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INSIDE VT WOOD



photo courtesy of Bob Wright

Department of Wood Science and Forest Products
June 13-14, 2006 Pipestem State Park, Pipestem West Virginia

All department faculty and staff participated in a department retreat last week at Pipestem State Park in West Virginia. Shown here is the most dedicated group of individuals working toward creating and disseminating knowledge about wood, forest products and their utilization in North America!

Reminder...

Remember to submit department news items by Friday 3 pm of each week to Will Pfeil at wpfeil@vt.edu for inclusion in InsideVT WOOD each Monday morning. All past issues of InsideVT Wood reside on our department website under the publications link.

News From Paul Winistorfer

I would like to thank everyone in the department for your participation in the department retreat last week at Pipestem State Park. Thanks to the staff for joining us on day #1 and thanks to the faculty for a lively discussion on day #2. This is an investment in our program and our future and being together is of tremendous value to me, to the department and I hope to you as an individual.

We will be following up on many retreat discussion items:

- Strategic Issues Committee will summarize, finalize, and create a priority list for action.
- We will move forward with Creative Achievements reporting immediately.
- Please review the “Building Our Future” materials and note request for feedback on facilities and infrastructure and timelines.
- Day #2 follow-up items include following up on WOOD 1234 and 2554, the Wood Enterprise Institute, and launching a plan of action on the graduate program review via committee action.

We will summarize the retreat discussions and actions for department review. Any comments or suggestions you want to offer regarding the retreat, subject matter, format, location, etc. are welcome and needed for continual improvement in the future.

I come away from the two day discussions appreciative of your commitment and dedication to our program and all that we do. Thanks for all that you do and for your support and cooperation as we move forward.

I will be back on the Southside on Monday and Tuesday of this week visiting with the Superintendent Larry Massie (Buckingham County public schools), the Higher Education Center in South Boston, and the Southside Community College in Keysville. This discussion is focused on our program, a partnership in attracting students from the Southside to our program and creating educational opportunities for students across the Southside. I will also be promoting a WoodLINKS partnership at these locations.

I have invited Dr. Mark McCann, Director of Virginia Cooperative Extension and Dr. Craig Nessler, Director of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station to come into our program this summer for a half day presentation and discussion about our outreach and research activities in the department. Two-thirds of our department budget is supported by VCE and VEAS and we must communicate effectively the impact and vision for our work. We are working on availability and scheduling now.

VT WOOD Shirts

Shown is an example sew-up of a VT WOOD design for shirts. The design would be stitched on shirts and other clothing items. A pre-production shirt will be available soon for viewing. DJR Print-It Stitch-It in Radford is doing the prototyping for us. Once approved, you as an individual could order on-line from their clothing catalog, which offers many high-quality lines of clothing. We will try to coordinate a large department order for the first run (each individual can order any style and size of garment as part of this order). Cost would depend on the clothing ordered; embroidery will be an approximate \$8 flat fee.



CNR Mentoring Program for Tenure-Track Faculty

Dr. Mike Kelly is offering a new College – organized mentoring program for junior, tenure-track faculty. The description of this mentoring program is posted to our department intraweb site under the repository heading of College of Natural Resources and under the section heading of Mentoring Program.

Deck Safety

Rosa Duarte / WSL NewsChannel 10

Jun 15, 2006

If your home has a deck you may want to check a few things before having that next big cook out.

Doctor Joseph Loferski with Virginia Tech's department of Wood Science and Forest Products, has dedicated 7 years of research to finding what does and doesn't work to make decks safer.

The department's currently working on finding the best design for guardrails to be connected to the deck. So far they've found none that can withstand more than 200 pounds without breaking, less than half of what building codes require.

But guardrails aren't the only thing you should worry about, Loferski says the number one cause of all deck accidents is the actually connection between the house and the deck.

Make sure the ledger board is secured with bolts or lag screws, not just nails. Also, adding an extra column directly underneath the start of the deck can add significant stability.

Loferski says the spacing between the guard rail posts can be another potential danger if they're more than 4 inches apart, making it easy for a small child to fall through.

Building codes for decks in several states have been changed thanks to the research. If you'd like to know how to safely build a deck and what to look for to make sure yours is safe log onto www.co.fairfax.va.us/decks/

Smith Has Chapter Published

Dr. Bob Smith recently had a chapter published in the book "Environmental Impacts of Treated Wood". The Chapter title was "The Reuse of Treated Wood" and coauthors were Phil Araman , Dave Bailey and Delton Alderman.

CULD News

- The Center for Unit Load Design presents SLICK: Searchable Library of Integrated Center Knowledge. This database is devoted to bringing our members Center and industry publications in a one-stop-shop format not available to the general public. We are continuing to add new records daily, so be sure to stop back often. SLICK is located at www.unitload.vt.edu/private/portal. For the next week only, the username is unitload and the password is thanks. If you would like to have continued access after next week, please contact Bonnie Maccubbin at 1-5370.
- The Center will be holding the Wood Pallet Design and Performance Short Course in the CEARS Lab in Cheatham Hall, June 21 - 23.

Coming Up – Reminders

Creative Achievements – Annual Report

- We will go to the printer on July 1 with Creative Achievements. Be sure to have all of your personal entries in the database as soon as possible. Don't forget to reach back to Jan 2005 since we did not publish an annual report for the 2005 calendar year. Creative Achievements will cover the period for January 1, 2005 – June 30 2006. Angie, Debbie, Will and Erik can assist you with the interface, or in making entries. Don't let your contribution be missed.

SWST-FPS Meetings June 25-29

- Society of Wood Science and Technology and the Forest Products Society International Conventions. June 26-29
Newport Beach California.

Announcements

To: Deans, Dept. Heads, and Univ. Centers Directors

From: Vicki Kok (vkok@vt.edu), Interim Director of Instruction, Reference and Outreach

The University Libraries System is offering a one-credit graduate course on information retrieval and management through the Graduate School every semester.

The course title is, GRAD-5124, Library Research Skills-Graduate Study. On completion of the course, the students will be:

- well acquainted with general and subject-specific information library resources and available services,
- skillful in their searching techniques of various databases germane to their graduate program,
- adept in the creation of personal databases for data management,
- knowledgeable in organizing references for formatting bibliographies in writing manuscript using data management programs such as EndNote.