



# Newsletter

SOCIETY OF WOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
March/April 2004

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## SWST Snapshot

<b>SWST Membership</b>	<b>March 2004</b>
Full members	255
Student members	40
Retired members	49
Affiliate members	3
Delinquent members	74
Fellows	0

<b>Financial</b>	<b>March 2004</b>
Cash & Bank Accounts	\$91,803
Investments	\$57,770
Liabilities	\$649

<b>Wood And Fiber Science Journal</b>	<b>March 2004</b>
Subscribers	211
Delinquent Subscribers	48
Number of articles in 36(2)	15
<i>Currently in the pipeline</i>	
Ready for typesetting	21
Under revision by authors	24
Under review	36
Rejected	5

<b>Web Page</b>	<b>Jan./Feb. 2004</b>
Number of unique visitors	6,642
Number of new visitors	4,558
Gigabytes transferred	1.8
More data: <a href="http://www.swst.org/nettracker/reports/">http://www.swst.org/nettracker/reports/</a>	

## NEWS

### **What happened with results of membership survey???**

Back in the spring of 2002, Rich Vlosky and SWST Membership Committee conducted a member survey in an effort to provide feedback and possible action items for the Executive Board to consider. The results of the survey were reported in *Wood and Fiber Science*, 35(3):478-480. At the SWST Board meeting in Boston, March 2003, a number of overall impressions and actionable items were gleaned from the survey. The following is a brief update on some outcomes and ongoing activities of both the Board and Committees resulting from the survey.

First, it was noted that responses indicated that the most valuable member services, in approximate order of importance, were publications, other services (including accreditation, the student poster competition, and the visiting scientist program), and recognition (awards). The annual meeting, though valued by members, was ranked lowest. Some resultant questions were 1) Do we need to modify or expand publication efforts (e.g., special issues)?; 2) Do we need to strengthen or add new services?; and 3) Do we need a new annual meeting format?

These observations and questions then led to a handful of actionable items: 1) Redesign of *Wood and Fiber Science*. While it was recognized that the technical content was strong and no real needs to change this aspect were found, it was also noted that either aesthetic or size format changes might be desirable. To this end, the publication policy committee has been looking at both possible redesign of the *WFS* cover and the paper size of the publication, as a larger format could save publishing costs. In addition, a new typesetter has been contracted, although we continue to have the journal published by Allen Press. We anticipate significant savings from this move. 2) Assess the relationship of SWST and the Forest Products Society (FPS) in terms of our member services, publications, respective uniqueness, etc. This is particularly important given the pending retirement of Art Brauner as Executive Director of FPS. The Vice Presidents and Executive Directors of both Societies have met a number of times to hold discussions on this issue. These discussions have been healthy for both Societies. 3) We added a new Monday technical session to the annual meeting in an attempt to provide more member benefit to the meeting. Based on valuable member comment, we are continuing this session for the 2004 meeting, but will hold it on Monday afternoon so as not to compete with the FPS Industry Focus Day. This move should be mutually beneficial. In addition, the International Academy of Wood Science (IAWS) lectures were moved, beginning with the Bellevue meeting, into Sunday afternoon, highlighting the importance of the joint SWST/FPS fundamental disciplines emphasis. 4) In terms of member service unique to SWST, an *ad hoc* committee is developing a paper to provide collective input into the USDA National Research Initiative Competitive Grants program. It is expected that this activity will subsequently expand to other funding agencies.

These are but a few of the actions that have taken place over the past year as your Executive Board and our Committee Structure have sought to be responsive to member feedback. Further input and identification of needed actions by your Society are always welcome.

**Chung Hse Receives Forest Service Chief's Honor Award for Distinguished Service.** Chung

Hse, Principal Wood Scientist, USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station, recently received the 2004 Chief's Honor Award for Distinguished Science. Chung was honored for "successful conceptualization, development and execution of research." The Chief further commented, "your career has been marked by innovation and productivity and has been one of tremendous international collaboration. Your work reflects positively not only on yourself and your unit, but also on the entire Forest Service Research and Development organization." Congratulations to Chung for this well deserved award!

### **JELD-WEN gives \$3.5 million to OSU for wood composites research.**

CORVALLIS - Oregon State University's research and development of innovative wood-based materials is about to get a big boost, thanks to the JELD-WEN Foundation, based in Klamath Falls.

