

May 2006						
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
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 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

Today, Monday May 1 marks my 5 year anniversary at VT and the department! Time flies. Thanks for your support. Each day feels like I'm just getting started....so let's go. Audrey Zink-Sharp will be signing in my absence Thursday-Friday this week. Please see her if you need anything.

Exemplary Department Nominations Outcomes May 4

The department provided responses to questions from the Exemplary Dept. Committee regarding our nomination of WOOD 1234 and our innovative development of a new introductory course. Decisions will be made at a meeting on May 4.

Subject: VTF Year-End Closing Schedule

The Virginia Tech Foundation (VTF) strives to process every contribution and disbursement request received at fiscal year-end. Our year-end closing cutoff dates are driven by the requirement for compliance with GASB 39 with regard to inclusion of our financial data in the university's financial statements. In order to meet the reporting deadlines, we have established the following year-end closing schedule:

Requests for Payment - Must be received by VTF no later than June 21, 2006.

Fund Transfers - Requests for fund transfers by journal entry must be received by VTF no later than June 23, 2006.

Contributions - All gifts to be counted as fiscal year 2006 must be received by VTF no later than June 30, 2006.

Endowment gifts received after this date will not be sent to Mellon Bank until September 2006.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to a smooth year-end closing. Should you have any questions, please call VTF Accounting at 231-2858.

Forest Products Club End of the Year Cookout

Wednesday, May 3rd @ 5:30

Brooks Center

All wood students and faculty are invited for an end of the year cookout. Hotdogs, hamburgers, drinks etc. And volleyball, of course. Also, introduce next year's officers.

Students Participate with Industry

Students in Dan Cumbo's WOOD 3544 participated in a project to collect data on the production floor at Coffman Stairs in Marion, VA. Our students collected data related to thin lumber defects at various machine centers in the plant. Students gained firsthand exposure to the value stream effects of thin lumber and presented their findings to the plant manager. A summary report was sent to the company, which will be used to cost justify lumber thickness scanning equipment potentially saving the company several hundred thousand dollars per year in rejected products and rework.



Can We Develop a Student Enterprise Experience at this Level in our Department?

The Wood Enterprise Institute won't fly this summer – only 3 students interested. How can we build and sustain an experiential student learning environment centered around wood? Another example below from the College of Engineering.

Spotlight Photo Gallery



04/07/06 Car of the future: Steven Boyd, graduate student in mechanical engineering, looks on as President Charles W. Steger examines the car that Boyd and the university's Hybrid Electric Vehicle Team built as its entry in the upcoming Challenge X hybrid competition. The goal of the competition--and the team's efforts--is to develop a new generation of energy-efficient, low-emission vehicles. Equipped with an E-85 engine, Virginia Tech's innovative car consumes 15 percent petroleum, which primarily comes from overseas sources, and 85 percent ethanol, which can be produced domestically. The car and team will compete against entries from 16 other schools in the second round of Competition X, to be held in Arizona in June. (Photo by John McCormick)

Seminar Announcement

“The Gap Between the Teaching of Engineering and the Practice of Engineering”

Dr. John Lamancusa
Professor of Mechanical Engineering
Director of the Learning Factory
Pennsylvania State University

May 1, 2006
1:30-2:30 p.m.
3083 Derring Hall

Dr. Lamancusa is one of the 2006 winners of the National Academy of Engineering's highly prestigious Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education. The prize was awarded “for creating the Learning Factory, where multidisciplinary student teams develop engineering leadership skills by working with industry to solve real-world problems.” The purpose of the Learning Factory is to integrate design, development, and business practices into the engineering curriculum.

At Penn State, Dr. Lamancusa also teaches courses in mechanical design, vibrations, noise control, modal analysis, robotics, product dissection, and mechatronics and supervises industry design projects. Dr. Lamancusa is a Research Fellow of the Humboldt Foundation, a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Society of Electrical Engineers, and a registered professional engineer in Wisconsin. Recent awards include the Boeing Outstanding Educator Award (1998), the Penn State Engineering Society Premier Teaching Award (1999), and the ASEE Fred Merryfield Design Award (2004).

Smallwood 2006

Sheraton Richmond West, Richmond, VA, USA
May 16-18, 2006
Forest Products Society

<http://www.forestprod.org/confsmallwood06.html>

The early registration deadline date for the Smallwood Conference in Richmond, VA is fast approaching. After Monday, May 1 the discounted early registration fee of \$250 will no longer be valid and the registration fee will increase to \$325 - so register NOW and save!

Please call 608-231-1361, ext. 208 to register or print out a registration form from the conference web page at www.forestprod.org/confsmallwood06.html and fax it to 608-231-2152.

REGULAR ATTENDEE FEE - The regular attendee fee is \$250 USD per person and includes conference materials, all sessions, two continental breakfasts, two luncheons, four coffee/refreshment breaks, one reception, and admission to Expo Richmond 2006.

STUDENT FEE (full-time student; ID required) - The student fee is \$125 USD per person and includes conference materials, all sessions, two continental breakfasts, two luncheons, four coffee/refreshment breaks, one reception, and admission to Expo Richmond 2006.

Outreach NOW 2006:

Inventing the Future Through Engagement
Wednesday, September 27, 2006
The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center

Plan now to attend this second annual conference designed to highlight excellence in engagement. The forum is sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs and the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs.

Cumbo, Industry Personnel and Alum Participate in Innovative Training Program

Dan Cumbo recently traveled to PIT Training & Consulting in Mooresville, NC to observe their race pit crew training. PIT trains pit crews for professional race teams. Their approach is heavily based in the concepts of lean manufacturing, six sigma and continuous improvement and they apply the pit crew analogy to training life flight crews who respond to severe trauma cases in automobile accidents, manufacturing personnel, etc. During his visit, there were roughly 60 employees of United Airlines from locations across the US going through the training program; these people are responsible for all activities that commence between the time a plane arrives at the gate and departs again; e.g. baggage, maintenance, cleaning, refueling, etc. He attended with a group of production and maintenance personnel from Coffman Stairs in Marion, VA and David Bailey of Pallet One in Hickory, NC; David is both an undergrad and grad alum of our department.



Coming Up



Dr. Phil Mitchell, Professor and Extension Specialist at North Carolina State University will be coming to the department May 9-10 for a seminar presentation. The title of his presentation will be "North Carolina's Future Value Added Wood Products Industry". His presentation will be May 9 at 3:30 pm in the Brooks classroom. A reception will precede this presentation. Phil will be staying overnight and available to meet with faculty on May 10 until about noon.

Class/Academic Calendar through July

May 3	Classes end
May 4	Reading Day
May 5	Exam Day
May 6	Exam Day
May 8	Exam Day
May 9	Exam Day
May 9	Learn How to Use... EndNote
May 10	Exam Day
May 11	2nd Annual Hispanic Latino Achievement Ceremony
May 12	University Commencement Ceremony
May 13	Spring Commencement (College Ceremonies)
May 22	Summer I Classes begin
May 29	Memorial Day, No Classes
June 29	Classes end
June 30	Exam Day
July 1	Exam Day
July 3	Summer II Classes begin
July 4	Holiday, No Classes