

January 2007						
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INSIDE VT WOOD

Reminder...

Remember to submit department news items by Friday 3 p.m. 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.

Please note: This issue of Inside VT Wood commences Volume 2 Issue 1. All future Volumes will be on a calendar year basis.

News From Paul Winistorfer

- Dr. Kevin Edgar joins our department today as a professor – Welcome Dr. Edgar! Kevin comes to us from Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport, Tennessee. Dr. Edgar was hired via the initiative in bioprocessing and biomaterials, along with other faculty in Biological Systems Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Chemical Engineering. In total, 9 new faculty were hired under the cluster initiative funded by the Provost McNamee. Drs. Roman and Rennekar were the recently filled positions in our department used to create the necessary 2:1 position match. I have attached a guest editorial by Dr. Edgar that is currently in print in the journal Cellulose. Dr. Edgar coordinated the collection of work on polysaccharides in drug delivery research appearing in this special issue of Cellulose. We will host a department coffee in the coming weeks to welcome Dr. Edgar to our program. His office is located in the main office suite of Cheatham Hall. We have initiated remodeling of the laboratory in room 248 Cheatham for Kevin. Thanks also go to Provost McNamee for funding this important initiative on campus.
- THANKS to Jim Bisha, Braden White and Garret Norman for taking charge to reorganize and clean up the graduate student loft last week. They hauled away nearly 500 pounds of “stuff”, moved partition walls and desks are created individual spaces for students in the loft. The loft is more functional, cleaner, better organized and a significant improvement overall. Thanks, thanks, thanks for taking the initiative and leadership to do this for the department and our students.
- Our distribution packaging faculty position was released from the system and is now ‘on the street’. I am chairing this search committee, along with committee members Phil Araman, Joe Loferski, Jongkoo Han and Bonnie Maccubbin. We will be working immediately to recruit applicants to the position. Initial screening of applicants will be in early March, with a projected July 1 start date.
- Our manufacturing systems faculty position search is open and on-going. The initial screen date is January 22, with a July 1 or sooner start date. Please see the position description on our department website and forward any suggested nominees to Dr. Kline, who is chairing the search.
- We received a generous gift from alumnus Ramki Iyer and his wife to support the Geza Ifju Scholarship fund. Ramki was a student in our program in 1988-89. Thanks Ramki! We plan to make our first award of the Geza Ifju Scholarship for the 2007-2008 academic year.

- Thanks to Dr. Bob Youngs and his wife Ester who have established a new award in the College to promote and recognize excellence in scientific writing. Bob and Ester created an initial \$5,000 fund to support the award. Verbiage from the agreements reads “In light of the need for excellence in understanding, describing, and promoting conservation and effective utilization of the world’s forests; advancing that understanding; and communicating needs and progress; and recognition of outstanding Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources graduate student contributions to that cause; the donors direct that the Robert L. and Esther S. Youngs Fund (the “Fund”) be established, for use by the College of Natural Resources of Virginia Tech (the “College”) and that the initial contribution, and all other contributions to this fund, be used to make an award to a graduate student in the College. The donors or others interested in the purpose of the fund may make additional contributions at any time.

The Award shall be named the Robert L. and Esther S. Youngs Award for Excellence in Written Contribution to International Forestry and shall be given according to the following criteria:

The Award shall be made annually to a graduate student or students in the College who author a scientific paper that demonstrates excellent scientific writing and contributes to advancing the understanding of any aspect of the management, utilization, conservation, or socio-economic effects of forests on an international scale.

To be considered for the award, the paper must have been published, or accepted for publication, by a recognized scientific journal during the calendar year preceding the year of the award.

Nomination of papers for the award shall be made by the faculty of the College or by self-nomination by the author(s).

A panel appointed by the College shall judge nominated papers.

The donors shall recommend the amount of the annual award.

In the event no student meets the above-stated criteria in a given academic year, the Donor directs that no award be made.