The foundation has announced a gift of \$3.5 million to create the JELD-WEN Chair in Wood-Based Composites Science in OSU's College of Forestry. The gift will allow the university to expand its composites program in the Department of Wood Science & Engineering with an additional senior scientist who will focus on research and teaching.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for the college, the university and our partners in the Oregon wood products industry," said OSU President Ed Ray.

"JELD-WEN's generosity is enabling us to increase our research output in ways that will help Oregon companies become more globally competitive. At the same time, this new faculty member will help undergraduate and graduate students develop promising careers through mentoring and teaching.

"The combination of directly benefiting students while supporting Oregon industries with research critical to their success is central to OSU's land-grant mission," Ray added. Scientists in this discipline examine how wood and natural fibers - in combination with adhesives and other materials such as plastics, metals or cement - can form new materials with commercial value. Ongoing research at OSU includes investigations into composite materials engineered for desired strength, flexibility, durability, physical appearance and improved utilization of natural resources.

OSU researchers say the practical applications for these new composites are extensive, ranging from homebuilding to auto parts to high-tech electrical components.

"We will use the JELD-WEN gift to hire someone who is among the top scientists in the field," said Tom McLain, department head of wood science and engineering. "The funding and the prestige associated with the JELD-WEN chair should allow us to recruit someone of world-class caliber."

Besides conducting his or her own research program, the holder of the JELD-WEN chair will also teach classes and mentor junior faculty.

"This gift will be a big boost to our entire program," McLain predicted. "Everyone associated with wood composites at OSU, from undergraduates on up, will benefit by working with the JELD-WEN chair holder, and by the working relationships that we continue to establish with the JELD-WEN corporation."

Legally separate from the JELD-WEN Foundation, JELD-WEN, Inc., is the world's leading manufacturer of windows and doors and is Oregon's largest privately held company. Rod Wendt, secretary and a trustee of the JELD-WEN Foundation, says his organization is

pleased to make the award.

"The OSU Department of Wood Science & Engineering and JELD-WEN have had a long-term relationship over 30 years now, involving research and sharing of ideas and new technologies," Wendt said. "This grant recognizes the importance of that friendship and working relationship and declares our intent in maintaining and building an even more active permanent association with the university."

Wendt, who also serves as president and CEO of the JELD-WEN corporation, believes the endowment will help advance OSU's international reputation. "The chair will propel Oregon State University to an expanded leadership role in the nation and world in the wood science arena and help companies who offer related products in Oregon, around the nation and globally," Wendt emphasized.

JELD-WEN has recruited and hired OSU graduates since the company's inception in 1960, and has made contributions to a variety of OSU programs since the early 1980s. Students in disciplines including business, engineering and forestry regularly intern at JELD-WEN. The JELD-WEN Foundation was founded in 1969 and for the most part funds projects in communities where company operations exist. Over the past five years, the foundation has made grants totaling nearly \$25 million. Primary program areas of support for the foundation include college scholarships, United Way, and capital project-oriented grants. Capital grants are typically renovation or construction-oriented and align with the foundation's top priority areas: social welfare, education, health care, youth activities, and arts and culture.

**Teaching units available on the web.** Two Wood Science and Technology Teaching Units are available on SWST's website. These units are downloadable and in PowerPoint format. Teaching Unit 1 covers an overview of the variety of products derived from wood, the macro, micro, & chemical structure of wood, and an introduction to wood identification. Unit 2 covers physical and mechanical properties of wood and includes a set of 6 activities to accompany the properties section. These units could be very helpful to those teaching introduction to wood structure and properties or those just interested in wood as a material. Have a look.

<http://www.swst.org/teach1.html>

<http://www.swst.org/teach2.html>

**Fulbright Scholar Visiting Blacksburg.** Dr Francisco Lopez-Suevos is a Fulbright postdoctoral scholar from Spain who is spending two years at Virginia Tech working with Professor Chip Frazier in the department of Wood Science and Forest Products (<http://vtwood.forprod.vt.edu/woodad>). Dr. Lopez-Suevos earned his Ph.D in Chemical Engineering from the University of Santiago de Compostela. He is studying the rheological properties of poly(vinylacetate) latex films bonded directly to wood. Using rheological and other techniques, he is developing methods to determine how phenolic additives influence the properties of latex wood adhesives. Fortunately for him, Dr Lopez-Suevos' girlfriend is also in the U.S. working towards her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at the Paffenbarger Research Center at NIST, in Gaithersburg, MD. Consequently, the two young scientists are also traveling a bit and learning about the American culture.

