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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](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

- Faculty and staff performance reviews are on-going over the next several weeks.
- I participated as one of three national judges in the Craftsman's Challenge last week sponsored by Veneer Tech. Winners will be announced at IWF in Atlanta at a reception Thursday evening. Winning entry gets \$5,000. There were 112 entries in 5 different categories. You can view all entries and competition rules at: <http://www.veneertech.com/challenge/>



- Please plan to participate in the CNR picnic and state of the college address on August 18th 11:30 am – 3pm University Club and Donaldson Brown Auditorium.

## VT President Dr. Steger to Meet With Department - October 30th

President Steger is coming to the department Monday, October 30 – 4:00-5:00 pm. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Location to be announced.

## International Travel Grant Support

Don't forget that there are funds on campus to support international travel through the office of the Vice President for Research. See the url below for guidelines. Junior faculty are especially encouraged to apply for support. <http://www.research.vt.edu/funding/resources/itsguide.html>

## Wood Science Alum Anthony Lynchsky



Paul Winistorfer visited Veneer Technologies, Inc in Newport, NC last week and had the opportunity to meet Anthony Lynchsky. Anthony graduated with his BS in May 2000. He previously worked for Shannon Lumber Company before moving to Veneer Tech about 2 years ago. Anthony is in charge of imports/exports. He had his VT Wood sticker on his hard hat proudly displayed on his desk!

## Website Upgrades

Based on student feedback in senior exit interviews we have added several links to our department homepage. Students suggested that if we

added Blackboard, Hokie Spa, and WebMail that they would bookmark our homepage and use it. We have made these additions to our homepage and will be encouraging students to bookmark our homepage where they can find the latest useful information from the department. Please let students in your classes know we have added these links to our homepage.



## Dr. Mark McCann Named Head of VCE



Virginia Tech has named Dr. Mark A. McCann Associate Dean and Director of Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) effective July 1, 2006. Mark has served the college as interim associate dean and director of VCE since last summer and has now been appointed to the position.

Mark joined the college as Professor and Head for the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences in 2001. He is a graduate of North Carolina State University and received his Ph.D. in agriculture from Texas Tech University in 1986. Then he joined the faculty at the University of Georgia and built a beef cattle extension and research program there, which was funded by more than \$800,000 in research grants.

He also led cooperative research efforts focused on the effect of cattle management and its effect on water runoff and stream quality. Author of many articles and abstracts, he has worked to accelerate the dissemination of information to beef cattle producers through extension and experiment station publications as well as programs and conferences.

## SWST Annual Report Update Approved

The Society of Wood Science and Technology requires an annual report to update the Society on any changes in the department as related to accreditation of the undergraduate curriculum and degree major and options. Our annual report submitted in January 2006 has been approved by the SWST Executive Board on June 24, 2006. The one page annual report update, and the approval letter from the SWST Board reside on our intraweb site under SWST Accreditation.

## Preparing Virginia's Human Capital for the Future by Larkin Dudley and Dave Nutter

Published in the Summer 2006 issue of Virginia Issues and Answers, the authors offer compelling strategies for Virginia's Human Capital. How do these strategies align with the needs of the forest products sector? Figure 3 on page 28 - Human capital issue map - reflects several approaches to consider. The department is pursuing a parallel effort to a number of the strategies suggested. Read it today at: <http://www.via.vt.edu/summer06/feature3.pdf>

## WSFP Students Invited to Visit the International Woodworking Fair Atlanta, Georgia

The International Woodworking Machinery & Furniture Supply Fair (IWF) is the world's premier show that exhibits the latest products, fashions, technology, and equipment related to consumer wood products such as cabinets, furniture, flooring, and other architectural woodworking. Visit [www.iwf2006.com](http://www.iwf2006.com) for more information about IWF. The Department of Wood Science and Forest Products is extending an invitation to WOOD students to visit the show.

## Tentative Schedule:

Friday, August 25

10:00 am- Depart Brooks

5:00 pm- Arrive Atlanta, Check-in motel

6:00 pm- "Down Home Cookout" with Atlanta Hardwood Corp.

