

April 2008						
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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 final Graduate Student Spotlight and Seminar presenter for the spring semester is Garrett Norman, MS candidate working with Dr. Kline. The title of his presentation is “Just-In-Time Manufacturing System Design for Rough Mill Systems: A Case Study”. Please join us at 9:00 am on Friday morning in the Brooks Classroom.
- I am meeting with the University Architect this week in a preplanning assessment of our new building space and programming needs. Have you made your contribution to “Building Our Future”?
- We have our first company signed up for our September Wood Week Career Fair! Be sure to help us promote the event and reach out to your contacts.
- Administrative Professionals Day is Wednesday April 23. This day and the entire week is a time to acknowledge the department staff. Debbie Garnand, Angela Riegel, Kenny Albert, Rick Caudill, David Jones, and Will Pfeil are the best department staff on our campus! Please take time this week to recognize our valued colleagues for their great work to support our department, and their professional and collegial nature. We will have a luncheon on Thursday April 24th at a local restaurant — watch for details in the coming days.

Scholarship Application Deadline is May 15th

Our department scholarship application deadline is May 15th, for scholarships to be awarded effective fall 2008. Application may be made on line. You can find our downloadable application form, and link to the online application on our department website at <http://www.woodscience.vt.edu/students/scholarships/scholarlist.asp?type=1>

Notification is made during the summer, and students are recognized at our Wood Week Scholarship Recognition Reception. The reception is scheduled for September 17th, 2008 at the Inn at Virginia Tech.

Register for Wood Week 2008 Career Fair

Wood Week 2008 is set for the week of September 15, 2008. Our Career Fair is Thursday September 18, on the Drillfield of the Virginia Tech campus. We have increased our capacity this year to 75 companies. Registration is now live and linked from the Wood Week 2008 link on our homepage. Please help spread the word on the career fair and help us reach our goal of 75 participating firms this year.



IOPP at VT Travels to IOPP Student Conference at MSU

By Jim Bisha

This year's Student Packaging Conference was held at Michigan State University from April 10th-12th. Over 40 packaging students from their respective schools, which included Clemson, RIT, Virginia Tech, and Wisconsin Stout, were joined by more than 100 Michigan State packaging students at the conference.

The Friday Speaker Series was the keystone learning opportunity of the conference. Students heard presentations from industry leaders such as Roger Zellner, director of Sustainability GTQ Kraft Foods, and Mike Keller from KTM Industries on counterfeiting and how it is affecting our industry.

There were also presentations from three MSU professors, including: Dr. Laura Bix who is using retina tracking, motion capture and pressure mapping devices to try and quantify the human/package interface; Dr. Robb Clark, who spoke on RFID and its challenges in the current market place; and Dr. Tee Downes, MSU Professor Emeritus, on his highly valued perspective on the world of packaging. These presentations provided students with intellectual stimulation and exposure to facets of packaging unknown to many attendees.



The winning team from the Tower Challenge included Andrew Jackson and Jim Bisha of our packaging program.

Friday night's banquet at the Spartan

Football Stadium proved to be one of the highlights of the conference. After excellent food and a humorous presentation by Mista Moore from Clemson, the students were broken into teams and the design activity of the night was outlined. Entitled the "Tower Challenge," teams had to build the tallest structure capable of supporting a brick, using only two pieces of 16"x16" corrugated board in 40 minutes; the team with the tallest structure won. The winning team created a structure 47 inches tall and was composed of students from Wisconsin Stout, Virginia Tech, and Clemson.

The conference concluded Saturday with tours of MSU's packaging laboratory facilities. They have the largest packaging program in the country, and to see their wide variety of graduate and undergraduate laboratory facilities was invaluable in helping to understand the direction our industry is heading.

