

May 2006						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

# 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

- Dr. Kelly and I met with Dr. Steger last week regarding development plans in the department for facilities and infrastructure. He is very supportive of our efforts. Dr. Zink-Sharp and I will meet with Scott Hurst University Architect to visit about development of the Brooks site. This meeting is Monday May 22. On May 30th I will meet with Betsy Flanagan, VP of Development to talk about the 'development' approach to the initiative. I will keep you updated as I work through the system. We should be completely cleared to go by June 1.
- I have confirmed a May 18th morning meeting with Dr. Earl Currin, Provost of Southside Virginia Community College, to discuss relationships with our department. I have also confirmed a meeting with Mr. Ted Bennett on May 18th. Ted is the Executive Director of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center located in South Boston. We will be discussing relationships with our program and workforce development issues in the industry.
- Many of us will be attending Richmond Expo later in the week – I will be there all day Friday.
- Over the coming weeks, I will be discussing Creative Achievements content with individual faculty and groups of faculty as we present a higher vision of our work and outcomes for our annual report. This is at a critical time as we move forward with development efforts and we seek to produce an inspirational annual report that will captivate people with our vision of our work and the future.
- I have hired an hourly wage graduate student for the summer to replace some of Judy Araman's recruiting efforts in the department. Amanda Mink will begin on Monday May 22 and work approximately through August 22. She will be working on an electronic academic assessment tool for our periodic assessment; recruiting mining of community colleges and high schools in Virginia; some broad based communications with the wood industry; assembly of recruiting packages of materials, and likely a few other tasks. Amanda's desk will be located in 315B (Judy's previous desk space).
- The Interactive Checksheet project undertaken by the students in Computer Science 4624 (multimedia, hypertext and information access) has been completed and delivered to me. We will demonstrate this project to the faculty with anticipation of having it available for fall 2006 use by students and faculty. You can find the 40 page report (PDF) by the students loaded on our intraweb site (Interactive Check Sheet Project). We intend for this to be a tool for prospective students and an advising aid for faculty and students.
- Our final cluster hire candidate is here Monday and Tuesday to interview with faculty and staff. Please participate in this critical process to ensure our success. The schedule is shown below. Attend the seminar, participate in the group and individual meetings. Your feedback is very important to us. Also note that Dr. Paul Gattenholm is interviewing for the MSE/Chem Eng position. Paul is an adjunct in our program. Participate in his interview if your schedule allows.

## Images Needed for Website Launch

We need 8-10 interesting images that represent your work for our new website. We will launch next Friday May 19th. Images are critical to the home page. Send your images to Will Pfeil at [wpfeil@vt.edu](mailto:wpfeil@vt.edu).

Will can crop, manipulate, catapult, and change in many ways your original image so we can display on the home page. People, wood, machines, students, fibers, cool wood stuffffffff. Give us a hand please.

## Scholarship Applications Due Today

Department scholarship applications are due today May 15th in the main office. Decisions will be reached by June 1, with notification shortly after. Students have two choices for filling out:

This is the link for the PDF form that you can fill out and print and bring by the main office:

PDF: [http://www.woodscience.vt.edu/students/scholarships/WSFP\\_scholarship\\_app.pdf](http://www.woodscience.vt.edu/students/scholarships/WSFP_scholarship_app.pdf)

This is the link for the online form:

[http://www.ics.woodscience.vt.edu/scholarships/scholarship\\_app.php](http://www.ics.woodscience.vt.edu/scholarships/scholarship_app.php)

## Fairfax County Recognizes Dr. Frank Woeste, P. E.

During its regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting, on May 1, 2006, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors declared May 7-13 as International Building Safety Week 2006 in Fairfax County. In association with this proclamation ceremony, Fairfax County also announced that it had selected Dr. Frank Woeste, Virginia Tech Professor Emeritus, as the recipient of its annual Building Safety Community Partnership Award. This award recognizes an organization or individual who has made significant and lasting contributions toward improving safety in the constructed environment within Fairfax County.

The award presentation noted the extensive research Dr. Woeste has conducted on traditional construction practices for residential decks and balconies, including working with Fairfax County's Brian Foley, P. E., to expand and improve the County's standard deck details. Dr. Woeste was praised for identifying areas of potential weakness in deck construction, and along with Dr. Joe Loferski (Wood Science & Forest Products Dept.), conducted research that yielded remedies for them. In so doing, the presentation concluded, Dr. Woeste has improved the construction standards for decks and balconies not only in Fairfax County, but throughout the country.

