News from Dean Paul Winistorfer

• **Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign.** I hope you will join me in contributing to the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign and make a contribution to the organization of your choice. There are many people in need right now and these charitable organizations do a great service in our community and region. A pledge of as little as $2/month can do a lot to help families/individuals in need. I’d like to call our college support “The CNR Community of Caring,” and invite you to join me in making a contribution. You can make your contribution on-line. See the CVC website at [www.cvc.hr.vt.edu](http://www.cvc.hr.vt.edu) for details.

• **Retirement Reception for Mike Kelly.** Don’t forget our reception for Dr. Mike Kelly to recognize and show appreciation for his service to the college these past five years. The reception is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the German Club. Formal comments will begin at 4:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Peggy Quarterman at 231-5481 or by email at pquarter@vt.edu.

• **Mitchell and Lois Byrd Gift to the College.** Mitchell and Lois Byrd recently completed a gift of $100,000 to the College of Natural Resources in the form of a charitable gift annuity. In gratefully accepting the gift, Dean Paul Winistorfer said “Mitchell and Lois Byrd are long-time friends of the college. They have been generous donors and actively involved with the college. Their continued support and involvement is a model for alumni and friends of the college. We deeply appreciate their kindness.”

Dr. Mitchell Byrd received all of his degrees from Virginia Tech, including a M.S. in Forestry and Wildlife in 1949 and a Ph.D. in Fisheries and Wildlife in 1954. He then joined the faculty at the College of William and Mary, where he has worked for over 50 years. He served as Chairman of the Biology Department in a time of rapid growth, leading its transition into a nationally-recognized department. He instructed thousands of undergraduate students, and mentored over three dozen graduate students, many of whom have gone on to distinguished careers of their own.

The recovery of the threatened and endangered bald eagle and peregrine falcon in the Commonwealth of Virginia can, in large measure, be attributed to his recognition of the needs for habitat conservation and his work with people around the Chesapeake Bay to recognize and to protect critical habitat. He founded and directed the Center for Conservation Biology in 1995.

“I have always appreciated my education at Virginia Tech and the College of Natural Resources. Lois and I respect our roots and the value of a quality education. We are pleased to be able to give back to an outstanding college of natural resources,” said Dr. Byrd.

Mitchell and Lois Byrd were presented the “Friend of the College” Award in March 2008. This award is granted to individuals who have made substantial contributions to the advancement of the programs and objectives of the College of Natural Resources. Dr. Byrd has served on the Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Advisory Board and on a fund-raising committee for the Cross Alumni Leadership Program.
**Sustainable Natural Resources and Environment Major.** Thank you to the college committee that has been working on our new college-wide major ‘sustainable natural resources and environments’ proposal. The proposal was approved by the college Student Policy and Affairs committee last week and has moved into 15-day review via a weblink. I will keep you updated as this moves through university governance. We are hopeful of offering this new major for fall 2010. We have established a website to assist us as we move this through governance. You will find all materials related to this new major posted on this site—check it out at www.cnr.vt.edu/sustainable.

**Sponsored Programs Activity.** We will begin reporting quarterly information from the Virginia Tech data warehouse reflecting college sponsored programs activity and the good work of our faculty in our (your) discovery program. We will use one-year and three-year reporting time frames as this is one method used on campus to examine activity over time. We will begin to report five metric categories for our entire college platform (includes four academic departments, Conservation Management Institute, Virginia Water Resources Research Center, Northern Virginia Center, and Distance Learning Consortium). These metrics include:

- Number of Proposals Submitted
- Number of Awards
- Dollar Amount of Proposals Submitted
- Dollar Number of Awards
- Expenditures

All components of our college discovery endeavors are critical to our collective college success. Thank you to our principal investigators, support staff, and graduate students working on sponsored research. As they say ‘it takes a village’ and we ask our faculty PIs today to be competitive entrepreneurs, business managers, human resource managers, leading scientists, mentors, publishers, speakers, and a host of other talents associated with our discovery platform. A genuine thanks to each of you for your efforts to secure external resources and for your leadership in discovery. Our college return on investment in our discovery efforts is very strong overall. We have consistently over the past three years had expenditures in excess of 12 million dollars and generated a host of impact metrics – but most importantly pursued scholarly and important work that addresses critical problems and opportunities. Thank you all for your hard work in sponsored programs endeavors. I’m proud for you and us. Click here to see figures.