Adopt-a-University Program: VT + Boise; AWC + OSU

By American Wood Council

Boise has again sponsored students in the Design of Wood Structures class at Virginia Tech. 2005 Wood Design Packages were provided to 49 undergrads and 10 grad students there. Professor Daniel Hindman, Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, expressed appreciation for the donation: "This donation represents a significant investment in the civil engineering students' future. The students are very appreciative and surprised by the donation."

ICTAS Sponsors NSF Seminar on the VT Campus

Dr. Chuck Liarakos of NSF will be on campus this Tuesday, April 22. His seminar which is co-sponsored by ICTAS, Fralin Biotechnology and ISCE, is scheduled for 2:00-3:30 in the Fralin Auditorium and is open to the campus. We hope you can make arrangements to attend.

Abstract:

"Life in Transition: Biology at NSF in a Time of Planetary Change"

Continued on Page 4



Garrett Norman
M.S. Candidate

My name is Garrett Norman and I am a 2nd year Masters student studying under Dr. Earl Kline. I graduated from the Wood Science department in 2005 and went to work for Timber Truss Housing Systems as a truss engineer in Orange, VA for a little over a year before returning to Blacksburg for graduate school. I enjoyed my time as an engineer but was drawn towards the manufacturing plant, which ultimately lead to my return to the Wood Science department. I plan to defend my thesis in May and then head back to the work force.

My graduate work has involved the design of a pull based manufacturing system for a furniture rough mill. Furniture production was completely new to me going into the project and it has been quite an adventure learning the in's and out's of the furniture world. During my undergraduate studies I became interested in "lean

manufacturing" and I have been fortunate enough to be able to base my thesis work around that.

I am from Mt. Sidney, Virginia, which is a small town in the Shenandoah Valley. My mother is a Reading Specialist in the Augusta County public school system and hands-down the best cook ever. My father is a wildlife biologist and serves as the Small Game and Furbearer Program Manager for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Needless to say, my younger brother and I have had some very unique experiences with wildlife. My brother is a civil engineer for a company located in Blacksburg and my sister-in-law is a medical student at VCOMM.

I try to spend as much time outside as I possibly can, which usually consists of hunting, fishing and golfing. I was a snowboard instructor at Massanutten Resort for several seasons before moving to Blacksburg. If snow did not melt I believe I would have become a permanent ski bum. Hokie football and basketball games have been a very important part of my time in Blacksburg and I am looking forward to returning for home games. The Wood Science department has been like family to me since my undergraduate work and the friendships I have forged over the past years will be what I miss the most of Blacksburg.

Life on Earth is the only life we know. Biology is the ongoing story of human curiosity about life in all its manifestations and of the necessity to understand how the living world both adapts to and shapes Earth's history.

Earth's history is deeply entwined with the evolution and proliferation of life. During its history, the Earth has experienced a number of geological and climate altering events resulting in profound transformations of the living world, including vast episodic extinctions of many life forms. The key to understanding how the living world both responds to and affects climate change lies in defining the principles and mechanisms of resilience and sustainability that enable some life forms to survive, adapt to, and ultimately transform their environment. A comprehensive understanding of how the living world has and is shaping our planet - including the diverse strategies by which living systems obtain and use energy to survive and adapt, and the fundamental transformation of Earth resulting from the origin of life – are essential to developing realistic expectations about direction and limits of planetary change resulting from the reciprocal and synergistic interactions of biosphere and geosphere.

The proliferation of life on Earth is a consequence of the evolution of a variety of energy transduction systems that sustain and perpetuate life across a wide range of diverse and often exotic physical habitats. The search for undiscovered life on Earth - including a vast unknown microbial world yet to be incorporated into fundamental concepts of life's history - has just begun to expand our knowledge of novel energy transduction systems. These systems can inspire the development of biology-based technologies capable of providing efficient, sustainable and renewable energy, offer potentially important insights into life's origin and adaptation to environments once considered alien to life, and provide a more comprehensive basis for the search for life in our solar system.