**Industry-specific Website Promotes Economic Development.** (February 10, 2004 / Natchitoches, LA): Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco today announced the launch of an

innovative website designed to facilitate and promote forest-sector economic development in Louisiana. The website is located at [www.laforestproducts.org](http://www.laforestproducts.org).

The website – titled Louisiana Forest Products Community and located at <http://www.laforestproducts.org> – went live Tuesday, February 10. The Community is the most sophisticated state-level forest sector website in the nation. A key component of the site is the self-generating directory of Louisiana forest product companies. Any company fitting the product line criteria can input its company specifics to be included in the directory. Once in the directory, the company listing is accessible worldwide to anyone searching for various product descriptions. Louisiana manufacturers can also use the Community to search for raw materials suppliers and equipment to support their companies.

Louisiana Economic Development and the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center, part of the LSUAgCenter, developed the website with collaboration and input from key institutions in industry, government and academia, including the Louisiana Forestry Association, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Furnishings Industry Association and Louisiana Tech School of Forestry. Instrumental in the design and development of the site were Richard P. Vlosky, Ph.D., Professor and Director, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center, School of Renewable Natural Resources, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center in Baton Rouge and Kelsey Short, Director of Agriculture, Forest and Food Cluster Development for Louisiana Economic Development. The website was built by Transformyx, a Baton Rouge company.

The website is divided into five industry sub-sectors: Primary Products, Secondary (Value-added) Products, Engineered Wood Products, Logging and Harvesting, and Equipment Manufacturers and Distributors. Companies should self-enroll in the sub-sector most representative of their products and/services. The directory part of the Louisiana Forest Products Community will ultimately be the most comprehensive state-wide company and product listing in the country.

**Membership Survey on Wood and Fiber Science Cover.** The Publication Policy Committee has provided members with a valuable opportunity to express their opinion on three proposed formats to be implemented in a new cover of Wood and Fiber Science. The email was sent to all members February 9, 2004 including three options to choose from. The three proposed designs represented a general approaches to cover layout:

- front cover with only the journal title (WFS1)
- front cover that would include a picture in the center (WFS2)
- front cover with the table of contents in the center (WFS3)

Despite the relative low rate of replies (~25%) it was an interesting process, and therefore would like to thank all respondents. The objective of the 3 designs was to get a sense of members' feelings about cover format, rather than the font styles used in the proposed designs.

Nevertheless, a general consensus of members would like to see either a picture or the table contents on the front cover. The complete results are summarized below.

**SURVEY RESULTS** (as of March 24, 2004)

	WFS 1	WFS 2	WFS3	NONE	TOTAL
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%	10.5%	40%	33.7%	15.8%	100%
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401 members were sent an email

20 messages have failed to be distributed.

Total number of members: 422 (21 without an email address)

Number of responses received: 96 (25% of the successful mailing)

Processed by Dr. Azzeddine OUDJEHANE,

The Publication Policy Committee – SWST - March 2004

### **SWST Fellows wanted.**

Purpose: To recognize significant contributions to the wood science and technology profession and service to the Society by SWST members.

SWST Fellow Qualifications: The criteria for election to the distinction of SWST Fellow are significant contributions to the Society of Wood Science and Technology and the wood science and technology profession while being a voting member of SWST. Significant contributions to the Society of Wood Science and Technology include activities that demonstrate continuing commitment and leadership to SWST. Leadership commitment should include some of the following; (1) Past president of SWST; (2) election to SWST Board of Directors for two terms; or (3) numerous terms of service, including committee chair or committee member.

Significant professional accomplishments include refereed publications and professional presentations that advance wood science and technology at the regional, national, or international area over a 15-year period.

