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# INSIDE VT WOOD

## 2009 Wood Science and Forest Products Undergraduate Scholarship Reception and Award Ceremony

Twenty-six undergraduate scholarships were awarded at the 2009 Scholarship Reception and Award Ceremony held November 11, at The Inn at Virginia Tech. Guest speaker for the program was Dr. Stephen Smulski. Dr. Smulski is President of Wood Science Specialists Inc., a consulting firm in Shutesbury, Massachusetts, specializing in solving performance problems with wood products in all types of applications. A consulting wood scientist to the makers, sellers, and users of wood products, Dr. Smulski received his doctoral degree from the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, Virginia Tech. He also spoke in several classes on the topics of performance of wood products in use and utilizing wood identification in problem solving. Additional guests at the reception included some of our scholarship donors, Mrs. Marianne Stern, Hank and Peggy Graeser, Geza and Beth Ifju, and Ken Morgan, Travis Robinson, David Billings of Morgan Lumber Company. In addition to the scholarships awarded through the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, Dr. Robert Smith presented several scholarships from the Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management at Virginia Tech. We express our sincere appreciation to all our kind scholarship donors. Their generosity has made a significant impact in each of these student's lives and we are very grateful for the gifts.



Dr. Stephen Smulski presenting "Wood Science in the Courtroom" at the 2009 Undergraduate Scholarship Reception and Award Ceremony.

2009 Undergraduate Scholarship Award Winners. From left, Front row: Nicholas D'Amico, Chris Rider, Courtney Kepley, Scott McDonald, Zach Cogan, Justin Morris, Anthony Muscatello, Dan Roethle; Back row: Dabney Beahm, Coleman Burch, James Lassiter, Will Rand, Jeff Dolan, Andrew Seufert, Shawn Crawford, Evan Friedman, Tyler Schloen, and Grant Vander Kolk