Biography:

Dr. Charles D. Liarakos received his Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1968, and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Vanderbilt University in 1973. After completing a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Pharmacology at Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Liarakos held medical school faculty appointments at Baylor College of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the University of Tennessee, Memphis, where he taught biochemistry and molecular biology and did research in the field of RNA biochemistry and translational regulation. Since 1994, Dr. Liarakos has served three separate tours of duty in the Biology Directorate at the National Science Foundation as Program Director, Deputy Division Director and in his current position as Senior Advisor for Strategic Planning, Policy and Analysis in the Office of the Assistant Director for Biology. Prior to returning to the NSF, Dr. Liarakos held positions as Director of Scientific Review for Autism Speaks (2006 – 2007), and as Chief Scientist and Director of Peer Review (1999 – 2005) for NASA Peer Review Services and NASA Research and Education Support Services, where he managed the independent peer review of ground and flight research proposals in the life and physical sciences for NASA and the National Space Biomedical Research Institute.

Engineering Question of the Day



- Q. How much does a house weigh?
A. Just a tad more than a rural two-lane bridge can hold, apparently.



Job Announcements

Augusta Lumber

Finishing school? Looking for a company on a growth curve? Looking for a job where you can apply what you have learned in school?

We are Augusta Lumber a wood products company poised to grow and grow rapidly. Growth requires the right people, the right backing and the right opportunities. We know we have all of these but want to find more of the right people. Are you one of those people?

We believe...

- you are graduating from a great program that has given you the necessary skills to succeed.
- that you need the opportunity to apply those skills and gain experience.
- that it is important for managers to know how a company works from the ground up.
- that great people are who make any company great.

To help you gain the right experience we have developed a 30 month managerial training program to guide you through each of our functional areas of procurement, yard management, lumber production, flooring production and sales. Upon completion we expect you to have the knowledge and experience necessary to contribute to the growth of Augusta Lumber as a manager.

We expect...

- commitment to excellence.
- commitment to results.
- commitment to people.
- commitment to success.

In other words we expect you to be committed to the program and to bringing your best effort to work.

In return, we offer you the opportunity to grow with us, learn from some of the best in the industry, very competitive compensation, great benefits, and a strong commitment to success.

If you have interest in working with us please contact Terry Campbell at terrycampbell@augustalumber.com with your resume' and any questions you may have.





Carolina Inspection Services, Inc.

Position: Quality Inspector for wood packaging materials program under the IPPC/ALSC regulations for the ISPM 15. This is a field staff position.

Territories Available: Southeastern

Job Description: This position requires a lot of travel to multiple sites/states in a territory inspecting facilities (manufacturers, packaging/freight companies, heat treaters, etc.). This candidate will inspect companies on a monthly basis for records management, required HT mark o lumber inventory, and wood packaging materials for compliance in the IPPC program. There would be a 2-3 week training period, possibly in the NC office and in other states. Ongoing training provided also. A good driving record is required for this individual also.

It requires a person that is self-directed and very detail oriented. They will work with little supervision. Reliability, dependability, and the ability to learn and grow with the company are characteristics that we are looking for in a candidate. Flexibility and the ability to handle problem solving situations is a necessity.

Background requirements: An associates degree/bachelors degree preferred. We are looking for a candidate with knowledge of wood products or a forestry background. Drug test, background check, and motor vehicle record check required.

Compensation: Salary DOE. A vehicle for travel will be provided and all applicable expenses paid. 2 weeks vacation/yr. and all major holidays paid. After 90 days of employment, 50% of health insurance will be paid by company. (Employee will be responsible for retaining their own health insurance) After the first year of employment, they would be eligible for a simple matching IRA. Commissions available with sales development.

For interest in our company, please contact Amanda Gilreath-Eaton at 866-753-5738 or cis@carolinainspection.com. P.O. Box 398, Marshville, North Carolina 28103. Access our website at www.carolinainspection.com for more information.