- Monday and Tuesday I am traveling with Dr. Zink-Sharp to the Louisiana Pacific Technical Center in Franklin Tennessee. Dr. Zink-Sharp is presenting a custom WBC short course and I am visiting the Center, alumnus Brian Via and I will meet with others at the Center to learn of their research program and our interface with them.
- I am representing our department interests in assessment at a special CEUT program on Wednesday January 10. I am one of the invited speakers for this event and welcome the opportunity to have our department present in the campus-wide forum. I will speak of our past, present and future interests in assessing learning for our undergraduate program, and will rely on efforts and materials that Amana Mink and I had been working on the past six months.
- I will be attending the AgriBusiness Banquet in Richmond on Thursday evening at the Arthur Ashe Center. The agriculture and forestry communities really show up for this evening event, including the Governor and his cabinet, and elected representatives.
- The Agribusiness Banquet is followed by the Forestry Council of Virginia Legislative Breakfast on Friday morning. VFPA, VFA and others organize and host this event with invited legislative guests.
- Representatives from the Higher Education Center will be presenting their final request to the Tobacco Commission Education Committee on Monday for a broad set of education initiatives on Southside, including an initiative in wood science (WoodLINKS). Also in this package is creation of a new graphic arts program there that could have important linkages to our new packaging science option and minor.
- Our National Program Director of WoodLINKS, Mr. Wilf Torunski has been hospitalized in Vancouver BC the past week due a multiple serious infections. Wilf’s condition was quite critical early on – and remains very serious but he has been responding to antibiotics and has been moved to an intensive care hospital in Vancouver. Wilf has been the sustained driver of WoodLINKS USA for nearly 6 years and his continued leadership is critical to the WoodLINKS initiative.

Guest Editorial

Special issue of cellulose on polysaccharides in drug delivery

It should not surprise us that polysaccharides and their derivatives are among the most important inert ingredients used in pharmaceutical formulations. Daily news items remind us of the consequence of inadequate toxicological safety during design of new drugs and their formulations. Clinical safety is of paramount importance. Nature has provided us with a wide variety of beneficial polysaccharides and derivatives; a rich and varied source of materials that can enhance the safety of pharmaceutical formulations.

As the reader of this special issue will quickly understand, however, the attraction of using polysaccharides and their derivatives in drug delivery goes far beyond safety. By the proper design of polysaccharide derivatives and by the proper selection of plasticizers and other additives, physicochemical properties may be finely tuned across a very wide range. In turn, this allows the formulator to fine tune a particular delivery system to meet the diverse needs of different molecular entities for delivery by suitable routes to the human body. It is typical of modern scientific inquiry that it is at this multi-disciplinary interface, at the intersection of organic chemistry, material science, polysaccharide chemistry, pharmacology, and pharmaceutical science, that rich opportunities for discovery exist. With this issue of *Cellulose*, we bring together a group of authors and contributions that illustrate well the benefits of reaching across that interface in synthesis and collaboration, with far-reaching implication for the design of efficacious therapeutic products.

It is a difficult and daunting task to: (i) identify a human protein whose inhibition can produce a desired pharmacological effect; (ii) synthesize pharmaceutical actives that are potent inhibitors of said protein; and (iii) narrow down that set still further to those without unacceptable side effects

or toxicity. We must add to this already significant challenge the complication of getting the active to the right part of the body, at the right time, for the right duration, and at the right concentration. And if that were not complexity enough, add the deceptively simple, yet essential feature of convenience. If the patient does not find the dosage form, the number of dosage units to be taken, and the frequency of dosing to be sufficiently convenient, he or she may simply not comply with the instructions of physician and pharmacist. This of course can cause failure of a therapeutic course that would otherwise be successful.

It is therefore clear that drug delivery is an essential part of pharmaceutical development, and that development of a drug delivery system for a given active is a challenging enterprise. Our authors describe studies of a wide variety of polysaccharides, which perform a number of different functions in drug delivery systems, and are at various stages of development.

One of the most successful drug delivery systems in history, so much so that it has inspired the growth of an entire industry, has been the Oros system for zero-order controlled release of actives over extended time periods, developed by Alza (now a part of Johnson & Johnson). Shivanand and her co-authors describe herein an important study aimed at expanding the scope of the system beyond the current cellulose acetate coating, to one that employs cellulose acetate butyrate (CAB). They report that the CAB system is very promising and expect it to be particularly beneficial for thermolabile actives.

