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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6

INSIDE VT WOOD

News from Audrey Zink-Sharp, Interim Department Head

- Our Spring 2010 semester has started on a sunny but snowy note and we look forward to six more weeks of winter. At least I do and am probably the only one except maybe Punxsutawney Phil.
- We have two new post doctoral associates joining us this year, Dr. Hezhong Wang and Dr. Zhiyuan Lin. Hezhong received his Ph.D. Fall 2009 from Virginia Tech under the guidance of Dr. Maren Roman and Zhiyuan received his doctorate from Virginia Tech in Fall 2009 under the guidance of Dr. Scott Rennecker. Both Hezhong and Zhiyuan will continue their research efforts with their former advisors and will also be part of the Sustainable Engineered Materials Institute research group.
- Dr. René Aernoudts will join our department as Assistant Adjunct Professor. Dr. Aernoudts is founder and chairman of the Lean Management Institute in Driebergen, the Netherlands. Before founding the Institute he was a managing partner in two consulting firms in the Netherlands that conducted projects in industry and provided services both in Europe and abroad. Dr. Aernoudts is also an experienced leader in operations, marketing, sales, and finance for a variety of organizations. We are fortunate to have Dr. Aernoudts with us. Welcome René.
- Will Pfeil has joined the college's Informational Technology group which is part of the CNR Dean's Office. Of course we are very sorry to see Will move out of our department but wish him well in his new role in the college. He is beginning his new position with a major rework of our CNR website. We look forward to Will's talent being put to good use in showcasing our college. Will's office is now 216E Cheatham Hall.



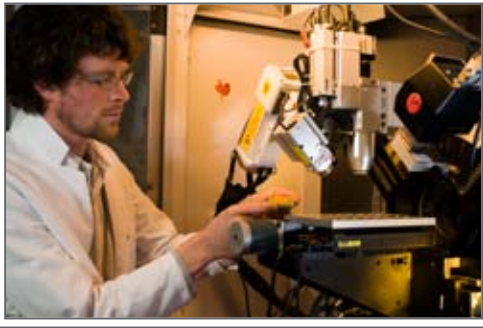
Dr. René Aernoudts

Some other news in our department:

- Our 2010 spring seminar, Wood 5004 Graduate Seminar, is being offered on Monday afternoons, 4:00 p.m. at the Brooks Forest Products Center classroom. Please join in the seminar this semester. Dr. Chip Frazier is coordinating and has some interesting speakers lined up.
- Inside VT Wood will be moving to a monthly distribution rather than weekly. Continue to look for distribution the first week of each month.
- Congratulations are in order for Dr. Kevin J. Edgar and Carter Fox. Dr. Edgar has been named the North American Associate Editor of the journal, *Cellulose*. *Cellulose* is considered the leading peer reviewed journal in the field of cellulose and related naturally occurring polymers. Our congratulations, Kevin, on this achievement.



Dr. Kevin Edgar



Carter Fox was chosen to receive an American Chemical Society Polymers Division travel grant. Carter will represent the Wood Science and Forest Products department and the Macromolecules and Interfaces Institute at the Excellence in Graduate Research Symposium 2010 at the ACS National Meeting in San Francisco, March 21 – 25, 2010. Carter will present his research in the Cellulose and Renewable Materials poster session of this meeting. Carter is a Ph.D. student studying under the guidance of Dr. Kevin Edgar. Congratulations Carter on being awarded this opportunity.

Brooks Renovation of Student Innovation Space Nears Completion

By Earl Kline

The laboratory and classroom space renovation is nearly completed at the Brooks Forest Products Center. This renovation was made possible through funds available from the Provost office at Virginia Tech to improve student learning through experience-based instruction.



This space will now offer our students a top-notch venue to learn about technologies that are critical to the success of today's businesses in a fast-paced global economy. The mission of the Student Innovation laboratory at VT is to provide

a learning and discovery environment allowing undergraduate students to test their design and innovation concepts within a business context.