**Continuing and Professional Education.** I am pleased to introduce you to our new contacts from Continuing and Professional Education. Holly Williams and Alissa VanDeventer will be supporting faculty efforts in continuing and professional education programming. Mark Bernhard, Director, Continuing and Professional Education has moved to reorganize our college support. Mark and I have met several times to discuss our college needs and we assure you that service to our college faculty will be at the highest quality level, proactive, and with follow-through. Please help me welcome Holly and Alissa in service to our college. Meet Holly and Alissa, and read our new arrangement for C&PE support here.

**College Promotion and Tenure Committee.** The college Promotion and Tenure (P&T) Committee has been established for the 2009-2010 academic year. The CNR Faculty Association established guidelines for make-up of our college committee and you can review this summary online at www.cnr.vt.edu/cnrfacultyassociation/Policies/PandTPolicy.pdf.

Faculty serving on the committee are:

Dr. Janaki Alavalapati  
Dr. Bill Carstensen  
Dr. Eric Hallerman*  
Dr. Audrey Zink-Sharp

Dr. Don Orth**  
Dr. Jim Parkhurst  
Dr. Dean Stauffer

Dr. Randy Wynne  
Dr. Shep Zedaker

Dr. Jim Campbell  
Dr. Larry Grossman  
Dr. Bob Bush  
Dr. Chip Frazier

*Dr. Hallerman has been elected by this committee to chair the college P&T committee.  
**Dr. Orth is the CNR representative to the university P&T committee.
The committee will meet in early January for review of college candidates. College candidates for consideration of promotion and/or tenure include:

- Dr. Dan Hindman, Wood Science and Forest Products, candidate for promotion to associate professor with tenure
- Dr. Maren Roman, Wood Science and Forest Products, candidate for promotion to associate professor with tenure
- Dr. Lynn Resler, Geography, candidate for promotion to associate professor with tenure

**Natural Resources Distance Learning Consortium.** Distance delivery and e learning are becoming more relevant and accepted as effective delivery tools. We have a long history in the college in distance delivery. Our Natural Resources Distance Learning Consortium is a model of success on the national level. We have charted the history and impact of this program in the College, and with our federal and university partners, for general understanding within the college and on campus of our leadership role in distance delivery. Thanks to Kieran Lindsey, director of the consortium and Dr. Bob Bush, for their roles in developing the consortium and in drafting this summary document on the Natural Resources Distance Learning Consortium. [Read the summary document here.](#)

**The Center for Environmental Application in Remote Sensing Laboratory.** Thanks to Les Fuller for his work this past summer to upgrade The Center for Environmental Application in Remote Sensing (CEARS) lab. The Center was established in 1997 as a NASA center of excellence in applications of remote sensing to regional and global integrated environmental assessments. Established and maintained as a college-level center since that time, CEARS is a shared resource, utilized by current faculty, graduate students, and staff from all departments within the college, as well as the interdisciplinary Geospatial and Environmental Analysis Doctoral Program. Although initially funded by research in the application of remote sensing, the breadth of users of the facility and their research is as diverse as the college itself. Another unique feature of the center is the diverse array of software (geospatial and mathematical) that is maintained and utilized both in the facility, and university wide as a number of software licenses are hosted by the CEARS server.

Since it was initially built, CEARS has gone through one partial upgrade of the client computer systems in 2003, and a complete upgrade of the facility server in 2004. This past summer, CEARS underwent a major upgrade, completely replacing all client computers. This work by Les was a major undertaking, and raises the Center and college facility to a state-of-the-art, world-class remote sensing laboratory. Each of the 25 new computers has 8 Gb of memory, increased processor speed, the 64 bit Vista operating system, and high resolution 24” flat panel monitors. Overnight, our graduate students noticed a reduction in data processing time from days to minutes and have commented on reduced eye strain during late night research! Come check out the new upgrades in 217 Cheatham. Please contact Les Fuller with any questions about the CEARS lab.

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(This summary prepared by Les Fuller and Drs. Randy Wynne and Valerie Thomas)
Mike Vaughan Retires After 30 Years of Service. Professor of Wildlife Sciences, Michael R. Vaughan, retired October 1 after 30 years of service in the College of Natural Resources. His retirement was marked at a luncheon October 30.