Site-specificity remains a critical goal for drug delivery system development, and colonic delivery remains an important, largely unmet subset of that goal. Two of our authors report on the problems inherent with such systems, but also on their progress towards development of successful colonic

delivery systems. Basit and his co-workers report on an interesting blending approach, in which degradation of amylose films by colonic bacteria is used as the release mechanism for colon-targeted drugs, and hydrophobic ethylcellulose is included in the blend to mitigate amylose swelling and thereby enhance the targeting. These workers highlight the impact of plasticizers and other additives on formulation performance. Liu and co-workers describe work with drug delivery systems containing pectin. They describe pectin's role in a colonic delivery system where release is triggered by enzymatic degradation of pectin, another example in which swelling and release must be retarded by blending in other polymers. The Liu group also describes other interesting applications of pectin-based systems in drug delivery, including nasal applications which show promise as alternatives to drug formulations that are administered by injection, typically not a favored method for patients.

The paper by Amiji and co-workers continues the theme of site-selective delivery. This group reports on the utility of chitosan microspheres for the delivery of tetracycline to the stomach. Gastric-specific delivery is a prized target for pharmaceutical and drug delivery companies, since it offers the promise of long lasting and well controlled active delivery. Another advantage of gastric-specific delivery is in the case of ailments localized to the stomach. The Amiji paper describes treatment of just such a localized condition, namely gastric ulcer caused by *H. pylori*. The authors report the considerable promise of the chitosan-antibiotic system for treatment of this important malady.

Another key need in the industry is the enhancement of drug solubility and thus bio-availability. The veritable flood of insoluble drug

candidates coming out of pharma development pipelines is well documented. The resulting poor bioavailability of these insoluble molecules is one of the causes for high pharma pipeline failure rates. It is very difficult for a drug to be absorbed from the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, for example, into the circulation unless it has first dissolved into the GI contents. Buchanan and co-workers report on one approach to enhanced solubility, using a novel cyclodextrin (CD). They report on the remarkable solubility enhancement of a range of important antifungal drugs via complexation with this CD. Posey-Dowty and her colleagues report on the first studies of carboxymethylcellulose acetate butyrate in drug delivery. They report on its striking ability to enhance drug solubility through formation of amorphous matrices, while at the same time providing zero-order, pH-triggered release from a very simple system.

It is encouraging that so much of the work reported here involves new polysaccharide materials. It is essential that we find ways to surmount business and regulatory hurdles that block the use of new materials in pharmaceutical systems. These materials are needed by scientists working to develop systems to overcome the critical and difficult bioavailability problems plaguing delivery of modern actives. We will need to utilize the full range and power of novel polysaccharides and other materials to resolve these critical issues, and thereby enhance human health through effective drug delivery and therapy.

*Kevin J. Edgar
Eastman Chemical Company
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VFPA Winter Meeting – February 2-4 Williamsburg VA.

Make plans to attend the winter VFPA meeting in Williamsburg. Many faculty are attending. We are trying to organize a large student group to participate in the meeting. See the attached program materials for the meeting.

Graduate Program Work Session Thursday January 11

Faculty will be involved in a half day work session on Thursday to address changes to our graduate education program in the department. The meeting is in the Brooks classroom from 8:00 AM to 12 noon.

Assistant/Associate Professor Packaging Science-Wood Science

DEPARTMENT OF WOOD SCIENCE AND FOREST PRODUCTS Structural Design of Wood Pallets, Containers, and Packaging Systems

The Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech is seeking applications for the position of assistant or associate professor in the area of solid wood packaging science.

Position Description: The tenure-track position will be at the Assistant or Associate Professor level and will be an academic year appointment. The position will be split approximately as 60% applied and/or fundamental research and 40% teaching. The department will provide summer salary for the first year of the appointment and a start up package to the successful candidate. The successful candidate is expected to develop an internationally recognized research and graduate education program in structural design of wood pallets, containers, and packaging systems from renewable resources, with major focus on wood and woody fiber resources. Research areas to include, but not limited to, development of technologies which improve distribution packaging and unit load performance efficiencies with a focus on the design of wood fiber based packaging: pallets, wood crates and containers. The successful candidate will work cooperatively with the staff and facilities of the Center for Unit Load Design (www.unitload.vt.edu), and the external advisory board of the Center. Service responsibilities will include consulting with members of the Center for Unit Load Design as well as participating in workshops, short courses, and other outreach programs of the Department. Teaching responsibilities will include two undergraduate courses and one graduate course in the related areas of expertise. Opportunities to develop new courses in the area of expertise will be encouraged. The position will be in support of our new undergraduate degree option in packaging science, and the new packaging science minor now available to all students on the Virginia Tech campus. The successful candidate will be expected to obtain extramural funding, publish in refereed journals, participate in local, regional and national meetings of professional societies, serve as major professor for graduate students, and serve on graduate committees. Cooperation and collaboration with other scientists in the department and across our campus is expected. The position reports administratively to the Head of the department.