## INTERVIEW SCHEDULE – BIOPROCESSING/BIOMATERIALS CLUSTER INITIATIVE

**Dr. Steve Eichhorn**

### MONDAY, MAY 15, 2006

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast both candidates & Search Committee	The Inn Skelton Conf Ctr
8:15 – 9:15	meet with Dept Head, Paul Winistorfer	230 Cheatham Hall
9:20 – 9:40	meet with Cheatham Faculty	Cheatham
9:50 – 10:20	meet with Brooks Faculty	Brooks
10:20 – 10:50	meet with grad. students, post docs, research associates, USFS, technical & clerical staff	Brooks
11:00 – 11:45	meet with CNR Dean, Mike Kelly	324 Cheatham
12:00 – 1:00	lunch	
1:00 – 2:00	tour of facilities	Cheatham & Brooks

2:00 – 2:30	prepare for seminar	Fralin auditorium
2:30 – 5:30	seminar (both candidates)	Fralin auditorium
6:30 – 8:30	dinner	Vincents
	both candidates & Search Committee	

## TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2006

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast both candidates & Search Committee	The Inn Skelton Conf Ctr
8:15 – 9:15	meet with Forestry faculty, et al.	
9:30 – 11:00	candidates' meeting with Search Committee	315 Cheatham
11:15 – 12:00	meet with Department Head	230 Cheatham
12:00 – 1:00	lunch	
1:30 – 2:15	visit Benefits Dept., Carolyn Pratt	Southgate Center
2:30 – 4:00	both candidates tour Blacksburg with real estate agent	pick up & drop off at Seitz Hall
5:00	end of visit	

## CULD to Sponsor Navy Packaging Board

The Center for Unit Load Design will be sponsoring a meeting of the Navy Packaging Board, May 16 - 17, in the Brooks Classroom. The board will be meeting to set standards for packaging and to develop new packaging and pallet designs.

## Lean Manufacturing for the Wood Products Industry

May 8-10, 2006

Wood Education and Resource Center  
Princeton, WV

The 6th workshop on lean manufacturing for the wood products industry was offered by Virginia Tech's Sloan Foundation Forest Industries Center at the Wood Education and Resource Center in Princeton, WV. Faculty from Virginia Tech and University of Minnesota Duluth worked together to help teach and apply basic principles of lean manufacturing for industry participants. Twenty industry participants used the workshop to target opportunity areas to improve their overall business effectiveness.

The first day used a hands-on simulation exercise to understand the inefficiencies of traditional batch manufacturing and then learn how to improve and change the manufacturing system. Participants learned that it was possible, without any substantial capital investment, to redesign and reorganize a manufacturing process to turn the business from an unprofitable organization to a money winning venture.

The 2nd and 3rd days of the workshop reinforced the 1st day's experiences by allowing participants to apply learned principles to their own businesses. The workshop also included a tour of a local cabinet manufacturer who has been successful in applying lean manufacturing for over 7 years. Participants viewed the hands-on training approach and plant tour visit to be the best features in making workshop content applicable to their business environment.



Lean Workshop participants ask questions during a plant tour.



Dan Shipman collecting data on veneer operations at Merillat.

## Independent Study in Veneer Inventory Control Systems

Dan Shipman, a graduating senior in Wood Science and Forest Products, has successfully completed an independent study in inventory control systems. Dan worked with Merillat, a local kitchen cabinet manufacturer, to determine better ways to manage and control hardwood veneer inventory to improve the productivity of cabinet door manufacturing. Dan's formal presentation and final report was well received by the veneer operations managers and engineers. Merillat plans to implement some of the recommendations proposed by Dan in the upcoming months. Congratulations to Dan Shipman!

## New Faculty Development Program August 18th – avoid scheduling conflicts

To: Deans, Department Heads, and University Center Directors

From: David R. Ford, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (by way of Nadine Hughes, [hughesnc@vt.edu](mailto:hughesnc@vt.edu))

Dear Colleagues,

The university-wide New Faculty Development Program is scheduled for Friday, August 18, 2006, 8:00 a.m. - noon at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center. Invitations will be sent to all new Teaching and Research and Administrative and Professional faculty members. The program will provide them with important information regarding selected administrative and academic university functions.

Beginning this year, the Office of the Vice President for Research will be coordinating and providing a separate program for research faculty. The program content will be developed specific to researcher's needs and interests.

Please try to avoid scheduling events that will conflict with this program, including college and departmental faculty meetings that new faculty would normally be expected to attend.

Further information regarding the New Faculty Development Program will soon be available at [www.provost.vt.edu](http://www.provost.vt.edu), or by contacting Keohi Council at [kcouncil@vt.edu](mailto:kcouncil@vt.edu).

Thank you,

David R. Ford

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

## Popular Mechanics Breakthrough Award Nominees Sought – Opportunity for Faculty Nomination/Recognition

Hi, my name is Rikki Thompson and I am gathering nominees for the 2006 Popular Mechanics Breakthrough Awards. I'm sure there are many projects taking place at Virginia Tech that qualify and I hope you will share some of them with me.

The Breakthrough Awards recognize advances in the fields of science, technology and exploration. Past winners have included the creator of a toxin-neutralizing nanopowder, an Army captain and welder who together designed a life-saving Humvee gun mount and a Nobel laureate developing a printable photovoltaic plastic. (See link below for more information.)

For the 2006 awards we are looking for 8 or 10 individuals or teams whose current research will transform the world. Know of someone who deserves consideration? If so, please tell us about them by replying to this e-mail or calling me at 804-543-4774. Thank you!

Best,

Rikki Thompson

P.S. Here's a link to last year's awards feature story:

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/specials/features/1762911.html?page=1&c=y>