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INSIDE VT WOOD

Reminder...

Remember to submit department news items by Friday 3 pm 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.

RED ALERT

Angie is out this week on annual leave before school begins. Brooks front desk phones are transferred to Debbie in Cheatham. Please let Debbie, Paul or Audrey know if you need anything.

News From Paul Winistorfer

- Inside VT Wood resumes our weekly publishing schedule beginning today August 14. Our reason for doing this was presented in our very first Inside VT Wood "Inside VT Wood will work if we want it to; contribute and make it a vehicle to increase our community and communication in the department." I encourage you to take a few minutes to make a contribution and communicate about your travels, grants, students, classes, accomplishments, visitors, etc.
- The obituary of Dr. Chris Skaar is presented below. He was a giant in wood physics and world renown in our discipline. He graduated over 30 PhD students during his career, was an elected Fellow in the International Academy of Wood Science, held the Thomas M. Brooks professorship for over a dozen years, and brought much acclaim to our program. We extend our condolences to the Skaar family. Each day is important — make the most of it.

Dr. Christen Skaar – Professor Emeritus Passes

Christen Skaar, 86, of Blacksburg, died Tuesday, August 1, 2006, at Montgomery Regional Hospital. He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on September 23, 1919 to the late William and Martha Christensen Skaar. He was a veteran of World War II having served in the US Army Air Corp. He received his BS and MS from Syracuse University, and his Ph.D. from Yale University in Forestry. After teaching at Syracuse University for 30 years, Dr. Skaar came to Virginia Tech in 1976 and retired in 1989 as The Thomas M. Brooks Professor of Forest Products. He was a member of Blacksburg Christian Fellowship. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Dorothy A. Skaar, of Blacksburg; two sons and daughters-in-law, Eric C. and Alice R. Skaar, of Clemson, S.C., Steven B. and Emily H. Skaar, of South Bend, Indiana; two daughters and sons-in-law, Dee S. and Eric Frith, of Blacksburg, Janet S. and Alex Kreager, of Greensboro, N.C.; seven grandchildren; sister, Guro Olsen, of Whiting, N.J.; two brothers, Martin Skaar, of Phoenix, Ariz., and Irving Skaar, of Whiting, N.J. Memorial services will be conducted Tuesday, August 8, 2006 at 7 p.m. at Blacksburg Christian Fellowship, 2300 North Main Street, Blacksburg. The family will receive friends immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Blacksburg Christian Fellowship Building Fund, P.O. Box 813, Blacksburg, VA 24063.

The Word on Wood Formalized as Official Bi-Monthly enews to Our Students

Beginning the first week of class, we will formalize our student e news under the previous heading of The Word on Wood. Students provided valuable feedback in exit interviews and other venues about The Word on Wood and we intend to make the very most of communicating with our students on a regular basis this academic year. We intend to publish every two weeks with important information about club meetings, field trips, scholarship/internship opportunities, guest speakers in the department, graduate student updates and research news, etc. We also intend to hold incoming position announcements for inclusion in the Word on Wood rather than separate emails to all students each time a position comes in to the department. We'll need your help with content that is important to our students. One department goal this year is to increase our communications to and with our students.

Admissions Advisors at Brooks for Tour

University Admissions Advisors will be at Brooks today (Monday) for a tour, presentation and lunch. They will leave with a folder of program materials. We always make a good impression on them and want to present our program in a very positive, attractive way.

College's Annual Welcome Back Picnic

Friday, August, 18th from 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. is the College's annual Welcome Back Picnic to be held at the University Club and then the whole college Convocation to follow. At this convocation the faculty and staff awards will be presented, Dr. Kelly will give a general "State of the College" message and update people on the things that are happening in the College. The Convocation is scheduled to meet in the front auditorium of the Graduate Life Center beginning at 1:15 p.m.

Dr. José Nivaldo Garcia Visited the Department in July

Dr. Garcia a professor at University of São Paulo visited the department the in July, learning about our educational program, research and current endeavors. Dr. Garcia was on a tour of universities in North America. Dr. Garcia works in the area of timber engineering. Dan Hindman did most of the hosting, but Jose had a chance to meet with many of our faculty, staff and students. His contact information is:

- Dr. José Nivaldo Garcia
<http://lcf.esalq.usp.br/docentes.asp>
- Prof. at University of São Paulo
<http://www.usp.br>
- Department of Forestry and Forest Sciences
Wood Machinery and Engineering Lab
<http://www.esalq.usp.br/departamentos/lcf/>



Drs. Paul Winistorfer, José Garcia, and Dan Hindman in the Wood Engineering Lab

CNR New Graduate Student Orientation

CNR new graduate student orientation is Thursday August 17 from 9am – noon room 317 Cheatham.

CNR Faculty Association to Meet Sept. 12th

Please put on your calendar that the CNR Faculty Association will be holding its fall meeting on Tuesday, September 12 at 3 pm in 311 Latham Hall (that's the new building next to Cheatham). We will hold a brief business meeting

(please send Carolyn any items you would like to have on the agenda) and then our speaker will be Lisa Cotting from the Office of Sponsored Programs. Lisa will be discussing: (1) the new budget template that will be going into effect - all faculty will be required to enter budgets for grant proposals on this template instead of submitting information to Lisa, (2) grants.gov - the upcoming federal grant submission site that all federal grants will need to be submitted through within the next two years, and (3) contract negotiations. Given the topic of our presentation, if you have research technicians or administrative assistants that help with your budget preparation for grants, please consider inviting them to the meeting.