P. O. Box 398 Marshville, North Carolina 28103-1145
Business: 704-624-1996 · Fax: 704-624-1946
www.carolinainspection.com



Student Wood Enterprise Institute
WOOD 2984, CRN 61782
Summer '08



What is the Student Enterprise?

- ✓ A chance to experience what you learn in class by making it work in a real business enterprise situation
- ✓ A chance to develop skills not typically taught in the classroom
- ✓ A chance to fine-tune your time management abilities
- ✓ A chance to learn how to teach things you know to those who don't
- ✓ A chance to build your resume, build a portfolio, and showcase your abilities in more visible ways in a variety of outlets
- ✓ A chance to deal with problems, understand their root cause, and to develop appropriate countermeasures.
- ✓ A chance to learn what it really means to align business operations with market demand
- ✓ A chance to test the waters of risk, innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship
- ✓ A chance to further build your network, both in the business world and in the academic world
- ✓ And probably most importantly, a chance for you to guide and direct your own learning experience in directions that are both meaningful and fun! The enterprise is owned by you and it is what you want to make it.

The Wood Enterprise Institute (WEI) introduces an actual wood product “concept-to-market” business project during the Summer Semester 2008. Students will continue last year’s successful inaugural start-up of WEI. Learning experiences include how to improve, make, and market a wood product, organize a business to make and sell it, measure and assess key performance areas, and manage the quality of the processes necessary to sustain a profitable and timely business. Sponsoring faculty and industry representatives will interact with students throughout the project for business models, technology, and practical advice that would be necessary to sustain a competitive business venture. This study is offered as a 6 credit full summer semester course.

Next Information Meeting:
5:30pm --- Tuesday, April 1, 2008
317 Cheatham Hall

Please contact Dr. Earl Kline (kline@vt.edu) for more information about WEI.



