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INSIDE VT WOOD

Reminder...

Remember to submit department news items by Friday 3 pm 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

From the VT website Latest News...

Wood Week 2006 Commences

by Lynn Davis

BLACKSBURG, VA., September 29, 2006 — Wood Week 2006 at Virginia Tech begins on Monday Oct. 2 and continues through Oct. 11 and is sponsored and coordinated by the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products in the College of Natural Resources. Faculty, staff and students will be involved in a range of activities bringing focus and attention on the utilization of renewable materials, accomplishments of students in the program, interacting with partner universities and industries, and in educating 4th and 5th grade children and their teachers.

Conceived in 2005, Wood Week at Virginia Tech is a way for us to consolidate a range of activities and events into a single week-long period and bring focus to our faculty, staff, students, donors, industry partners, and local elementary schools," said Paul Winistorfer, professor and department head and overall organizer. "We have a leading North American program in wood science and forest products, and our role for the future will be even more critical as our global dependence on renewable materials will only increase. Our program is a leading discovery, engagement and learning enterprise, spanning from nanotechnology to global distribution packaging systems and everything in between."

Wood Week 2006 launches with a continuing education course, basic corrugated packaging and unit load design – designed for industry professionals in the global distribution packaging industry. The course is being held at the Inn at Virginia Tech and goes through Oct. 3. For information contact Bonnie Maccubbin at 231-5370.

Beginning on Wednesday, Oct. 4, over 75 industry and university partners will participate in three separate advisory board meetings within the department. The Center for Unit Load Design advisory board is a group of industry partners focused on global shipping and commerce. The Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management advisory board is focused on the business management and marketing aspects of the sector. The Wood-Based Composites Center advisory board is composed of Virginia Tech and partner universities the University of Maine, Oregon State University, the University of British Columbia, and affiliate universities Mississippi State University and the University of Minnesota, and leading industry partners. All three groups provide scholarship, fellowship, and intern opportunities for students in the department.

Wednesday evening the department is hosting a student awards and scholarship recognition reception at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Over \$35,000 in student scholarship support from donors and industry partners will be recognized.

Over 125 donors, guests, friends, faculty, staff, students, and advisory board members will join in to recognize students in the program.

On Thursday, Oct. 5 the department is hosting a Career Awareness Fair at the Brooks Forest Products Center on the edge of campus near the VT airport. “The career awareness fair is an awareness building effort by us, with our industry partners and for our students,” said Winistorfer. Fifteen companies representing a range of the forest products sector will bring their materials, handouts, and engage students in a better understanding of the career opportunities for students. The department boasts of a 100 percent career placement rate with strong starting salaries. The career awareness fair is open to all Virginia Tech students. For more information call the department at 231-7107.

Wood Week 2006 concludes on Oct. 11 with the final event – the Wood Magic Show. Now in its ninth year, Wood Magic was conceived by professor and assistant department head Audrey-Zink Sharp. Wood Magic is an interactive youth education program that involves students and teachers in natural resource-based activities focused on wood and forest products and the role natural resource science plays in a sustainable future. Wood Magic curricula include Virginia’s Standards of Learning and hands-on, engaging science experiments. Recognized for excellence in outreach by the college of Natural Resources, over 10,000 students and teachers have participated in Wood Magic in nine years, including summer activities at the 4-H Camp at Smith Mountain Lake.

“We’ve stretched the week a bit to include more activities in the department and we still missed inclusion of two additional continuing education courses immediately before and after these dates! Wood Week at Virginia Tech brings significant recognition to the relevance, strength and impact of our program at Virginia Tech. It is a great week of activities for our department and our students,” noted Winistorfer.

WOOD WEEK 2006 – Activities Coming UP!