Qualifications: Candidates will have a Ph.D. in wood science, mechanical engineering, packaging science, or closely allied fields. The successful candidate must be able to communicate effectively with people at all levels in university, industry and other private sectors.

Preferred Qualifications: In addition to the above required qualifications, the candidate would have history of collaboration with colleagues on and off campus, experience reaching out to business, industry and government agencies and ability to be a good departmental, college, and university citizen; collegiality.

Application: Application materials should include a current vitae, official transcripts for all degrees at all institutions, the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of five professional references. The applicant should address his or her interest in the position by preparing a written statement of interest that addresses the matching of personal skills and education with the position description. All materials must be submitted electronically with exception of official transcripts, which must be mail. Submit on-line at www.jobs.vt.edu, referring to posting No. 061339. Review of candidate files will begin February 22, 2007 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

Inquiries: Dr. Paul M. Winistorfer, Professor and Department Head
Department of Wood Science and Forest Products
College of Natural Resources, Virginia Tech – Cheatham Hall (0323)
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone (540) 231-8853 or Email pstorfer@vt.edu

Assistant/Associate Professor – Manufacturing Systems

DEPARTMENT OF WOOD SCIENCE AND FOREST PRODUCTS

The Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech is seeking applications for the position of assistant/associate professor in the area of manufacturing systems. Virginia Tech has strong academic programs in wood science, marketing, business & operations management, and industrial engineering as related to this position. We seek a candidate who would develop and apply systems engineering innovations to effectively interface across our existing programs to support domestically competitive and sustainable wood products manufacturing businesses for the future.

Position Description: The tenure-track position will be at the Assistant/Associate Professor level and will be a calendar year appointment. The position will have responsibilities in extension programming and industry outreach (75%) and teaching/research (25%). The successful candidate is expected to work with the Virginia forest products

industry and support programming focused on competitiveness of the industry. In addition, responsibilities will include development, delivery, and provider of educational programs and training of Cooperative Extension agents to address manufacturing competitiveness needs of the industry and as might be supported through actions of the Cooperative Extension network of Specialists and Agents. The successful candidate will develop an internationally recognized extension and research program in manufacturing systems as related to the wood processing sector, that could include focus areas such as (but not limited to) lean/high-performance manufacturing, rapid prototyping technologies, statistical process control, Six-Sigma, business management, logistics, and supply chain management. Teaching responsibilities will initially include one undergraduate course in secondary processing. The successful candidate will also become a core faculty member of the new 'Student Manufacturing Enterprise Initiative' in the department. The Manufacturing Enterprise Initiative is envisioned to become a real-world experiential learning environment for students that focuses on bringing a product to the marketplace. There will be extension, outreach, teaching and research opportunities in collaboration with the Wood-Based Composites Center, the Sustainable Engineered Materials Institute, the Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management, the Center for Unit Load Design, the Sloan Forest Industries Center at Virginia Tech and in other colleges and academic units on the Virginia Tech campus. The position provides excellent opportunities to develop a strong interdisciplinary program with other researchers in the department and on the Virginia Tech campus. The successful candidate will be expected to work directly with the Virginia forest products manufacturing sector, obtain extramural funding, publish in refereed journals, participate in local, regional and national meetings of professional societies, serve as major professor for graduate students, and serve on graduate committees. Cooperation and collaboration with other scientists in the department and across our campus is expected. We seek to seamlessly integrate a leading manufacturing extension effort with contemporary research and undergraduate and graduate education. The successful candidate will have opportunities and expectations to work collaboratively with other Specialists in the department, and other faculty engaged in leading manufacturing and business management activities. The position reports administratively to the Head of the department.