7:30 pm- Atlanta Braves vs. Washington Nationals

Saturday, August 26

8:00 am- IVF opens

9:00 am- Equipment Demonstrations

10:30 am- Guided Tour of "Design Emphasis"

12:00 pm- Lunch in CNN center

1-4 pm- Free time to explore the show

4:00 pm- Depart Atlanta (Return Blacksburg ~ 11:00 pm)

RSVP to Angie – ariegel@vt.edu – by August 11, 2006.

## Update from the S.A.W.M.I.L.

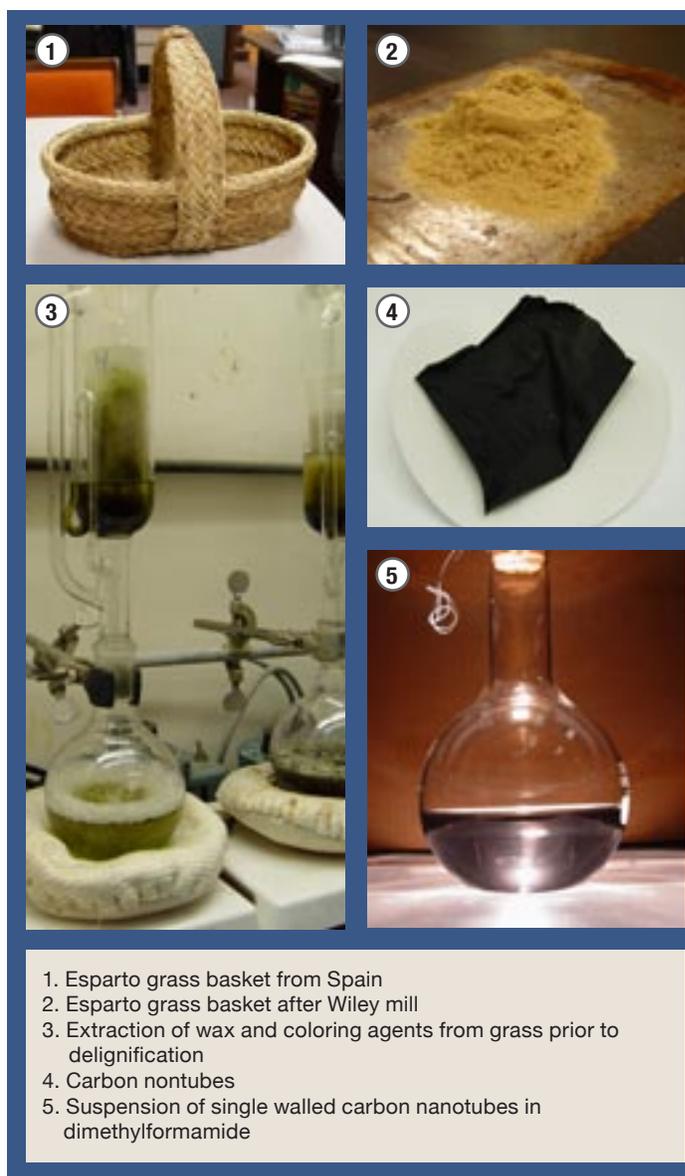
by Scott Rennekar

("Self-Assembled Wood Macromolecule Interface Laboratory" — formerly known as the Wood Composite's Lab at the Brooks Center)

This summer two undergraduates have been working for me in exploratory projects. Rising junior Josh Hosen (Forest Products Marketing) has been working primarily in the Wood Adhesion Group's thermal analysis lab with solvent swollen balsa wood. He has determined the temperature at which the plasticized wood is softened. Now he has created dispersions of single walled carbon nanotubes in the same solvent. Single walled carbon nanotubes have the diameter of a strand of DNA and tensile stiffness that is on the order of a terapascal. Currently, Josh is attempting to force the carbon nanotubes into the cell wall of the softened balsa wood with a pressure reactor in order to modify the properties of the balsa wood.

The other undergraduate that is working under my supervision is William "Travis" Church a rising junior in Materials Science and Engineering. He is busy fine tuning an automated layering system (built by Rick Caudill) in order to build nanostructured films out of fractionated wood biopolymers. In this system solutions of water with charged polymers are sequentially passed over a substrate. The polymers adsorb to the substrate and create a film material out of essentially water (solutions contain less than 0.5% by weight polymer). When these films (reported to be less than 100 nm in thickness) were applied directly to wood veneers they outperformed other reported plywood adhesives in the shear in tension test.

