

May 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.

Red Alert

Inside VT Wood will move to a summer publication schedule of twice per month beginning on June 1. Our weekly communication schedule will resume August 13, 2007.

News From Paul Winistorfer

- I have prepared a summary of our Virginia Delegation trip to Michigan last week to look at and explore opportunities for establishing an educational platform in Virginia to better serve our students and the Virginia industry. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments on this regional partnership effort.
- The Center for Unit Load Design Advisory Board meets on Thursday May 21 at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Please contact Ralph Rupert, CULD Director if you have any questions.
- Thursday May 21 from 7-9 pm we will celebrate the career of Dr. Mark White at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Join us for an evening of fun and remembrances with many friends and colleagues of Mark's. Don't miss this opportunity to send Mark off in the style in which he is accustomed!
- Beginning today May 21 — the inaugural edition of the Wood Enterprise Institute (WEI) kicks off with 13 undergraduate participants. The WEI promises to be a unique learning environment for our students. Be a part of it! WEI headquarters is located at the Brooks Forest Products Center.

Virginia/Missouri Delegation Visits Michigan Wood Industry Partners

By Paul Winistorfer

Last week, May 15-17, 2007, a delegation from Virginia and two guests from Missouri visited various sites in Michigan to look at and explore opportunities for establishing an educational platform in Southside to provide leadership and human resource development for the wood industry. The trip had been in the making for many months.

Participating in the trip were:

Paul Winistorfer

Professor and Department Head
Department of Wood Science and Forest Products
Virginia Tech

Amy Lammerts

Southern Virginia Higher Education Center
Director, Program Development, Marketing and Communications

Paul Nichols

Executive Director of Administration
Halifax County Public Schools

Gregg Mason

Career and Technical Education Coordinator
Danville Public Schools

Jeff Arnold

Danville Community College
Director of Business, Industry & Economic Assistance

Gerald Sexton

Danville Community College
Instructor/Coordinator, Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Wood Products Technology

Scott Engleman

Industrial Technology Truman High School, Independence Missouri

Andrew Shockley

Industrial Technology Truman High School, Independence Missouri

Wednesday, May 16th**Tour Stop #1 – West Ottawa High School, Holland Michigan**

We visited West Ottawa High School in Holland Michigan and WoodLINKS USA teacher Eric McCourt. Eric has a beautiful woods laboratory at West Ottawa – a new high school building in Holland. Eric's woods laboratory is approximately 5200 sq. ft. of floor space with 2400 sq. ft. of mezzanine. Eric's lab is very well equipped with some new and high tech secondary wood processing equipment. The new school and Eric's lab and equipment were supported via a bond issue in Holland. Superintendent Rosemary Ervine visited with group for an hour expressing strong philosophical support for the WoodLINKS sanctioned program and the value to the students, industry and society. Her support was a welcome and refreshing perspective on what used to be traditional woodworking education.



Opposite Page Image:

Visiting Eric McCourt's WoodLINKS Sanctioned Wood Products Lab at West Ottawa High School, Holland, Michigan.

(L-to-R) Gerald Sexton (Danville Community College), Rosemary Ervine (Superintendent West Ottawa Public Schools), Eric McCourt (West Ottawa WoodLINKS USA teacher), Paul Winistorfer (WoodLINKS USA President and Virginia Tech), Amy Lammerts (Southern Virginia Higher Education Center), Greg Mason (Danville Public Schools), Paul Nichols (Halifax County Public Schools), Jeff Arnold (Danville Community College), Andrew Shockley, Industrial Technology Truman High School Independence Missouri), Scott Engleman, Industrial Technology Truman High School, Independence, Missouri.

Tour Stop #2 – Great Lake Woods, Inc.

We visited Great Lake Woods in Holland, Michigan and were greeted and hosted by Great Lake Woods President and owner Mr. Keith Malmstadt. Great Lake Woods manufacturers parts and components for the secondary wood industry. They employ 180 and have grown into a leader in the U.S. Keith Malmstadt is the former President of WoodLINKS USA and was instrumental in his support of the West Ottawa High School building project and has supported teacher Eric McCourt. Keith is very positive on the industry, workforce opportunities, and future growth opportunities. Great Lake is an innovator and has developed new products and processes for the secondary industry.



Keith Malmstadt, President of Great Lake Woods, Inc. (far left) explains the moulding market to the Virginia-Missouri delegation.



In the headquarters of Great Lake Woods, Inc. Holland, Michigan

(l-to-r) Andrew Shockley (Industrial Technology Truman High School Independence Missouri), Keith Malmstadt (President, Great Lake Woods), Gerald Sexton (Danville Community College), Paul Winistorfer (WoodLINKS USA President and Virginia Tech), Amy Lammerts (Southern Virginia Higher Education Center), Paul Nichols (Halifax County Public Schools), Greg Mason (Danville Public Schools).

Wednesday May 16th

Tour Stop #3 – Stiles Education-Stiles Machinery Grand Rapids, Michigan

We spent __ day at Stiles Education and Stiles Machinery on Wednesday. We were hosted by Duane Griffiths and his colleagues from Stiles. Stiles is the premier supplier of equipment to the secondary wood industry, and other industries and their service and training are second to none. We started off in the Stiles Education suite where Duane Griffiths introduced the wood industry to the delegation. We learned about primary and secondary processing, and then other segments of the industry. We then toured the showroom floor and had first hand demonstration of some of the latest technology in the marketplace. Duane and Stiles treated us to lunch before our departure.





Chris Dolbow of Stiles demonstrates the new Altendorf Sliding Table Saw – the F45 ELMO. This has to be the sleekest, most sophisticated table saw in the marketplace with its nearly hands-off operation.