Qualifications: Candidates will have a Ph.D. in wood science, biological systems engineering, industrial and systems engineering, management, statistics, or closely allied fields, with demonstrated experience and/or expressed interest in manufacturing systems addressing the forest industries sector. Candidates nearing degree completion will be considered given that degree completion is a requirement for continued employment once hired. The successful candidate must be able to communicate effectively with people at all levels in university, industry and private sectors. Candidates at the Associate Professor level must have a demonstrated track record of success in extension or research, including the ability to articulate a coherent extension and/or research agenda and to identify potential funding sources to support such activities.

Preferred Qualifications: In addition to the above required qualifications, the candidate would have history of collaboration with colleagues on and off campus, experience reaching out to business, industry and government agencies and ability to be a good departmental, college, and university citizen; collegiality.

Application: Application materials should include a current vitae, official transcripts for all degrees at all institutions, the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of five professional references. The applicant should address his or her interest in the position by preparing a written statement of interest that addresses the matching of personal skills and education with the position description. All materials must be submitted electronically with exception of official transcripts, which must be mailed. Submit on-line at www.jobs.vt.edu, referring to posting No. 061340. Review of candidate files will begin January 22, 2007 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

Inquiries: Dr. Earl Kline, Professor and Search Committee Chair
Department of Wood Science and Forest Products
College of Natural Resources, Virginia Tech – Brooks Forest Products Center (0503),
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone (540) 231-8841 or Email kline@vt.edu

General Announcements

The Ledger

A Newsletter of the University Controller's Organization

Website: <http://www.controller.vt.edu>

Vol. E, No. 50 January 4, 2007

Travel Update: Daily Commuting Miles Requirement Rescinded

We are pleased to announce that effective immediately, the requirement in the state travel regulations to reduce otherwise reimbursable business mileage by the traveler's normal daily commute mileage has been rescinded. It was determined that administering this policy has proven problematic and not cost effective for the Commonwealth. Commuting mileage, which is defined as mileage travel routinely and directly between the employee's residence and basepoint, remains non-reimbursable. However, travelers will no longer be required to deduct commuting mileage for legitimate business travel. Travel routing must be the most direct practicable route.

Personal Vehicle Mileage Rates Increase

Effective January 1, 2007, the reimbursement rate for an employee to perform official job duties is as follows:

- If a Motor Pool vehicle was not available or the use of a personal vehicle was cost-beneficial, an employee shall be reimbursed at an amount equal to the most recent business standard mileage rate as established by the Internal Revenue Service. Currently, this rate is 48.5 cents per mile.

Below is a summarization of the reimbursement rates in the Controller's Office Procedure 20335d: Automobile Travel located at: (<http://www.co.vt.edu/procedures/index.html#travel>)

Reimbursements for the use of personal vehicles are made at the following rates which are based on the costs of maintaining motor pool vehicles and the most recent business standard mileage rate as established by the Internal Revenue Service:

30¢ / Mile	Round trip is 100 miles or more and a Motor Pool vehicle is available.
48.5¢ / Mile	Round trip is less than 100 miles and a Motor Pool vehicle is available.
48.5¢ / Mile	Motor Pool vehicle is not available. (Motor Pool must provide a certification)
48.5¢ / Mile	Round trip is 100 miles or more, a Motor Pool vehicle is available and there is an economic benefit to the Commonwealth for using a personal vehicle. (Economic benefit must be well supported with an analysis of the personal vehicle versus a state vehicle charges.)

The travel voucher form has been updated to reflect this rate change.

Please download the new version of the travel form at:

http://www.co.vt.edu/forms/index.html#accounting_services

Guidance for Reconciling HokieMart Transactions in Banner

The Controller's Office in coordination with Internal Audit has revised "Procedure 10305a: Review of Financial Activities" to provide guidance for reviewing Banner Finance transactions in relation to the HokieMart. Please see the revised procedure at <http://www.co.vt.edu/procedures/p10305a.htm>. Please direct questions to Stacy King (kings@vt.edu) or Doug Irvin (irvinda@vt.edu).