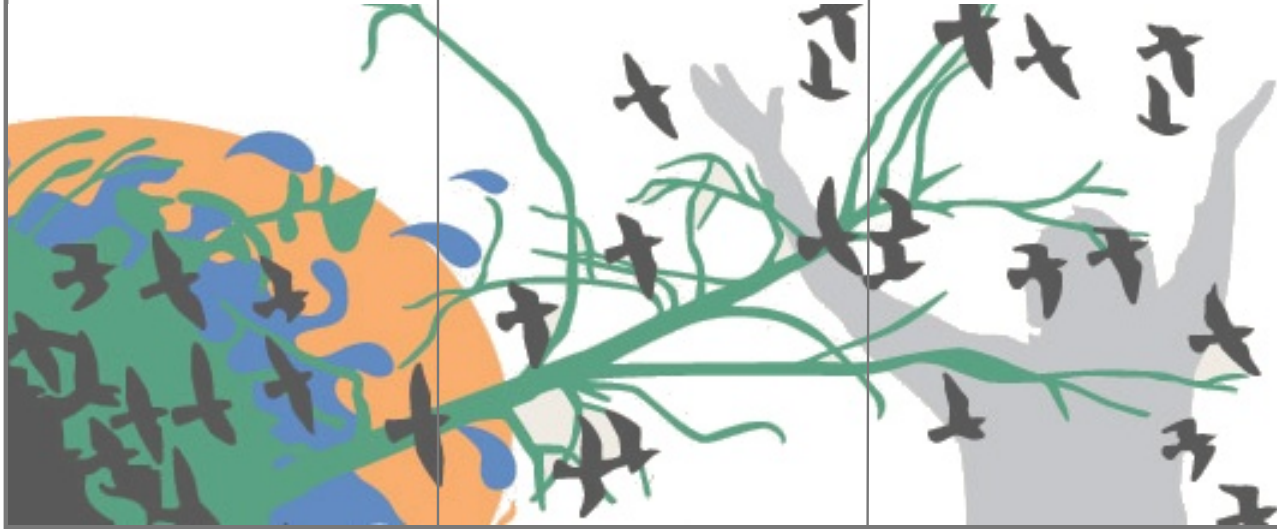


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right

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<p>sunday 20</p> <p>Stroubles Creek Cleanup</p> <p>co-sponsored by VT SEEDS: 11AM Duck Pond Overflow Lot</p>	<p>monday 21</p> <p>Speaker: Marilyn Brown Energy Speaker Series: 1PM Graduate Life Center Multipurpose Room</p> <p>Speaker: Misty Gregg "The Real Dirt on Clean": 4PM Squires 145</p>	<p>tuesday 22</p> <p>Earth Day Fair Drillfield: 10AM-3PM</p> <p>Green Effect Rally Show your support! Drillfield 5PM</p> <p>Speaker: Frank Harmon Green Architecture: Squires 341/5 7:30PM</p>
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WWW.

Environmental coalition

Earth Week 2008

APRIL 20-25

wednesday 23	thursday 24	friday 25
<p>Duck Pond Cleanup co-sponsored by APO: 12-1PM</p> <p>Recycled Fort Building Drillfield: 2:30-4PM</p> <p>Speaker: Josh Tulkin "Evolution of the Youth Climate Movement": Whittemore 300 7PM</p> <p>Car-Free Day Pledge an entire day to alternative transportation! sponsored by Emerging Green Builders</p>	<p>Mountain Justice Day Panel: Concerned Citizens of Giles County: Squires 345 4PM</p> <p>Beehive Design Collective Newman Library Entrance 10AM-4PM</p> <p>Speaker: Larry Gibson "Friends of the Mountains" Followed by a presentation by Beehive Design Collective Torgersen 3100 7PM</p> <p>Conservation Day Spend one day consciously reducing your energy use!</p>	<p>Tree Planting I Drillfield: 9-11AM to sign up, contact Mary Scott Ambler: msscott22@vt.edu</p> <p>Speaker: Denny Cochrane "Sustainability at VT: How We are Inventing the Right Future": Squires 341/5 11:30AM</p> <p>Tree Planting II Drillfield: 1-3PM to sign up, contact Mary Scott Ambler: msscott22@vt.edu</p> <p>VT Green Team want to know how you can help? an interactive presentation on sustainability and going GREEN Squires 341/5 4PM</p>



www.seedsguys.org



theecvt.org

this event is carbon neutral!
offsets donated by:

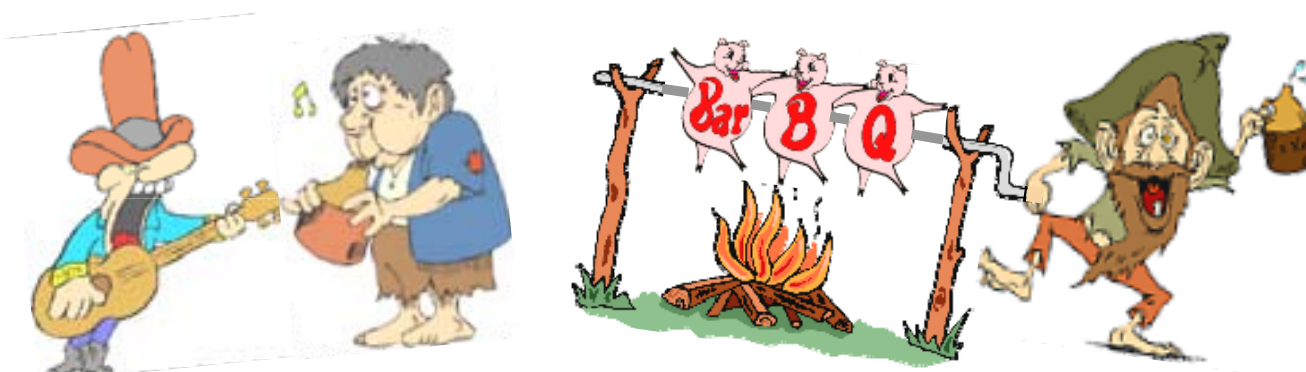


Forestry Graduate Student Association Presents:

