nation's energy needs. Examples include heating and cooling, cogeneration, and liquid fuel production. In addition, proposals focused on sustainable forest management related to biomass supply and low-impact utilization options will be accepted.

The Fiscal Year 2007 application form and instructions can be viewed and downloaded from the Wood Education and Resource Center's website at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/> as well as <http://www.grants.gov>. This application form is provided to assist grant applicants with the development of a completed application, and to provide proposal evaluators with the information they need to fairly select projects that will make the best use of available grant funds. Please contact Steve Milauskas, WERC Director, or Ed Cesa, WERC Deputy Director, at (304) 487-1510, if you have questions about the program.

Sincerely,

KATHRYN P. MALONEY  
Area Director