Carolyn Copenhaver, CNR Faculty Association President

VCE/VAES Coming Sept. 20th

Faculty mark your calendar for the visit by the Director's of the Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. Drs. Mark Mccann and Craig Nessler will be learning about our engagement and discovery programs in the department.

Custom Short Course on Understanding Wood

by Dr. Audrey Zink-Sharp

This was the first time for this particular custom short course on understanding wood. There were 17 participants in the customized short course that focused on the basics of understanding wood from a practical standpoint. The participants were engineering, electrical, and machining technicians in Trusjoist's research and development center. There are several departments at their tech center including new product development, mechanical properties, non-destructive evaluation, machinery and processing development, and they have a timber strand pilot plant and a market research group. The primary focus of the technical research and development is engineering wood products, principally strand and veneer products like laminated veneer lumber, strand lumber, and engineered I-joists. There are about 200 people working in this facility including the call-in center for technical and marketing support.



Dr. Audrey Zink-Sharp teaching a WBC custom shortcourse held August 1 and 2, 2006, in the Library and Wood Science Laboratory of Trusjoist's Technical Center in Boise, Idaho

Mr. Daniel Tigges joins The Wood Adhesion Group

by Dr. Christian Heinemann

The Wood Adhesion Group was recently joined by a new member. Mr. Daniel Tigges, a graduate student from the University of Hamburg, Germany, followed an invitation by Professor Chip Frazier to join his group at the Department of Wood Science at Virginia Tech. Daniel will continue to work on his thesis, that is required as partial fulfillment of the Diploma Degree (equivalent to a Masters Degree). His project on Bond Strength Development During the Hot Pressing Process of Wood-based Composites was initiated in March 2007 back in Hamburg. In phase one he determined the bond strength development of resinated fiber samples. A variety of adhesives systems were tested using a unique testing equipment where samples are being pressed and subsequently tested in tension mode.



Mr. Daniel Tigges

At Virginia Tech Daniel will extend his expertise by focusing on the curing process of adhesives using rheology instruments in the Thermal Analysis Lab at Cheatham Hall.

When Daniel is not in the lab you might hear him playing the clarinet. In this regard he is looking to join a band or an orchestra while being in Blacksburg. You might want to take the opportunity to meet and chat with Daniel (tiggges@vt.edu). He will stay with us until December 14. Welcome.

Seminar Announcement

by Dr. Christian Heinemann

On Monday August 21, 2006, Thomas Walther from the University of Hamburg, Germany, will be visiting the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products. Within his stay he will give a Seminar on “Microstructural analysis of wood fiber networks” at 10:00 in the Brooks Center Classroom. Everybody is welcome. Thomas who is about to finish his Ph.D. will be around on Tuesday morning as well.

Synopsis of his work

The structure of wood-based medium density fiberboard (MDF) and boards with a mixture of wood fibers and annual plant fibers have been studied using synchrotron radiation-based x-ray microtomography (SR μ CT.).

Fully automated 3D segmentation and analysis routines have been developed in order to gain information about individual fibers, the distribution of the fiber material, fiber orientation, fiber surfaces, as well as size and location of contact areas. Representative samples of the analyzed volume data will be presented to demonstrate the results of the implemented methods using an image processing library. Additional work was conducted to visualize the resin distribution in the boards. Simulations of the permeability and thermal conductivity were performed on small sub-volumes of the data sets.

Building Our Future

...and our community

The Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech

Two(2) VT Wood Window Decals
size: 6 in. x 2.5 in.

AND

One(1) VT Wood Hat
color: Maroon lettering/bill
Khaki crown
size: One size fits all

\$20.00



Donation Package 1



Donation Package 2



Two(2) VT Wood Window Decals
size: 6 in. x 2.5 in.

AND

One(1) VT Wood Hat
color: Solid Maroon w/ Khaki
stitching
size: One size fits all

\$20.00

VT Wood Clothing

Order your VT Wood garment through DJR Print-It! Stitch-It! in Radford, Virginia. Go online, <http://store.webstorepackage.com/dir/> to their complete clothing catalog, select your garment, and request VT Wood stitching. They will prepare your garment and send directly to you. Payment is made directly to DJR Enterprises. Your total cost will include the cost of the garment (note- prices are not currently shown in the online catalogs – you must call DJR for pricing information at 1-800-847-3357 – online pricing will be available soon), \$6 for embroidery and \$7.50 for shipping. You can specify the color of the stitching on your garment when placing your order.



Make Checks payable to:
Virginia Tech Foundation
Note your check for 'Building Our Future'
in Wood Science and Forest Products

Your donation must be received before we can
send your hat and stickers.

Checks are to be sent to:
Debbie Garnand
Department of Wood Science
and Forest Products
230 Cheatham Hall (0323)
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Place your order through the department
by calling, faxing or emailing.
Phone: 540-231-8853
FAX: 540-231-8176
Email: garnandd@vt.edu