Basic Corrugated Packaging and Unit Load Design Short Course

Center for Unit Load Design

October 2-3 Skelton Conference Center, Inn at Virginia Tech

Center for Unit Load Design Advisory Board Meeting

October 4 – Skelton Conference Center, Inn at Virginia Tech

Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management Advisory Board Meeting

October 4 - Skelton Conference Center, Inn at Virginia Tech

Wood-Based Composites Center Advisory Board Meeting

October 4 - Skelton Conference Center, Inn at Virginia Tech

Student Awards and Scholarship Recognition Reception

Wednesday October 4 – 6:30 – 9pm

The Inn at Virginia Tech

Career Awareness Fair

Thursday October 5 – 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Brooks Forest Products Center

Lean Manufacturing Workshop Presented to Stanley Furniture

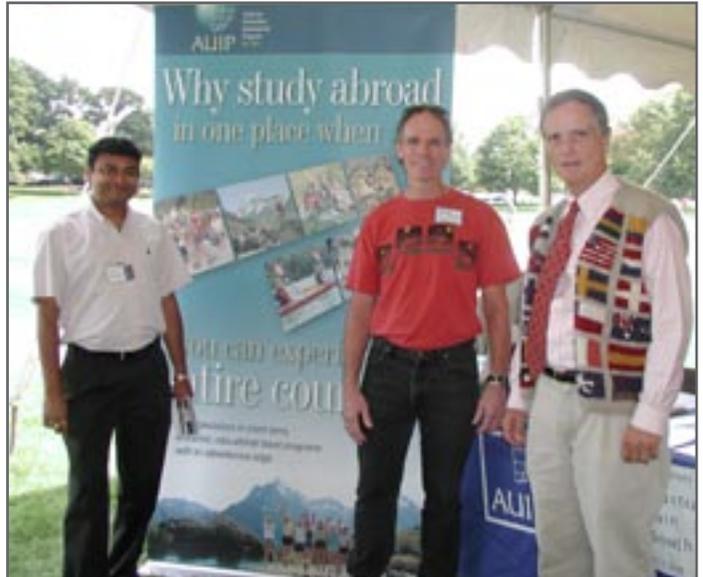
by Earl Kline

Tim Stiess and I conducted a 2-day workshop event on Lean Manufacturing to Stanley Furniture managers and supervisors at their Stanleytown, VA facility on 28-29 September.

Department Organizes Study Abroad Programs

by Tom Hammett

Bob Wright and I assisted by several students staffed an information table at the Virginia Tech Study Abroad Fair held September 26th on the drill field. They were joined at the day-long event by Mr. Uttiyo Rayachaudhuri, program office at American Universities International Programs (AUIP) of Athens, Georgia. Over 450 students met with the team during the event. The College now offers 5 courses overseas suitable for all majors in the College. The department organized and led a course to India in 2005, and taught a course with AUIP in Australia during the summer of 2006. Most trips are planned for 2007!



(photo, left to right: Uttiyo Rayachaudhuri, Bob Wright, and Tom Hammett)

Project Posters Displayed

by Tom Hammett



During the spring of 2006 Non-timber Forest Products (WOOD 3334) was taught as part of a semester abroad curriculum in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. As their final projects student teams prepared and presented posters on production and marketing issues. The posters were displayed at the Study Abroad Fair held on the drill field September 26, 2006 to the over 2 thousand students who stopped by during the day to learn about overseas educational opportunities. The Office of International Research, Education and Development requested that the posters also be displayed in the Office of Education Abroad booth at the state-wide outreach conference. *Outreach NOW 2006, Inventing the Future through Engagement*, September 27, 2006, at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center.

Visit our NTFP website for more information on this and other programs: <http://www.sfp.forprod.vt.edu/>

Dr. Glasser Spends 2 Months as Visiting Professor in Nancy, France

Wolfgang Glasser, Prof. emerit. of Wood Science, has recently spent 2 months as Visiting Professor at the Université Henri Poincaré - Nancy I in Nancy, France. He gave several lectures to the staff and students of the Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherche sur le Matériau Bois (LERMAB) (Wood Science Research Institute) and the affiliated Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Technologies et Industries du Bois (ENSTIB) (Engineering School of Wood Technology) in Epinal. While in France, Glasser also attended the International Conference on Integrated Approach to Wood Structure, Behaviour and Applications, which was held jointly by the European Society of Wood Mechanics and COST Action E35, in Florence, Italy. At the conference, which was attended by almost 200 wood researchers from all over Europe, he presented one of five invited lectures on "About Bonding to Cellulose: A Biomimetic First Step". The research he spoke about represented the joint activities of the groups of Professors Alan Esker (Chemistry) of Virginia Tech, Paul Gatenholm of Chalmers, Sweden, and Thomas Heinze of Jena, Germany.