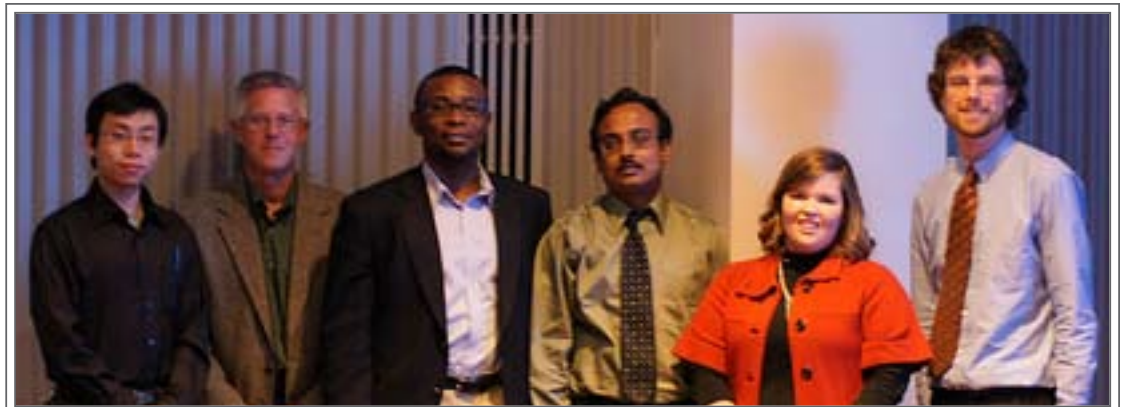


## Scholarships and the recipients this year:

Anderson-Tully Lumber Company Management Scholarship	Justin C. Morris
Boehm-Madisen Lumber Company Scholarship	Jeffrey A. Dolan
Columbia Forest Products Company Scholar	Daniel L. Roethle
Danzer Group Scholarship	Jeffrey A. Dolan
Frank Miller Lumber Company Freshman Scholarship	Coleman P. Burch
Hardwood Manufacturers Association Scholarship	Scott S. McDonald
Mann and Parker Company Scholarship	Courtney A. Kopley
Morgan Lumber Company Scholarship	Christopher N. Rider
Snavelly Forest Products Scholarship	Zachary M. Cogan
Victory Clay Barringer Endowed Scholarship	Christopher N. Rider
Victory Clay Barringer Endowed Scholarship	Evan J. Friedman
Virginia Forest Products Association Scholarship	Anthony M. Muscatello
Byran W. Graeser Memorial Scholarship	Shawn D. Crawford
Byran W. Graeser Memorial Scholarship	Evan J. Friedman
E.G. and J. Stern Fromberg Memorial Scholarship	Daniel L. Roethle
E.G. and J. Stern Fromberg Memorial Scholarship	Christopher N. Rider
E.G. and J. Stern Fromberg Memorial Scholarship	Grant J. Vander Kolk
G. Scott Francis Scholarship	Nicholas E. D'Amico
G. Scott Francis Scholarship	James F. Lassiter
George and Mary E. Ragsdale Scholarship	William Conan Cook
George and Mary E. Ragsdale Scholarship	Tyler T. Schloen
Geza Ifju Scholarship in Wood Science and Forest Products	Courtney A. Kopley
Geza Ifju Scholarship in Wood Science and Forest Products	William Dabney Beahm
Lora and Martin Kelley Family Scholarship	Nicholas E. D'Amico
Morgan Lumber Company Management Team Scholarship	William J. Rand
Southeastern Dry Kiln Club Scholars	Andrew C. Seufert

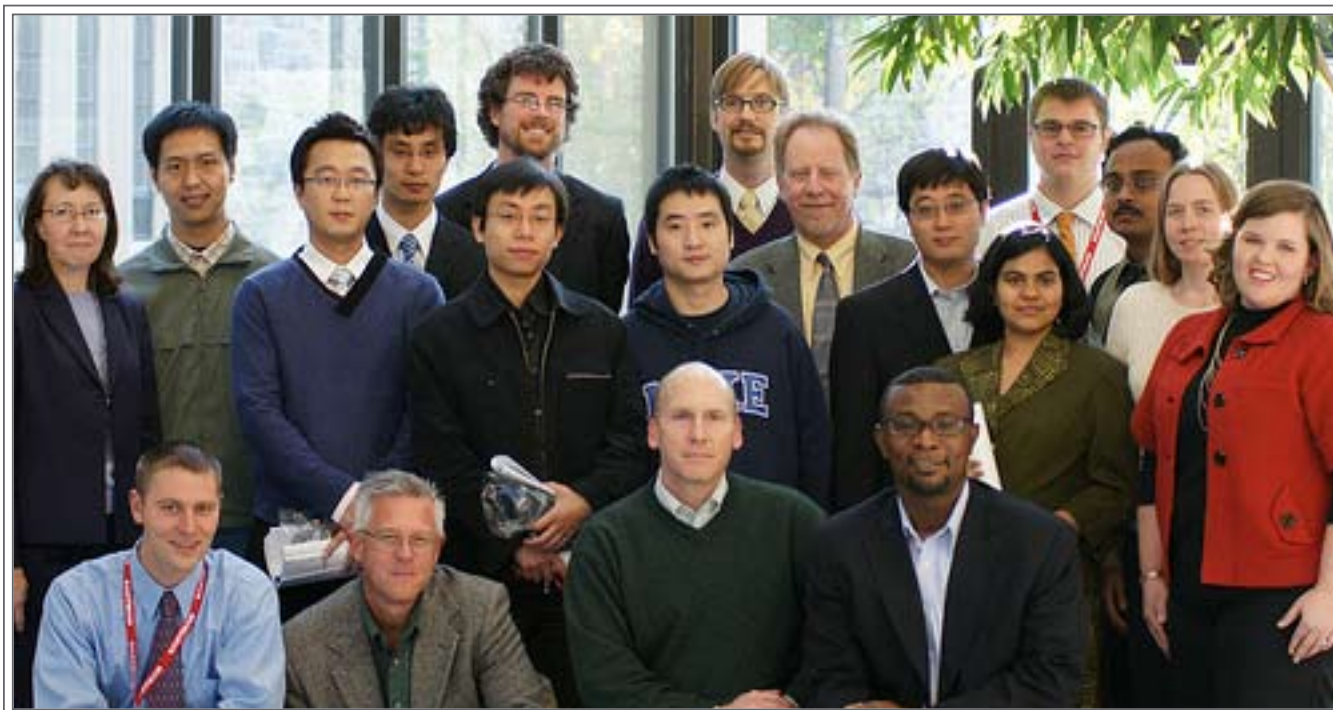
## 2009 Eastman Chemical Company and Wood Science and Forest Products Graduate Student Symposium