Attached (Following 4 Pages): Virginia Forest Products Association 49th Annual Convention

49th Annual Convention

February 2 - 4, 2007 • Colonial Williamsburg Lodge and Conference Center

After three years and \$200 million of renovations and improvements, the Colonial Williamsburg Lodge has just recently re-opened for business. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to be one of the first to see and experience the "new look."

Plans for our 49th Annual Convention are nearly finalized, and now is the time for you to circle the dates of February 2-4, 2007 and secure your room reservation at the Colonial Williamsburg Lodge and Conference Center in Williamsburg. Our Annual Convention Program Committee (Patrick Evelyn, *Charles City Forest Products, Inc.*; Dr. Brian Bond, *Virginia Tech.*; Charlie Becker, *Virginia Department of Forestry*; and Bruce Griffith, *Griffith Lumber Co., Inc.*, ex-officio) has put together an interesting and informative business program along with social opportunities to relax with your friends and associates - all the ingredients for a successful convention.

The business of meetings has been important to Williamsburg since the 18th century, when Virginians gathered in their capital for sessions of the General Assembly, for courts, and for commerce. For over seven decades, the Williamsburg Lodge (one of John D. Rockefeller Jr.'s original Colonial Williamsburg hotels) has been the hostelry preferred by travelers who admire quiet elegance, attention to their comfort and an atmosphere of rustic ease. The Lodge has always been one of our favorite destinations, with its charming southern comforts and hospitality. Parts of the Lodge have been restored, others renovated and preserved. The expanded Lodge Conference Center will be the perfect venue for our social and business gatherings.

The weekend's activities will start on Friday, Feb. 2 with a reception sponsored by the **2007 Meeting Hospitality Fund Shareholders**. After the reception, plan to dine with friends in an authentic colonial tavern or in one of Williamsburg's many other fine restaurants. **Note: Due to seasonal restoration and/or maintenance of the other taverns, only Shields Tavern and Christiana Campbell's Tavern will be open on our convention weekend.** Reservations for dinner at a tavern are strongly recommended - please call toll-free 1-800-TAVERNS for information and reservations. If you feel like staying closer to home, the Lodge Restaurant offers fine dining.

Saturday morning's business session will start at 8:30 with the 49th Annual Meeting of the Association, where you'll hear about your Association's activities during the past year and the Program of Work for 2007. Outgoing Officers and Directors will be recognized for their contributions during their terms of service, and the incoming Officers and Directors will be officially installed. Then the business session will focus on these important and interesting topics:

- **"The New Oak Partnership"** is a coalition of hardwood lumber companies, timber management companies and associations who joined together in February of 2006 to raise the awareness of Oak in design and architecture communities. The Partnership has utilized direct mail, the internet, college student design contests, and one-on-one presentations to educate designers about the beauty, availability and characteristics of American Oak. Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers inc. has administered the project since its inception and AHMI President Tom Inman serves as the New Oak project manager. He will present details about the work in 2006 and plans for 2007.
- **"Logging in Virginia: A Changing Industry"** Jim Mooney, Virginia Loggers Association, will discuss the aging of the logging force, the critical lack of truck drivers, and how sawmills (especially small hardwood mills) are being impacted.
- **"The Value of Virginia's Forest Products Industry"** The Virginia Department of Forestry has just completed a new economic assessment of the value of Virginia's forest and forest products industry. Although the forest products industry is still a manufacturing leader in Virginia, the makeup of the various sectors is changing. Charlie Becker, Utilization and Marketing Manager with VA Department of Forestry, will discuss the latest numbers and trends from the study, and what they may hold for the future.
- **"Update on Activities to Establish WoodLINKS Programming in Virginia"** - Dr. Paul Winistorfer's update will include news of regional efforts in Southside, a trip taken by a Virginia delegation to visit several WoodLINKS sites in Michigan, and planned future activities in Virginia.

Continued . . .

- **"Woods to Goods: Optimizing the Forest Industry Supply Chain"** Virginia Tech's Brandon Martin and Earl Kline will discuss new information system technology currently being developed to help facilitate communication and commerce between the landowner, the manufacturer AND the customer. Tools to manage the overall supply chain are becoming increasingly important now that our industry is going global and our supply chain logistics and transportation systems are becoming even more complex, expensive and overburdened.