Wood Scientists Needed for the Cellulosic Ethanol Technology

The recently re-surfacing interest in converting woody and cellulosic biomass into ethanol to fight our addiction to oil (according to G. W. Bush) is generating new job and career opportunities for wood scientists. New is only the type of industries that are looking for wood scientists: The envisioned technology for cellulosic ethanol is no longer based on crude acid hydrolysis, but is quickly becoming environmentally friendly with the development of suitable enzymes capable of producing sugars from wood/waste paper. And the efficiency of cellulolytic enzymes depends much on a large variety of specific factors by which wood varies. Ergo the interest in wood knowledge.

Here are two jobs to be had at one of the largest producers of industrial enzymes, NOVOZYMES (www.novozymes.com):

1. Research Associate in Application Technology Group

Minimum requirement is a BS in Chemistry, Biochemistry or Wood (or Paper) Science.

Responsibilities are:

- Plan and conduct own laboratory work according to experimental plans prepared together with scientist staff in order to meet overall project goals. Optimize methods to improve efficiency.
- Evaluate own experimental results, using relevant data analysis methods. Interpret and summarize results within the context of project goals, in the form of internal reports and presentations with conclusions reviewed and accepted by senior staff.
- Maintain accurate, up-to-date records in laboratory notebooks, databases, and spreadsheets containing all data and calculations for tests performed.
- Gain and maintain operator proficiency on a range of application and analytical equipment. Maintain laboratory equipment in good working order through calibration, preventative maintenance, upgrades, and necessary repairs.
- As needed, contact selected customers, research/commercial partners, academia, trade and professional institutions to provide specific technical support and/or communication

Take ownership of assigned activities to achieve high quality results and demonstrate a positive team-working attitude on a consistent basis.

2. Senior Scientist

Minimum requirement is a PhD in Wood Chemistry, Pulp & Paper Science or similar.

Responsibilities include

- PhD in Wood Chemistry or a related science field and a minimum of 2 years relevant experience, or MS degree plus a minimum of 5 years relevant experience.
- Relevant experience includes research on lignocellulosic materials, cellulosic fiber modification, or bleaching chemistries including related analytical techniques, preferably includes understanding of biochemistry and a working knowledge of enzymes.
- Demonstrated ability to successfully translate lab findings into commercially viable applications.
- A proven track record of innovation, including papers, patents, presentations and/or successful product or process developments.
- Experience with cultural diversity and/or international projects.
- Possess superior communication, interpersonal and teamwork skills.
- Able to travel domestically, as well as internationally, as required.

NOVOZYME is an international corporation with several production facilities in the mid-Atlantic region of the US. They are headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark. For information, contact wglasser@vt.edu.

Weekend Work in the Wood Shop

by Bob Wright

On the weekend of October 6, 7, and 8th, the wood shop dust collection system will undergo repair and renovation work. The work is being performed by a private company;

Terry Minshall

Central Virginia Air Products, Inc.

1744 S. Amherst Hwy. Suite 100

Amherst, VA 24521-3369

email: cvap@adelphia.net

website: www.cvapinc.com

Phone: (434) 946-7454

Fax: (434) 946-9242

Toll-Free: (800) 962-6365

The group of people will have key access to the exterior door at the end of the hall in the vicinity of the wood shop and the exterior door entry to the wood shop proper. The group will bring some materials on Friday including a motorized man lift.

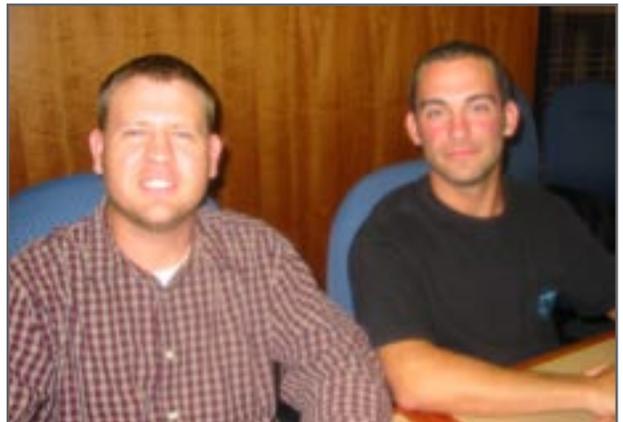
Exterior work is planned for Saturday and interior work is scheduled for Sunday. I will send a similar message to public safety. If you have any concerns, please contact Bob Wright at rswright@vt.edu.