Mike achieved international recognition by conducting leading research on the biology, ecology, and management of bears, while also contributing to knowledge on deer, tigers, sea turtles, and other species. His contributions have been communicated in over 100 refereed scientific journal articles and book chapters. His professional service included leadership in the International Association of Bear Research and Management and The Wildlife Society, as well as numerous working groups and advisory boards; and He twice served as Leader of the Virginia Cooperative Fisheries and Wildlife Research Unit. Dr. Vaughan served on the editorial boards of the Journal of Wildlife Management, Ursus, Proceedings of the Southeastern Association of Fisheries and Wildlife Agencies, and The Southeastern Naturalist. Mike has been recognized with awards, including the National Wildlife Federation Environmental Publication Award, Virginia Wildlife Professional Award, and National Biological Service Performance Award.

Dr. Vaughan has mentored over 40 graduate students, who now hold responsible positions in public agencies and academia, as well as innumerable technicians and trainees, many of whom went on to graduate studies or careers in public agencies. Through his career, he taught Fisheries and Wildlife Graduate Seminar, Population Dynamics, Wildlife Physiology, and Population Ecology. He engaged actively in outreach, touching thousands, especially with tours of his captive bear facility at Center Woods.

Even in retirement, Mike intends to remain engaged with his current graduate students, the department, and his profession. The Board of Visitors recently recognized Dr. Vaughan for his service to the university by conferring the title of Professor Emeritus of Wildlife Science.

Congratulations Mike—you will be missed. We all wish you and Lynn the very best in this next chapter of life!

Opportunities to Utilize New Scanning Electron Microscope in Wood Science and Forest Products. A new scanning electron microscope has been received into the Quantitative Wood Anatomy Lab of Dr. Zink-Sharp—a JEOL NeoScope Benchtop SEM. Acquisition of this new scope was made possible through funding from the Sustainable Engineered Materials Institute. The compact benchtop SEM has some very nice features such as auto focus, auto contrast, and auto brightness controls. It operates in either low or high vacuum mode and has three settings for accelerating voltage. Magnifications as high as 20,000X are possible and down to as low as 10X. Some of the advantages of scanning electron microscopy are increased depth of field unmatched by light microscopy, a wide area of view that makes it easy to image entire surface areas, and images that have a three-dimensional aspect. The JEOL NeoScope also has NIKON NIS image analysis software integrated into the image capture program. Contact Audrey Zink-Sharp, agzink@vt.edu, if you have research in which scanning electron microscopy could be useful.
Several of our graduate students won awards at the recent Wood Science and Forest Products Graduate Student Symposium sponsored by Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, Tennessee, held on November 5. Eight graduate students competed in an oral presentation competition.

- 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 Renneckar. Sudip and QingQing share a third place prize of $500.

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.

Award winners at recent Wood Science and Forest Products Graduate Student Symposium sponsored by Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, Tennessee, 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.
Congratulations and Accolades!

Congratulations to John McGee for his recognition in the fall 2009 Virginia Tech magazine as related to his recent $900,000 Space Grant Consortium award.

Congratulations to Dr. Kevin Edger, Professor of Wood Science and Forest Products, who was one of five Virginia Tech faculty to be honored as an American Chemical Society (ACS) inaugural fellow. The 162 individuals named in this inaugural class of fellows are being honored for excellence in chemistry and service to society. Edgar’s research focuses on the synthesis, analysis, and structure-property-performance evaluation of polysaccharide derivatives. He has particular interest in the creation of novel drug-delivery systems based on polysaccharide derivatives, in order to address critical patient needs. His research also addresses the broad and vital issue of identifying novel, high-value biomaterials from biomass, and viable processes for their preparation. (Excerpt from the Virginia Tech website new story authored by Susan Trulove. This is the Virginia Tech news URL www.vtnews.vt.edu/news_print/index.php?relyear=2009&itemno=580)

Congratulations to Stephen Schoenholtz and the entire Virginia Water Resources Research Center faculty and staff on an outstanding conference last month in Richmond. The conference was titled: Water Resources in Changing Climates. You can find information on the conference here.

Congratulations to Drs. Shep Zedekar and David Smith for recent award recognition by the Society of American Foresters. (This is the Virginia Tech news URL www.vtnews.vt.edu/story.php?relyear=2009&itemno=763)

Dr. Zedekar, professor of forestry, has been elected as a Society of American Foresters Fellow. The society recognizes less than five percent of its members with this honor, which is given to those who have demonstrated excellence in volunteer involvement, consistent leadership, and advancement in forestry by education, public policy, research, or technology transfer.