Capabilities of the Student Innovation lab include product design and visualization, product prototyping, market research, business planning, performance measurement, material sourcing, production planning, and supply chain management. As soon as the area is approved for “occupancy”, student projects in the Wood Enterprise institute (WOOD 3445/3446) and Introduction to Wood Science and Forest Products (WOOD 1234) will take full advantage of this space to experience innovation. Thanks to all at Brooks who have endured the dust and the noise!

Packaging Students On Board Project

By Bonnie Maccubbin



Sailboat arrives at Brooks Center. From left to right, Jim Bisha (president IOPP), Karen Morris and Peter Cook (Topaz Sailing Systems), Ralph Rupert (packaging program director)

The IOPP (Institute of Packaging Professionals) students will be developing a “boat in a box” packaging system for a sailboat manufacturer in England. The Topaz Sailing System boats are manufactured by Topper Industries in Ashford in Kent, then shipped in a sea container to Baltimore, where the sole distributor individually ships them to customers via UPS. These lightweight 10’ plastic sailboats are new to the US market and, while the boats themselves can withstand the delivery, there is usually cosmetic damage to the finish that is unacceptable to the customer. The packaging students will work on the project in the newly renovated Student Innovation Laboratory in the Brooks Center under the guidance and supervision of Ralph Rupert and Alex Hagedorn.

This project should be very interesting and engaging for the students, while showcasing the all encompassing nature of packaging. Topaz Sailing Systems was referred to the Center for Unit Load Design by Ongweoweh, a center member pallet company, who recommended the center’s expertise in total transport packaging design. In exchange for the service of the students and the Center for Unit Load Design in developing a transport solution, Topper Industries will be donating a new Topaz sailboat to the IOPP chapter to use as a fundraiser. Be on the lookout for information on how you could be the owner of this new boat!



View from the stern of the Topaz Sailing System with accessories.

Hammett, Smith Wish Robert Kenny Farewell

Robert Kenny the natural resource specialist at Virginia Tech's Office of International Research, Education and Development (OIRE) has been working with our faculty to locate and pull together proposals for international projects. He back stops two OIRE-based projects that involve faculty from our college - one in Liberia on which Bob Smith worked during 2008, and a project in Nepal for which Tom Hammett is the PI and has traveled several times to Nepal during the past two years. Robert is leaving Virginia Tech for a position with the WalMart Foundation. Tom and Bob were invited to the OIRE end of the year celebration, and presented Robert with souvenirs for him to take to Arkansas.



Tom Hammett (R) presenting Robert Kenny (L) with a VTWood Hat



Bob Smith (L) and Robert Kenny (R)

26th Annual Graduate Student Assembly Research Symposium to be Held March 24, 2010

The Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) of Virginia Tech proudly invites you to the 26th Research Symposium, a forum that provides graduate and undergraduate students a unique opportunity to showcase their scholarly pursuits and achievements in their respective academic fields. The symposium is intended to stimulate interaction and exchange of ideas among faculty, staff, and students from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds. All Virginia Tech students are invited to present their work at the Research Symposium.

Key Dates:

- Abstract submissions open: January 31, 2010
- Abstract submissions close: February 26, 2010
- Notification of acceptance: March 6, 2010
- Poster/Oral/Video Presentation and Performance: March 24, 2010
- Keynote Speech and Awards Reception: March 24, 2010

The keynote speaker is Dr. Andrew Weaver. Dr. Weaver is one of the world's foremost climate scientists. He was a lead author in the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—the group that, with Al Gore, won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

For information about submission guidelines, awards, keynote speaker, etc., please access the following url: <http://www.gsasymposium2010.uusa.vt.edu/>

Upcoming Job Fair

[Connection Co-op & Internship job fair](#): Tues. Feb. 9 – Cassell Coliseum

The only job fair exclusively for co-ops, internships and summer jobs!

Visit the website for a complete list of employers attending the fair and the majors they are seeking.

[Eight different Virginia Tech job fairs in February!](#)