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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](#).

News From Paul Winistorfer

- Our Faculty Spotlight this month is Dr. Audrey Zink-Sharp, Professor and Associate Department Head. Dr. Zink-Sharp joined our department in November of 1992 as an assistant professor.
- The Woodworking Machinery Manufacturers Association (WMMA) scholarship committee has announced their plans to visit campus the end of March for the purposes of selecting VT engineering students for their scholarship awards.

WMIA Educational Foundation Scholarships Available to Wood Science Students

Students don't miss the opportunity to apply for the Woodworking Machinery Industry Association (WMIA) annual scholarship. WMIA has announced its 2009 scholarship program. Scholarship awards range from \$1,000 - \$5,000. You can apply online at www.wmia.org or pick up scholarship application forms in Cheatham Hall at our front desk. Don't miss this OPPORTUNITY! DO IT TODAY. Deadline is March 3, 2009. Please let us know if we can help in any way or provide letters of support for your application. Let's secure a WMIA scholarship in our department!

2009 Wood Award – Graduate Students Take Notice

Call for nomination/submission of materials for the 2009 Wood Award is now open. Graduate students visit with your major professor about this award program that recognizes outstanding graduate student research by the Forest Products Society. We have had many past award winners from our department over the history of this award. Ask your major professor today about this high recognition program.

Wood Industry Student Placement Program Listings ([Website](#))

Richmond, VA	Marketing And Sales Train...	Feb 23, 2009	Blair Dumond Inc.
Richmond, VA	Sales Management Trainee	Mar 31, 2009	Moulding And Millwork
High Point, Louisville Or Memphis As Starting Location.	Management Trainee	Apr 30, 2009	Hood Distribution
Roseburg Forest Products Various Locations	Managment Trainee / Inter...	May 01, 2009	Roseburg Forest Products
Richmond, VA	Production Management Tra...	Mar 31, 2009	Moulding And Millwork



Dr. Audrey Zink-Sharp

Hello, I am Dr. Audrey Zink-Sharp, a professor of wood anatomy and Associate Department Head in the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech. I joined the department in November of 1992 straight out of graduate school at the State University of New York in Syracuse, New York. I started teaching my undergraduate classes in wood anatomy and properties the spring semester of 1993, and 16 years later, I still enjoy teaching that same subject. I've heard it said that wood anatomy isn't exactly the most exciting part of wood science, but for me, it actually is. Probably because I enjoy exploring what is essentially invisible to our unaided eyes but an entirely new frontier when viewed with optical and electron microscopy. Wishing to open this microscopic world to others and inspire them to explore with microscopes, I developed a new graduate course this spring semester in quantitative wood anatomy and wood microtechnique.

In addition to microscopic exploration, I have been working on a virtual reality model of a wood cube. This electronic wood cube will allow students and researchers to virtually travel into and experience the intricate nature of wood anatomy from the inside rather than just by peering through a microscope or thumbing through a textbook. Because the model is an animated, multi-sensory experience, in 3-d virtual reality, it will literally "get in your head", and I have high hope that it dramatically enhances the way wood anatomy is approached in the classroom and industrial laboratory.

I have been very fortunate to work with a great group of colleagues and students in our department and elsewhere in wood science and forestry. Together we have established a research program that spans microscopic wood cell structure to full-scale applications such as bolted connections and design of new wood-based composite products. I also serve as Director of the Sustainable Engineered Materials Institute (SEMI). SEMI is composed of faculty and students from the departments of Forestry and Wood Science. Collaborating on research with our forestry colleagues has been very interesting and rewarding. For me what has been most interesting is relating forest management strategies like fertilization, pruning, and genetic modifications to the quality of the wood produced, specifically the micromechanical properties and microscopic cell wall structure.

Like others in my department, I grew up on a farm, but unlike most other people, I grew up on a farm in South Dakota. Farming is often called a hard life, but try farming in South Dakota! I loved the farming life, South Dakota, and even winter up north, but when searching for my career, I knew Virginia Tech had an extremely good program in wood science and forest products and was overjoyed to be able to establish myself here in Blacksburg. Outside of work, I enjoy competitive trap shooting and my husband and I spend many weekends and Wednesday evenings, summer and winter alike, at the trap range. The competition keeps things lively and requires hours and hours of practice, but we have made many friends and traveled to some rather rustic, if not exotic, places.

Workshop for Remaining Competitive in Hardwood Components Production

April 20–21, 2009 at the Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) in Princeton, WV.

The department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech announced a workshop on “Remaining Competitive in Hardwood Components Production” to be held April 20 and 21, 2009 at the US Forest Service’s Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) in Princeton, WV.