The business session will be over by noon, leaving the afternoon free to enjoy the many attractions of Williamsburg. The Lodge's location provides an easy walk to Merchant's Square and other Colonial Williamsburg shops, along with sightseeing, historic tours, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum, the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum, etc.

Weather-permitting, golf will be available at one of the The Golden Horseshoe Golf Club's courses, either the Gold Course or the Green Course. One course will be closed for seasonal maintenance, but we don't know which one at this time. Attractive seasonal greens fees (including cart) will apply: \$69.00 for the Gold Course and \$50.00 for the Green Course. The Spa offers a variety of soothing treatments, including therapeutic massages, aromatherapy, skin treatments and combination packages.

Saturday evening features the traditional Annual Banquet of the Association, preceded by a reception sponsored by the **2007 Meeting Hospitality Fund Shareholders**. Dress for this evening's activities will be coat and tie for men, evening attire for ladies. After the banquet, outgoing Chairman of the Board Bruce Griffith will install the new Chairman in a traditional changing-of-the-guard ceremony. In keeping with the popular musical theme of the past couple of conventions, the evening will conclude with a performance by the **Country Boys**, a great bluegrass band that has won many regional contests as well as the world famous Galax Fiddlers Convention in 2005 as best bluegrass band. A dance troupe (led by champion flatfooter Brenda Joyce) will demonstrate and teach flatfooting and clogging, and we'll finish with an official flatfooting and clogging contest with prizes to the winners!

It's going to be a great convention and an interesting and entertaining weekend. Please plan to attend. Enclosed are several items you need in order to participate.

- ✓ **Preliminary Program** - Page 17 is a copy of our program which outlines all the weekend's activities.
- ✓ **Hotel Reservations** - Don't delay; rooms at The Lodge are always in exceptionally high demand! You can reserve your room by phone - call toll-free 1-800-261-9530 and ask for the Virginia Forest Products Association rate.

DEADLINE: Wednesday, January 3, 2007

- ✓ **Registration Form** - Complete the Convention Registration Form (page 19) and return it with your check to the VFPA office. Please remember when completing this form that only the "industry members" pay the full registration fee - spouses and children pay a reduced amount. A pre-addressed envelope is included for your convenience.

DEADLINE: Wednesday, January 24, 2007

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the VFPA office for information. We look forward to seeing you in Williamsburg in February!

**The Deadline for Reserving Your Room at the Williamsburg
Lodge Is Wednesday January 3, 2007
Call 1-800-261-9530 for Reservations!**



Virginia Forest Products Association 49th Annual Convention February 2 - 4, 2007



Colonial Williamsburg Lodge and Conference Center
Williamsburg, VA

Preliminary Program

Friday - February 2, 2007

- 2:00 p.m.: **Registration Opens - Convention Center**
4:00 p.m.: **VFPA Board of Directors' Meeting - Convention Center**
6:30 p.m.: **Welcoming Reception - Convention Center** (Dress: evening attire for ladies; coat and tie for men)
Generously sponsored by the 2007 Meeting Hospitality Fund Shareholders.
7:30 p.m.: **Dinner - You're On Your Own . . .**
You are free to enjoy one of the many fine restaurants in the Williamsburg area. **NOTE: Shields Tavern and Christiana Campbell's will be the only taverns open during our convention. Call 1-800-TAVERNS for reservations.**

