

March 2009						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16		18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

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

- I will be attending a Career Day at Hermitage High School in Richmond on Wednesday presenting information about careers in wood.
- Students take note: opening of web course requests for Fall Semester 2009 begins on March 24. We have many course changes coming for the Fall Semester. Later this week we will have available a 'transition document' that will help you and your advisor navigate our changes. We will distribute this electronically. Please see the course change information below that we have been notifying you of these past few weeks.

Department Seminar Announcement

MAR

18

The Wood-Based Composites Center

Presented by Linda Caudill, Managing Director

Wednesday, March 18, 1:00 PM Brooks Center Classroom

Upcoming Seminar Presentations (Wednesdays at 1pm Brooks Classroom):

MAR

25

Llyn Sharp – VT STEM

VT-STEM K-12, or Virginia Tech's Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics K-12 Outreach Initiative, is an interdisciplinary group of people and programs that share research and resources among the university community, K-12 education, and other partners to contribute to Virginia's leadership in K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

VT-STEM K-12 programs and opportunities are aimed at diverse K-12 student, teacher, and university audiences, including classroom resources, teacher professional development, outreach consulting, education scholarship and K-12 formal and informal outreach.

APR

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Sam Conn – Director of Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning

Come hear about Wood Science's new initiative in distance learning course development!

Department Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students Attend SouthPack

A diverse group from the department attended the SouthPack trade show in Charlotte on March 11. The regional packaging show had exhibits from graphic design to robotics, including several companies from Roanoke and one from Christiansburg, and a presentation on lean manufacturing. The show provided numerous leads for CULD testing services, while also educating students and staff on the all encompassing world of packaging.



L-R: Jim Bisha, Dr. Earl Kline, Peter Hamner, Bonnie Maccubbin, Dr. Mark White, Ralph Rupert, Scarlett Sanchez, Zhangjing Chen, Will Pfeil, and Gavin Wherry

STUDENTS: Early Information on Course Changes for Fall 2009

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS NOTE THE FOLLOWING PLANNED CHANGES IN OUR COURSES AND CURRICULUM FOR FALL SEMESTER 2009. Watch for further information prior to registration regarding established times for these course changes in our curriculum. Plan to see your advisor as needed for help and clarification.

Undergraduate Students

Options will be Merged:

- Forest Products Marketing and Management and Manufacturing Systems will be merged into a single new option named Forest Products Business

Courses will be Merged:

- Mechanics I & II (WOOD 3315/3316) will be merged into a new single course. For fall this new course will come under the heading of WOOD 4984 Wood Mechanics Special Study (4 credits) – **Mechanics will not be taught fall semester 2009; it will be taught spring semester 2010.**
- Composites I&II (WOOD 4445 and 4446) will be merged into a new single course. For fall this new course will come under the heading of WOOD 4984 Wood Composites Special Study (4 credits)
- Wood Products Operations Management and Forest Products Business Management (WOOD 4624/4634) will be merged into a new single course. For this fall the new course will come under the heading of WOOD 4984 Forest Products Business Systems Special Study (3 credits)
- Lumber Manufacturing & Drying and Secondary Wood Products Manufacturing will be merged into a new single course. For fall this new course will come under the heading of WOOD 4894 Wood Products Manufacturing Special Study (3 credits)

Usual Occurring Fall Semester Courses that Will Not Be Taught Fall Semester 2009

- **Wood Mechanics (WOOD 3315/3316 merged course)**
- **Computer Application Systems in Forest Products (WOOD 4154)**

New Courses to be Offered

- WOOD 4984 Wood Enterprise Institute Special Study will be moved into the option checksheet as a requirement for the new Forest Products Business option and is a two semester sequence. For fall this new course will come under the heading of WOOD 4985 Wood Enterprise Institute Special Study (3 credits)
- WOOD 4984 Green Building Systems Special Study is a new course that is planned to be added into the Wood Structures and Materials option. This option will also soon be renamed. For fall this new course will come under the heading of WOOD 4984 Green Building Systems Special Study (3 credits)

Graduate Students

- WOOD 5984 Special Study: Fundamentals of Wood Material Science will be offered this fall semester, 2009. A course proposal to establish this course as Wood 5124 Fundamentals of Wood Material Science has been submitted to the College Student Policy and Affairs Committee but because there is not sufficient time to get approval prior to the fall semester, we will again teach this as a special study.

This course is considered the foundation course in wood material science that establishes the base for subsequent in-depth graduate courses in wood science. It is required for all incoming graduate students and it will be offered annually in the fall semester. The lecture component is Tues & Thurs 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. and laboratory sessions are Monday 1:30 - 3:30 a.m. The course is 4 credits.

Content includes wood anatomy and formation, wood polymer science, and mechanical and physical properties of wood and wood-based composites.

For more information, contact Dr. Zink-Sharp.