With business activities contracting, residential housing markets down by more than 50 percent, and offshore producers fighting to maintain and increase their share of the U.S. market for hardwood products, remaining competitive is no small feat for domestic producers of hardwood components. While many aspects of the current business climate cannot be controlled, leading companies always want to understand the underlying reasons of events, how they will likely work out, and where there is an opportunity that waits to be taken advantage of. With a focus on the economic situation, participants at the workshop will also hear about opportunities like certified (green) components, lean manufacturing, and they will meet with leading industry experts to discuss issues important to the industry.

This workshop is designed to give hardwood industry managers an opportunity to assess the current economic situation, to learn of business opportunities, to compare their efforts with others in the industry, and to discuss issues with industry experts. Sponsored by the Forest Service’s Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC),



Hardwood components are a critical product in the hardwood industry’s value chain. Some components manufactured are complex and have a high value. (picture: Buehlmann).

the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA), the Wood Component Manufacturers Association (WCMA) and Wood Digest Magazine and organized by Virginia Tech’s Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, the two day conference – Remaining Competitive in Hardwood Components Production will be of interest to anyone interested in manufacturing hardwood components, supplying lumber or buying components. Participants will have an opportunity to visit Merillat’s leading, Shingo prize winning, lean component manufacturing facility.

The conference, to be held at the Forest Service’s Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) in Princeton, WV on April 20 – 21, 2009, will shed light on the economic situation and on opportunities for successful business in the future.

For more information on the *Remaining Competitive in Hardwood Components Production* workshop, visit <http://www.woodscience.vt.edu/woodcomponents/> or contact Urs Buehlmann, VTWood Products Extension at (540) 231-9759, buehlmann@gmail.com.



State-of-the-art component mill (CalDoor, Morgan Hill, CA; picture: Buehlmann)

For immediate release

Woodwork Career Alliance Holds Planning Summit

Road Map Created for Skills Standards and Credentialing Project

McLEAN, VIRGINIA – The Woodwork Career Alliance met here January 13-15, 2009 to plan a road map for the future in producing and publishing a *Skill Standards* manual and credentialing program for the woodworking industry. The Summit, moderated and facilitated by The Communicators, a nationally recognized credentialing consulting group out of Meyersville, Maryland, focused on **producing the pilot publication** and laying the groundwork for **structuring an industry-wide credentialing program**.

Throughout the three-day Summit, Alliance members discussed the characteristics and functions of developing performance standards and **methods to measure performance levels**



of woodworking skills. Options were explored as to directions to take in **initiating, implementing and sustaining** a credential program that poten-

tially can **benefit thousands of people** and hundreds of organizations.

In addition, WCA Summit participants examined target markets interested in the project, as well as the most effective ways to present performance skills programs to those markets.

"Action plans for the next five years were developed to keep the outstanding momentum we have created continuing and growing," reports Scott Nelson, WCA President, and CEO of Central Plains Millwork, Inc., in Lincoln, Nebraska. "It's our aim to make this program highly accessible and beneficial not only to individuals, but to the industry as a whole, and to related industries as well."

A pilot manual is currently in production, with plans to have a **version finalized by the end of the year**. This unified North American Standard of Tool Skills and Evaluations is being written and compiled by volunteers from all parts of the advanced wood processing industry as a means to support the woodworking industry in preparing productive woodworkers. Performance standards allow woodworkers to **demonstrate their competency** in in-plant woodworking skills and earn credentials that are recognized throughout North America.

"This program provides a future for the woodworking industry in having a skilled, trained



workforce that is productive and offers individuals the **opportunity to excel and advance** in their chosen field, **become more marketable**, and in **attracting young people** to the woodworking

business," says WCA secretary and chief learning officer Greg Heuer of the Architectural Woodwork Institute.

Skill Standards will provide many advantages to maintain the reputation of today's woodwork manufacturing industry and sustain industry professionalism in the future. Among these are:

- ▶ **Professional recognition for accomplished skills.**
- ▶ **Identification of the skills required by industry employers.**
- ▶ **Provision of benchmarks for performance.**
- ▶ **Establishment of a foundation for credentials.**
- ▶ **Validation of accredited training programs.**

WCANA is a not-for-profit organization actively promoting a skilled work force for the advanced woodworking industry in the United States and Canada. The Alliance works in partnership with the Wood Education and Resource Center, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, Forest Service, and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

For more information about the *Skill Standards*, the Woodwork Career Alliance and how you join in this endeavor, visit woodworkcareer.org.