Dr. Smith, professor emeritus of forestry, received the society’s Gifford Pinchot Medal, which recognizes outstanding contributions by a forestry professional who has demonstrated excellence in the administration, practice, and professional development of North American forestry.

Updated On-Line College Faculty Directory Now Available. We have updated our college faculty directory. Please note the inclusion of our faculty in the National Capital Region Natural Resources Program, the Virginia Water Resources Research Center and the Conservation Management Institute. These three groups bring significant additional faculty expertise to our portfolio and I encourage all to become more familiar with our college colleagues. As well, please take note of our Natural Resources District Extension Agents whose work and leadership is critical to natural resources programming in the state.

We are also calling for updates to your individual profile/areas of interest as shown in the directory. Please contact Arlice Banks with updated information during the month of November.

Engagement Matters. The fall 2009 issue of Engagement Matters is now available. Our college is a leader in engagement and outreach and our work in this arena is more important than ever. Engagement Matters is published quarterly by the College under the leadership of Dr. Bob Smith, Associate Dean of Engagement. Thank you all for your great work in engagement and outreach throughout the Commonwealth.

College Organizational Chart Developed. For those of you who missed our newly created college organizational chart, we include it again this month for your use. Download the organizational chart here.
**Upcoming College Workshops/Symposia/Programs**

**Hybrid Poplar for Biomass and Bioenergy: A Symposium (November 5)**
Institute for Advanced Learning & Research, Danville
$25/person; includes lunch and refreshments
See attached agenda and registration brochure
Qualifies for four Category 1 SAF CFE credits

**Landowner Weekend Retreat: Value Your Forest (November 6-8)**
Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, Appomattox
$35/person; $55/couple – includes meals and lodging
See attached registration brochure

For additional information, please contact:
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540.231.6391
www.cnr.vt.edu/forestupdate

**Introduction to Decision Making Techniques: Applications for Forest Products Industries**
This workshop is scheduled for November 5, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. at the Virginia Tech National Capital Regional Campus, Falls Church, Virginia (www.ncr.vt.edu). The workshop is free of charge, but please RSVP before November 2, 2009. Coffee breaks and materials are provided but lunch is on your own. To register or for further details, please contact Dr. Henry Quesada at quesada@vt.edu.

**Introduction to Business Process Management**
This workshop is scheduled for November 19, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. at the Roanoke Higher Education Center, www.education.edu. Registration is $35 and includes coffee breaks, lunch, and materials. Please contact Dr. Henry Quesada at quesada@vt.edu for more details.

Dr. Henry J. Quesada
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Remember Homecoming, Saturday, November 21

Join CNR alumni, family and friends at our pre-game homecoming tailgate. The festivities will take place at Cheatham Hall entrance and will start 3 hours prior to kick-off when Virginia Tech will take on NC State (game time TBA).

Our activities include: Delicious Pre-game Tailgate Buffet, College Displays, Entertainment, Games for Kids, and CNR Scholarship Fund Bingo (Outside the entrance to Cheatham Hall) during Homecoming activities.

For more information, please contact Lane Guilliams at laneg@vt.edu.

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• **From the Trail**

Some updates from our retired CNR faculty who are ‘on the trail’ and reporting back to keep us informed of life beyond the college and Virginia Tech.

- Dr. Wolfgang Glasser reports that he is recovering from hip replacement surgery . . . ‘I am back out of the hospital . . . on the mend.’ Wolfgang and Heidi relocated to Richmond last year to be closer to their daughter and family.

- Dr. Bob Adams reports . . . ‘BTW, I’m also recovering from hip surgery. Feel great and can hike MILES in the beautiful Fall Adirondack wilderness. Had a moose visit the bay just North of our house two weeks ago. Also, 17 Huge turkeys in back of the house and a BIG bear in the driveway. Life’s good!’

- Dr. Jack Muench has relocated . . . ‘I have moved from Blacksburg, VA, to a retirement community in suburban Cincinnati. My new apartment is located about eight miles from the home of my daughter, Marjorie, and her family.’

• **Endnote**

Strange Things a ‘Brewin in the Dean’s Office on Halloween.
Final Note

Super Sequestration (trees storing carbon and storing bicycles)!