Currently, I am in the laboratory fractionating xylan from a beautiful hand woven esparto grass basket. I intend to



use the isolated xylan in a crystalline form as reinforcement in thermoplastic composites. The work picks up from xylan crystallinity studies from 45 years ago. There are some excellent images of xylan ("nano") crystals in your Fengel and Wegener Wood Chemistry textbook on your shelf.

## Audrey Zink-Sharp Presenting Understanding Wood at Trus Joist this Week

Audrey Zink-Sharp is conducting a custom Wood-Based Composites Center (WBC) short course for the technical staff at Trus Joist in Boise Idaho August 1-3. The short course is titled 'Understanding Wood' and is being held at the Trus Joist Technical Center in Boise.

## NWPCA to Fund Annual Scholarship at Virginia Tech

by Pamela Krewson  
Publisher  
NWPCA



The National Wooden Pallet and Container Association (NWPCA) recently established an annual scholarship fund for students in Virginia Tech's Packaging Science major within the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products.

"The scholarship is very generous and I am sure it will be extremely important in recruiting students to enroll in the Packaging Option," said J. Michael Kelly, the Dean of the school's College of Natural Resources. "In establishing this scholarship the NWPCA not only helps students but also demonstrates leadership and commitment to education."

Students in packaging science learn about transport packaging and unit load systems-based design technologies, including the interactions between packaging, pallets and unit load material handling equipment.

Research and education cover all components of the unit load logistics system including: packaging design, pallet design, unit load stabilization, dunnage, blocking and bracing and unit load handling equipment design.

Courses also focus on wood science and forest products, industrial and systems engineering, material science engineering, and graphic arts.

Careers in Packaging Science include packaging engineers, process engineers and packaging research scientist.

"By providing financial support for students, the NWPCA will ensure that there will be graduates who have the knowledge and expertise the industry needs," said Kelly. ☞

## The latest edition of The Ledger is now available at:

[http://www.co.vt.edu/ledger/Ledger\\_JUL2006\\_YE07.pdf](http://www.co.vt.edu/ledger/Ledger_JUL2006_YE07.pdf)

Topics addressed in this issue are:

- Personal Vehicle Mileage Rates Increase
- Modification to the Fund by Account Web Report
- Audit Observations

You can see past Ledgers at the following link:

<http://www.co.vt.edu/ledger/index.html>

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### **Graduate School offices to move to Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown**

The Graduate School will shut down its operations in Sandy Hall at noon on August 2 and will reopen for business on August 8 on the mezzanine and second floor levels (in the old Alumni Hall section) of the newly renovated Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown (GLC). Between August 3-7, the Graduate School's computers, telephones, and mail service will not be operational. If you need to contact the Graduate School during this time for emergency assistance, you may contact Nancy Feuerbach via email (nancy@vt.edu) or by phone at 231-9568. You can also contact Dean DePauw and Associate Deans McNabb and Mihalik via email. New international student check in and emergency immigration assistance for graduate students will be available at the Cranwell International Center. Thank you for your understanding during our move. We look forward to resuming operations on August 8 in our new offices at the GLC.

Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies  
and Dean of the Graduate School  
Phone: 540-231-7581  
Fax: 540-231-1670

### **Juanita D. Duggan Named New President and C.E.O. of The American Forest & Paper Association**

WASHINGTON, DC - Michael E. Case, President and CEO of Gulf States Paper Corporation and the Chairman of the Board for the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) announced today that Juanita D. Duggan has been selected to be AF&PA's new President and CEO. Ms. Duggan will assume her duties on October 25, 2006, replacing W. Henson Moore, who last October announced his intention to retire in 2006.

"We are very excited to have Juanita lead our industry's public policy efforts," said Case. "She is eminently qualified and has the skills and experience to make a major impact on behalf of our industry. The industry is eternally grateful for Henson's contributions over the past eleven years, and we look forward to having Ms. Duggan continue to lead our efforts to create an environment in the U.S. and abroad in which the U.S. forest products industry can flourish."

Ms. Duggan is currently the President and CEO of the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America, and has served in that capacity since 1998.