Forest Products Society Conferences and Meetings in 2009

Complete program and registration information for conferences in 2009 will be posted in PDF format when available. To contact the conferences & meetings department, phone (608) 231-1361, ext. 208, fax (608) 231-2152, or e-mail conferences@forestprod.org.

Wood Frame Construction Manual Seminar: Design of Wood Frame Buildings for High Wind, Snow, and Seismic Loadings

March 11, 2009, Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare, Rosemont, Illinois, USA

10th International Conference on Wood & Biofiber Plastic Composites

May 11-12, 2009, Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center, Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Cellulose Nanocomposites Symposium

May 13, 2009, Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center, Madison, Wisconsin, USA

FPS 63rd International Convention

June 21-23, 2009, Doubletree Hotel Boise-Riverside, Boise, Idaho, USA

Nanotechnology for the Forest Products Industry

June 23-26, 2009, Edmonton, Canada

International Conference on Woody Biomass Utilization

August 4-5, 2009, Bost Conference Center, Mississippi State University, Mississippi, USA

International Conference on Wood Adhesives 2009

September 28-30, 2009, Harveys Resort Hotel & Casino, Lake Tahoe, Nevada, USA

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American Furniture Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. Announces Design Award Competition

AWARD COMPETITION GUIDELINES

Deadline for Submission: March 1, 2009

Background

The American Furniture Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc., (AFHF) is an international, industry-wide organization founded to research, collect and preserve our cultural, economic and artistic history, as well as to honor those individuals whose outstanding achievements have contributed to the continued growth and development of the U.S. furniture industry.

Eligibility

Open to all furniture designers and design students.

Submission Form

You may download the entry form found on the Web site, www.furniturehalloffame.com.

The sender must prepay all shipping costs, insurance, customs duties and handling fees for all entries.

All submissions must be posted with your entry form to:

American Furniture Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc.
202 Neal Place
High Point, NC 27262
Design Criteria

You may enter more than one design. Each design entered must be accompanied by its own entry form.

Requirements

1. Must include a representation of the flame as a symbol of the enduring spirit of our industry and the energy required to achieve the innovation, accomplishment and honor achieved by members of the American Furniture Hall of Fame.
2. Any medium may be used (i.e. crystal, acrylic, metal, wood, etc.)
3. Approximately 12 inches in height
4. Include a written description of the design inspiration and how it relates to the furniture industry and membership in the Hall of Fame (Maximum 300 words)
5. Production must not exceed \$400 per award. Please provide possible production resources.

Designs should be submitted as

1. Sketches (electronic or hand drawn) provided as hi-resolution jpeg or tiff files.
2. Additional mock ups or elements may be included using materials such as cardboard, Styrofoam, etc. to show the dimensional aspects of piece.

Groups and Multiple Entries

You may enter the competition as a group. One member should fill out the submission form, and all group members' names should be at the start of the descriptive paragraph.

Originality

All submissions must be original work, created for this competition, and not already in production. **IMAGES SUBMITTED MUST NOT CONTAIN PREVIOUSLY COPYRIGHTED ARTWORK.** Do not copy-and-paste elements from other sources. Submissions with such elements will be disqualified.

Conditions of Entries

1. No responsibility can be accepted for incomplete, illegible, lost or damaged entries. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt.
2. Entries cannot be returned to entrants.
3. It is a condition of entry that all entrants abide by the rules of the design competition.
4. American Furniture Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. reserves the right to modify the winning design.

Judging

Finalists will be selected by a panel of representatives of the American Furniture Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. A committee of distinguished industry veterans will select the winning design. Entries will be judged on design, innovation, originality, form, presentation and appropriateness. The winner will be notified by letter.

Schedule

Competition Opens: November 1, 2008

Competition Closes: March 1, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. EST

AFHF Chooses Finalists: May 1, 2009

Selection Committee Chooses Winner: June 15, 2009

Announcement of Winner: July 2009

Unveiling of New Awards: September 2009

1st Presentation: October 2009 Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

Publicity

The winner may be required to participate in press initiatives including the following:

Name and winning concept to be incorporated in all PR outreach and press materials for the American Furniture Hall of Fame Foundation.

Rights

The American Furniture Hall of Fame Foundation retains the nonexclusive right to publish or display any competition entry in any format, exhibition or publication.

Questions:

Contact Lauren Estep at lestep@furniturehalloffame.com

Mark your calendar:

- Virginia Forest Products Association Spring Meeting March 20-22, 2009 Williamsburg, VA.
- Virginia Forestry Association Annual Convention April 24-26, 2009 Norfolk, VA