

Vita:
Jason Vincent Smart

Born on November 7, 1978 in Portsmouth, VA, I have traveled widely throughout my life due to my father's position as an officer in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In fact, the five years I have spent at Virginia Tech thus far constitutes the longest period of time I have lived in one place.

My interest in timber engineering can be attributed to the diverse examples of timber construction that I've seen while traveling and my abilities in math, science, and working with wood. These interests led me to majoring in Wood Science upon enrolling at Virginia Tech in 1996. Other interests of mine include hiking, camping and numerous other outdoor activities which are readily accommodated in the beautiful Appalachian mountains surrounding Virginia Tech.

I received my bachelors degree in May 2000 and began graduate studies the following August. Over the past seven years, I have participated in extracurricular activities such as the Forest Products Club, Timber Bridge Competition, and Army ROTC. My experience with timber structures is extensive due to my integral part in various research projects. Most recently, this includes an investigation into the feasibility of ultimate capacity-based design of nailed connections. Now that I have received my Master's Degree in Civil Engineering at Virginia Tech, I will continue to advance my work in the field of timber engineering as a project engineer with the Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS), where I am currently employed.