"This is a wonderful opportunity, one that I am eager to jump into headlong," said Juanita Duggan. "The forest products industry is a vital contributor to the American way, making the wood and paper products that people across the world rely on, managing millions of acres of America's forestland, and employing more than a million hard working Americans. I am extremely excited to build upon the numerous policy victories Henson has led and am honored AF&PA's member companies have asked me to follow in his footsteps."

"Juanita is a perfect choice to take the reins and continue AF&PA's well-deserved reputation as one of Washington's most effective and well-known trade associations," commented Henson Moore. "She brings all the necessary qualities to step right in and lead our industry, continuing the work we have begun, and identifying and addressing the new challenges the industry must face and resolve. I look forward to working with her to make this transition as seamless as possible."

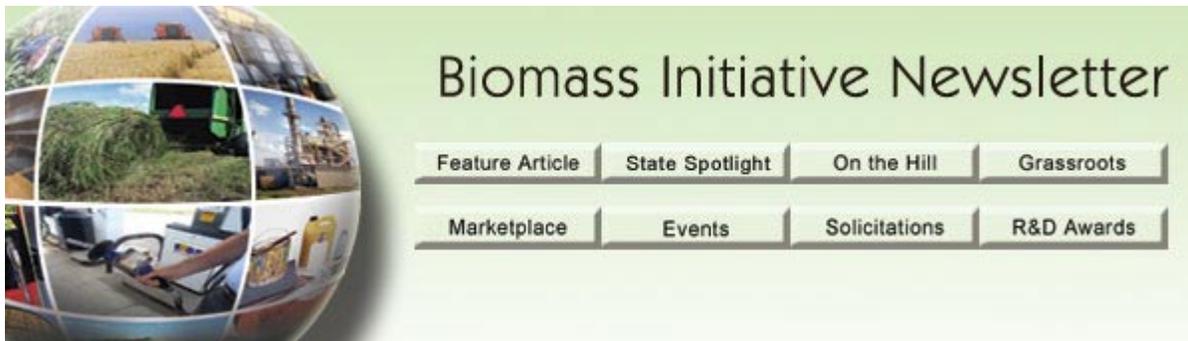
AF&PA is the national trade association of the forest, paper and wood products industry. AF&PA represents more than 200 companies and related associations that engage in or represent the manufacture of pulp, paper, paperboard and wood products. The forest products industry accounts for approximately 7 percent of total U.S. manufacturing output, employs 1.1 million people, and ranks among the top ten manufacturing employers in 42 states. Visit AF&PA online at [www.afandpa.org](http://www.afandpa.org)

## Biomass Initiative Newsletter – July Issue Now Available

The Biomass Initiative, formed as part of the Biomass R&D Act of 2000, is a multi-agency effort to coordinate and accelerate all Federal biobased products, biofuels, and bioenergy research and development. The Biomass Initiative distributes an online monthly newsletter to inform government institutions and the public, including private companies, about the Biomass Initiative and biomass-related activities. The newsletter's contents include a feature article highlighting important biomass-related stories of the month, as well as grassroots information and a state spotlight recognizing important local activities. In addition, the newsletter includes biomass-related information on recent legislation, R&D awards, solicitations, and market trends.

You can subscribe to the monthly electronic newsletter at <http://bcsmain.com/mlists/?p=subscribe&id=2>

If you have any questions or comments about the Biomass Initiative Newsletter, please contact [mmanella@bcs-hq.com](mailto:mmanella@bcs-hq.com).



### Iowa Farm Bureau Commits \$1 Million To Bioeconomy Program

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation has committed \$1 million to the College of Agriculture to support the university-wide Bioeconomy Initiative, which develops technologies for converting crops and plant materials into chemicals, fuels, fibers and energy. Details: <http://www.ag.iastate.edu/aginfo/news/2006releases/fbgift.html>

### Cargill Commits \$600,000 To Prepare ISU Students For Bioeconomy

Cargill has invested \$600,000 in ISU's Bioeconomy Initiative to help prepare ISU students to enter the rapidly growing biorenewable industry. With the support, the Bioeconomy Initiative will offer four new areas for students: freshmen experiences in biorenewables; common laboratory in biobased technologies; course work in biobased technologies; and international experiences in biorenewables. More: <http://www.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2006/jul/cargill.shtml>

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