Several of our graduate students won awards at the recent Graduate Student Symposium sponsored by Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, Tennessee, held at Virginia Tech. Eight graduate students competed in an oral presentation competition.



Award winners at recent Graduate Student Symposium sponsored by Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, Tennessee, held at Virginia Tech Department of Wood Science and Forest Products. From left: QingQing Li, Wesley McConnell (Eastman Chemical), Richard K. Johnson, Sudip Chowdhury, Laurel Reitfort (Eastman Chemical), and Carter Fox.

- Carter Fox won first place and an award of \$2,000 for his presentation on “Completely Regioselective Synthesis of a Novel Cellulose Derivative – A Possible Intermediate to Both Cationic and Anionic Cellulose Derivatives” under the guidance of Dr. Kevin J. Edgar.
- Richard K. Johnson won second place and an award of \$1,000 for his presentation on “Hydrophobized Nanocelluloses and Their Dispersions in Organic Media” under the guidance of Dr. Audrey Zink-Sharp.
- Sudip Chowdhury and QingQing Li tied for third place. Sudip Chowdhury presented “Application of Small Specimen Wood Rheology and 2H NMR Quadrupolar Coupling to Probe in situ Organization of Amorphous Lignocelluloses” under the direction of Dr. Chip Frazier.
- QingQing Li presented “Experimental Investigation into the Sub-Structure of Cellulose Microfibrils” under the direction of Dr. Scott Rennecker. Sudip and QingQing share a third place prize of \$500.



Participants at the Graduate Student Symposium

These awards were made to recognize outstanding research by graduate students in the Wood Science and Forest Products and the Macromolecular Science and Engineering Programs at Virginia Tech. Through these awards, Eastman Chemical Company sought to promote graduate student research in cellulose chemistry, biopolymers, biomass processing, and related areas. A panel comprised of Laurel Reitfort and Wesley McConnell from Eastman Chemical Company and faculty members from Virginia Tech selected the winning presentations based on four criteria: originality/creativity and significance of the research, design and methodology of the research, soundness of conclusions, and quality of the oral presentation. The symposium was jointly organized by Laurel Reitfort, Eastman Chemical Company, and Kevin J. Edgar, Wood Science and Forest Products, Virginia Tech.

### **IoPP and FPC Help Renew the New River**

The river cleanup was held on Saturday, November 7th. Twice a year, the Institute of Packaging Professionals and the Forest Products Club conduct a cleanup of the New River from the Montgomery/Giles county line to the railroad tracks. The clubs are affiliated with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation “Adopt-A-Stream” program. Thanks to all volunteers for your time and efforts. The next cleanup will be in the spring, hope to see you there.