Hagedorn and Bisha Receive Richard Troll Memorial Scholarships

by Bonnie MacCubbin

Alex Hagedorn (Ph.D, Packaging) and Jim Bisha (MS, Packaging) are the first (\$3,000) and third (\$1,000) place graduate student recipients (respectively) of the 2006 J. Richard Troll Memorial Scholarship. This fund, awarded by the Association of Independent Corrugated Converters (AICC), was established to honor the memory of the late Mr. J. Richard Troll, a founder of the AICC and the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation. Because he so strongly believed in the role education plays in the future of the corrugated industry, Mr. Troll was instrumental in bringing the tools to packaging schools so that the skills of students and others in the corrugated industry could be developed and honed.

In addition to the monetary scholarship, Alex, as the first place winner, will also receive an all expenses paid trip to the Association of Independent Corrugated Converters 2006 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL.



(photo, left to right: Alex Hagedorn, Jim Bisha)

General Campus Announcements

To: Deans, Department Heads, and University Center Directors

From: Pam Pettry (pettry@vt.edu)

Re: Interim Associate Vice President of Research Named

Robert Walters, professor and department head of aerospace and ocean engineering, has agreed to become interim associate vice president of research at Virginia Tech.

He has been at Virginia Tech since 1985 and department head since 2002.

The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) is filling two leadership positions within the office on an interim basis. The combined positions are responsible for research development and interdisciplinary programs, as well as research administration and support.

The term of each position is anticipated to be one to two years, or until a permanent full-time appointment is made. The time commitment is flexible but is anticipated to be 50 to 75 percent or more.

“These are important positions on the team that supports the faculty as it furthers the university’s discovery and scholarly missions,” said Vice President for Research Brad Fenwick.

The associate and assistant vice presidents are also involved in planning and policy.

To: Deans, Department Heads, and University Center Directors

From: Mark McNamee, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

I am pleased to announce the official launching of the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment (ISCE). The updated strategic plan recommended the creation of an institute focused on the “Social and Individual Transformation” discovery domain. The new institute will be one element of our efforts to strengthen our competitive position in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. A detailed proposal for the institute was submitted to the Provost’s Office following the adoption of the strategic plan. The plan for ISCE incorporated substantial input from faculty and the college deans. The proposed plan was reviewed by Vice President for Research Brad Fenwick and he has provided a detailed analysis with a recommendation for approval. He has also proposed a prospective multi-year funding plan based on estimates of program activity and expected return on investment.

The official launch date will be October 1, 2006. Based on the recommended annual funding of \$500,000 for the first year of operation, a pro-rated preliminary budget of \$375,000 will be approved for the 2006-2007 fiscal year and an initial allocation will be made available immediately. Future annual funding will be based on progress and performance, and the projections recommended by the VP for Research provide guidance for future growth expectations, but the actual allocations will be determined each year. The funds are designed to stimulate research growth in key areas primarily by investing annual funds in priority areas selected by the institute. The institute will be guided by a Stakeholder’s Group and the first order of business will be the selection of an interim director. I have asked Dr. Jerry Niles, as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, to serve as the Chair of the Stakeholder’s Group.

ISCE joins ICTAS (Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science), IBPHS (Institute for Biomedical and Public Health Sciences), VBI (Virginia Bioinformatics Institute) and VTTI (Virginia Tech Transportation Institute) as major university institutes that will contribute to sustained research growth and scholarly advancement.

We can all look forward to the evolution of our newest research institute.

The Department of
Wood Science & Forest Products
at Virginia Tech



presents

Career Awareness Fair

Thursday, October 5, 2006

9:30 - 4:00 pm Brooks Forest Products Center Engineering Lab

Students — don't miss this opportunity to learn more about careers in our industry. Representatives from the following companies will be on campus and in our department to visit with you about career and intern opportunities with their companies. This is a great opportunity for you to hear from some of our industry partners. Learn how you can get on a career path today!

Explore the Possibilities for Your Future

— Don't Miss Out —

They're Coming To You

Bring Your Contact Information



Augusta Lumber Co.



ISK Biocides Inc.



The Brooks Forest Products Center is located almost directly across from the Virginia Tech airport terminal in the Corporate Research Center.

For directions and questions call 231-7107 or visit www.woodscience.vt.edu/about/contact/