Swine & Soirée (Swa-ray)

College of Natural Resources Pig Pickin'

featuring *Katie & the Bubbatones* on stage & *Brad Miller* in the pit



Thursday, April 24, 5:30 to 10:00pm @ the University Club



Tickets \$5 available now → 4/23
from
Sue Snow, Cheatham 313 &
FGSA members, Cheatham 305



Square Dances

Menu Includes:

BBQ Pork
Vegetarian Entrées
Hushpuppies
Slaw
Other Vegetables
& Fantastic Pie
BYOB



Spring 2008 Seminar

Seminar meets in the Brooks Forest Products Classroom

Date-Friday 9:00 AM	Presenter	Topic
January 18	Brian Perkins Ph.D. Candidate	Modeling Factors that Influence Firm Performance of Eastern Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers
January 25	John Bouldin Ph.D. Candidate	Defects in engineered wood products in residential construction
February 1	Thammarat Mettanurak M.S. Candidate	Effect of Suppression and Release on Compression Parallel to Grain Property for Small-sized Yellow-poplar (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> L.) Specimens
February 8	Omid Parhizkar Ph.D. Candidate	Improving the international competitiveness of U.S. sawmills to Middle Eastern markets: An assessment of market segments
February 15	Tim Stiess Ph.D. Candidate	Information Flow in the Hardwood Supply Chain
February 22	Jim Bisha M.S. Candidate	The effect of load stabilizer selection on load slip within unit loads
February 29	Alex Hagedorn Ph.D. Candidate	Identifying pallet size incompatibilities within the global supply chain
March 14	Omar Espinoza Ph.D. Candidate	Quality Measurement in a Wood Products Supply Chain
March 21	Hezong Wang Ph.D. Candidate	Polyelectrolyte complex formation between cellulose nanocrystals and chitosan
March 28	Gi Young Jeong Ph.D. Candidate	Tensile Properties of Loblolly Pine Strands Using Digital Image Correlation and Stochastic Finite Element Method
April 4	Braden White M.S. Candidate	Verification of Finite Element Model Estimates of Wooden Pallet Performance
April 11	Angela Zhou M.S. Candidate	Nano-coating on wood veneers for adhesion and durability
April 18	Ji Youn Yoo M.S. Candidate	Quantitative Analysis of the Static Stress Distributions across Pallet Decks for the Unit Loads of Selected Packaged Product Forms and Stacking Patterns
April 25	Garrett Norman M.S. Candidate	Just-In-Time Manufacturing System Design for Rough Mill Systems: A Case Study

April 30 classes end

For more information please contact the department at 540/231-8853

Wood Week 2008

September 15-19, 2008

26bfgmpel 12-18 2008

MOOQ MGGK 2008

Calendar of Events

Monday
September 15th

Department Welcome Back to School Picnic
5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Hahn Horticulture Garden Pavilion

Keynote Speaker—Patrick Calello, founder of Automoblox—Kicks Off Wood Week 7:00 p.m. www.automoblox.com



Tuesday
September 16th

Wood Magic Show
Brooks Forest Products Center
www.woodmagic.vt.edu

Wednesday
September 17th

Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management Meets
The Inn at Virginia Tech

Center for Unit Load and Design
The Inn at Virginia Tech

Department Scholarship Recognition and Reception Program
The Inn at Virginia Tech 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday
September 18th

Wood Week 2008 Career Fair
Join us under the 'big top' tent in the middle of our campus for the largest University sponsored wood industry career fair in North America. We have room for 75 wood industry companies this year.

Come to Virginia Tech and recruit students from all majors for your wood industry business needs.

Registration opens April 1, 2008 at www.woodscience.vt.edu



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The Department of
Wood Science & Forest Products
www.woodscience.vt.edu at Virginia Tech