Duane Griffiths and Victor Mathews demonstrate the Homag Edgebander



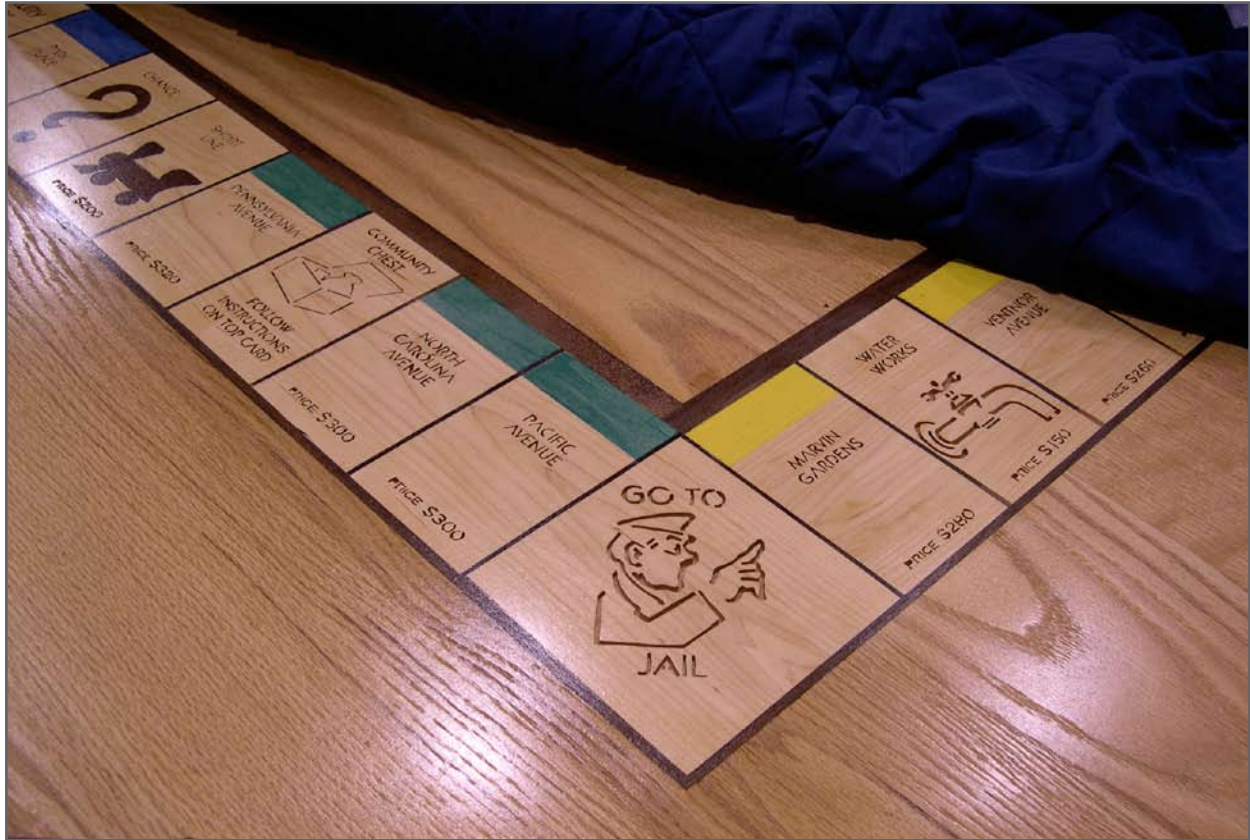
Rich Brusnahan demonstrated the Belotti High Pressure Water Jet Cutting Technology – shown here cutting a rose from a granite slab.



David Brusseau demonstrates a CNC Machine Center

Tour Stop #4 – Michigan Industrial and Technical Education Society State Competition – Battle Creek, Michigan

We visited the Michigan Industrial and Technical Education Society State Competition (MITES) where hundreds of students and teachers were displaying their work in many mediums for judging. There were expected to be nearly 1500 entries in several wood categories. When talking to teachers and students, I was struck by the number of students who were going on to 4-year university programs in some field of engineering; there is a lack of a 4-year program specifically in wood science and forest products in Michigan and many of these students were not aware that a program like ours at VT even exists. This competition was an impressive display of ability by these students and is a potential place for us to recruit high quality students into our undergraduate degree program at Virginia Tech.



An entirely hand-cut Monopoly game board in wood!



Pool tables were popular. The student who made this was enrolling in Civil Engineering in a Michigan University.



Just some of the entries at the MITES competition, including beds, chests, dressers, game tables, chairs and many, many other items.



The cherry bathroom vanity (without sink cut-out yet) was made by one of Eric McCourt's student at West Ottawa High School.



Our own Dr. Brian Bond would appreciate these dog sleds!

Trip summary – this was a great trip by all measures with interested participation by our Virginia delegation. We made new friends in Michigan and with our Missouri colleagues. We must continue to envision the future of our Virginia industry via the educational platform and human resource development we aspire to as partners in this initiative. There is opportunity for all partnering institutions to leverage their own expertise and interests into a greater whole. The future looks bright for us as we move forward. Next up – another site visit by the Virginia delegation to yet another location with yet different program offerings. I will keep you posted! Paul.

Dr. Han Speaks at the International Packaging Symposium in Seoul, Korea



Dr. Jongkoo Han was invited as a guest speaker at the International Packaging Symposium sponsored by Korea Association of Certified Packaging Professionals. The symposium was held on April 25 at the Kimex Conference Room located in Seoul, Korea. Title of his Presentation was “Recent Trends of PLA(Poly Lactic Acid) Researches and Applications: Case Studies.