Saturday - February 3, 2007

- 8:00 a.m.: **Registration Opens - Convention Center**
8:30 a.m.: **Business Session - Convention Center (Dress: casual)**
Virginia Forest Products Association's 49th Annual Meeting
VFPA Chairman Bruce Griffith, Presiding.
Minutes of 48th Annual Meeting: J. Ken Morgan, Jr., Secretary.
Treasurer's Report: Bill Vargo, Treasurer.
Staff Report/Program of Work: J. R. "Randy" Bush, CAE, President.
Recognition of Outgoing Officers and Board Members.
Installation of New Officers and Board Members.
- NOTE: Dress for the evening functions will be evening attire for ladies, coat & tie for men. Dress for Saturday morning's business session will be casual.**
- 8:50 a.m.: **Business Session Continues**
"The New Oak Partnership" - Tom Inman of the Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers Association will discuss how the Partnership is educating designers about the beauty, availability and characteristics of American Oak and what the plans are for 2007.
- 9:15 a.m.: **Business Session Continues**
"Logging in Virginia: A Changing Industry" - Jim Mooney of the Virginia Loggers Association will discuss the aging of the logging force, the critical lack of truck drivers and other factors impacting the industry.
- 9:45 a.m.: **Coffee Break - Convention Center**
Generously sponsored by the 2007 Meeting Hospitality Fund Shareholders
- 10:30 a.m.: **Business Session Continues - Convention Center**
"The Value of Virginia's Forest Products Industry" - Charlie Becker of the Virginia Department of Forestry will report on a newly completed economic assessment of the value of Virginia's forest products industry.
- 11:00 a.m.: **"Update on Activities to Establish WoodLINKS Programming in Virginia"** - Dr. Paul Winistorfer's update will include news of regional efforts in Southside, a trip taken by a Virginia delegation to visit several WoodLINKS sites in Michigan, and planned future activities in Virginia.
- 11:30 a.m.: **"Woods to Goods: Optimizing the Forest Industry Supply Chain"** - Virginia Tech's Brandon Martin and Earl Kline will discuss new information technology currently being developed to help facilitate communication and commerce between the landowner, the manufacturer and the customer.
- Noon: **Business Session Ends** - Afternoon free for shopping, sightseeing, golf, etc.
- 1:00 p.m.: **Informal Golf Outing - Golden Horseshoe Course**
- 6:30 p.m.: **Reception - Convention Center** (Dress: evening attire for ladies; coat and tie for men)
Generously sponsored by the 2007 Meeting Hospitality Fund Shareholders.
- 7:30 p.m.: **49th Annual Banquet - Convention Center**
Bruce Griffith, Master of Ceremonies.
Installation of new Chairman of the Board.
Entertainment by the Country Boys, a great bluegrass band that has won many regional contests as well as the world famous Galax Fiddlers Convention as "Best Bluegrass Band."

Sunday - February 4, 2007

No Organized Group Functions - Enjoy Being With Friends - Please Drive Home Safely!



Virginia Forest Products Association
49th ANNUAL CONVENTION
February 2 - 4, 2007
Williamsburg Lodge • Williamsburg, VA

Office Use Only

Date _____
 Check No. _____
 Amount _____

REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE REGISTER BY JANUARY 24, 2007. PRE-REGISTRATION ASSURES:

- Guaranteed seating in meal functions
- Registration packet waiting for you
- An attractive, pre-printed namebadge
- No long registration lines
- No checks to write or money to pay on-site
- A smoother, more enjoyable meeting!

CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Please register the following people. If your spouse and/or children will be attending, please list their name(s) below in the correct column so a name badge can be prepared. **Full Convention Registrants** will receive a name badge which serves as admission to all convention activities: Friday evening reception, Saturday business session, Saturday evening reception and Saturday banquet. **One-Day Registrants** can register to attend the Friday evening reception or the Saturday morning business session.

Industry Registrants Full Names	Nickname For Badge	Spouse/Guest Full Name	Nickname For Badge	Children's Names (If Applicable)
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Number of Registrants Fee Subtotal

FULL CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

Fee covers Friday evening reception, speakers' costs, equipment rental, printing and postage Saturday evening reception and banquet and related convention disbursements.

Industry Member Full Registration _____ x \$160.00/person = \$ _____
 Spouse/Guest/Children Full Registration _____ x \$80.00/person = \$ _____

ONE-DAY REGISTRATION - FRIDAY ONLY:

Fee covers Friday evening reception only.

Friday Registration _____ x \$30.00/person = \$ _____

ONE-DAY REGISTRATION - SATURDAY ONLY:

Fee covers Saturday morning business session only.

Saturday Registration _____ x \$40.00/person = \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

Your Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

Return form with payment to: Virginia Forest Products Association
 P. O. Box 160 • Sandston, VA 23150-0160
 Phone (804) 737-5625 FAX (804) 737-9437

**Cancellation Policy: Cancellation on or before Jan. 30, 2007 - full refund. Cancellation after Jan. 30, 2007 - no refund.
 Pre-registered no-shows - full registration fee billing and/or no refund.**