## IoPP and FPC Volunteers



Pictured from left to right: Row 1: Professor Emeritus Marshall White, Courtney Kepley, Kelly Schlicker  
Row 2: Scarlett Sanchez, Instructor Alex Hagedorn, Daniel Roethle, Will Rand, Chris Rider, Jeffrey Dolan, James Lassiter, Jesse Paris;  
Back Row: Russell Carr and William C. Cook

## Department Organizes Booth at 2009 Green Living and Energy Expo in Roanoke.

The Department was well represented at the tenth annual Green Living and Energy Expo at the Roanoke Civic Center November 6th and 7th hosted by the Association of Energy Conservation Professionals. Tom Hammett organized a College of Natural Resources booth to help raise awareness about our new courses in sustainability – including Green Building Systems and Sustainable Green Enterprises. On Friday, Kevin Knight (grad student) helped Tom set up and staff the booth which included a wooden demonstration structure, and Dan Hindman and Ms. Chayanika Mitra (grad student) staffed the booth on Saturday. This turned out to be a very productive outreach effort as we networked with several agencies and companies from the region that will be helpful in our research, and some will offer opportunities for internships or even employment for our students. For

more information contact Tom Hammett at [himal@vt.edu](mailto:himal@vt.edu) 540/231.2716 or Dan Hindman at [dhindman@vt.edu](mailto:dhindman@vt.edu) 540/231.9442.



Tom Hammett and Kevin Knight are joined by Lane Gulliam, Director of Alumni Affairs for CNR, as they staffed the CNR booth.



Paul Brinkley, current student in the department's Sustainable Green Enterprise Class visited the CNR booth with his father, Lewis Brinkley. Lewis Brinkley graduated from Virginia Tech 50 years ago!

## Department Joins the University and the Town of Blacksburg in Recognizing Sustainability Week 2009.

Over the past few years the university and the town of Blacksburg have worked together to plan Sustainability Week — a week-long series of activities focused on sustainability. This year, Tom Hammett thought this might be a good opportunity to showcase some of the department's new courses, and in general to get the word out about our department to potential students across campus and to companies based in or near the town that may be interested in working with us. He organized two booths – one in Squires Student Center (Thursday), and the other downtown (on Saturday) to distribute information on several of our courses. We distributed brochures describing our on-campus and off campus courses dealing with sustainability (e.g., Dan's new class in Green Building Systems; and Tom's two classes: Sustainable Green Enterprises; and Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment). While the attendance at both events was low due to poor weather and a lack of publicity, the interest shown by faculty and students in our programs was high. On Thursday we were joined by students from Tom's class, Dr. Bruce Hull, Professor in forestry, and several graduate students. All agreed that there is a lack of courses in sustainability on the Virginia Tech campus, but we are well positioned to fill the need as interest by students is growing. We will be planning similar activities to get the word out on what we are about in the future.



Billy Weitzenfeld, Executive Director, Association for Energy Conservatoin Professionals, stops by the CNR booth during the Sustainability Week activities in downtown Blacksburg. During this meeting he invited Tom to submit a request for a booth at the Green Living and Energy Expo to be held in early November

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### Upcoming Workshops

#### Workshop: Introduction to Business Process Management – November 19

Presented by Henry Quesada, Assistant Professor of Business Management, Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, Virginia Tech

##### Workshop description:

Business Process Management (BPM) is defined as an improvement framework that relies on the concept of value chain management by Michael Porter. By implementing basic principles from methodologies such as balanced scorecard, lean thinking, six sigma, total quality management, and process automation, BPM can help your organization to increase customer satisfaction levels, align your business processes with your strategy, and increase the productivity of your internal operations.

Participants in this workshop will learn what value chains are and how to recognize them within their own company. Concepts, definitions, methodologies, and information technologies that support the BPM process will be taught in this workshop. Participants will learn how to represent their value chains in the context of business process management. Also, an overview of most important requirements of BPM information technologies will be presented so participants will know what technology is most applicable to their own needs.

##### Course outline:

- BPM principals: The Value Chain Concept
- Process Basics
- Business Performance
- Business Improvement Frameworks
- Tools for Process Modeling
- Information Technologies for BPM
- Examples and Applications of BPM

##### Location and Registration

Workshop is scheduled for November 19 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Roanoke Higher Education Center <http://www.education.edu/>. Registration is \$35 and includes coffee breaks, and materials. Lunch is on your own. Please contact Henry Quesada at [quesada@vt.edu](mailto:quesada@vt.edu) for registration or further details.