An SWST member may be nominated for the membership rank of SWST Fellow by any other SWST voting member. The nomination will be reviewed by the Past Presidents' Council. The Council will make recommendation to the Executive Board by March 1 of each year. Election to the rank of SWST Fellow will require a majority vote of the SWST Board of Directors.

All nominations for the rank of SWST Fellow must be forwarded to the SWST Executive Director and must include a letter of nomination and a resume with SWST and wood science and technology professional contributions by the nominee. All members elected to the membership rank of SWST Fellow will be announced at the annual meeting and presented an appropriate plaque by the SWST president.

**Tapping Into an Online Network of Foresters.** Whether they want to know about trees, wildlife, water, soil, forest products, or some other forest-related topic, members of the forestry community can now have their questions answered by using the "Ask a Forester" feature on the website of the Society of American Foresters (SAF).

"An important objective of SAF is to serve society by providing sound knowledge about forests," says Richard Reid, chair of SAF's Communications Committee. "Given today's technology--particularly the World Wide Web and e-mail--it has never been easier to respond to information requests by the public, including those in the forestry community."

SAF's Communications Committee has developed a nationwide e-mail network of hundreds of foresters and other resource professionals who are willing to answer questions relating to forests. Once a question is sent to [ask@safnet.org](mailto:ask@safnet.org), the SAF national office staff will either answer the question or relay it to the nationwide network. Although some questions may require research and some thought, it's not unusual for information requests to get several replies within hours. To find out more about forests, forestry, and the "Ask a Forester" feature, visit the SAF website at <http://www.safnet.org/aboutforestry/index.cfm>

## CONFERENCES

**Wood Science - Education and Research Programmes, August 16-25, 2004, Zvolen, Slovakia.** The Society of Wood Science and Technology, the Division 5 of the IUFRO and the Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology of the Technical University in Zvolen, Slovakia, are organizing on August 16-25, 2004, the International Symposium "Wood Science - Education and Research Programmes". All information concerning this conference is at <http://alpha.tuzvo.sk/~kudela> We hope that this conference will be a good opportunity for exchange of knowledge on educational and research programs of faculties aimed at wood science and technology worldwide. Please, consider this announcement as the invitation for all members of the IUFRO working parties of the Division 5.

**The Third International Conference of the European Society for Wood Mechanics (ESWM 2004)** will be held in September 6th-8th 2004 in Vila Real, Portugal. The closing date for abstract submission has been changed to March 15th, 2004. For more information I invite you to go through the Conference webpage <http://home.utad.pt/~eswm2004>. I hope you will be able to join us.

José Morais  
ESWM 2004 Co-Chair  
e-mail: [jmorais@utad.pt](mailto:jmorais@utad.pt)  
Fax: +351 259 350 356

**Opportunities in Wood Thermoplastic Composites.** Forest Products Society, Northeast Section, 2004 Annual Conference. <http://www.aewc.umaine.edu/fpsc>

**Surface Chemistry & Wood Finishes.** The 2nd Annual Fundamental Disciplines Session, Monday, June 28, 1:45-3:30pm.

Did last year's Monday morning fundamental disciplines session on "Wood Characterization: Principles and Applications" merely whet your scientific appetite? This year, the Society of Wood Science & Technology (SWST) is offering the Monday program in the afternoon to allow meeting participants to attend BOTH the FPS Industry Focus Day Session AND the SWST Monday Session. The program will feature three distinguished scientists and will introduce a concept for an industry-academic research consortium proposed by Dr. Baghdachi from the Coatings Research Institute (CRI) at Eastern Michigan Univ. The purpose is to stimulate

thought and interaction on the fundamentals of surface chemistry and wood finishes.

The program is as follows:

1:45 – 2:00 Introduction by the Moderator: The Relevance of Surface Chemistry & Wood Finishes to the Wood Science & Technology Research Community – Dr. Douglas Gardner, Professor, Univ. of Maine, Orono, ME.

2:00 – 2:45 Polymer Systems and Film Formation Mechanisms in High Solids, Powder, and UV Cure Systems – Dr. Jamil Baghdachi, Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator of the Coatings Research Institute, Eastern Michigan Univ., Ypsilanti, MI.

2:45 – 3:15 Comparison of Traditional Methods for Testing Paint Adhesion and Service Life with New Methods for Service Life Prediction - Dr. Sam Williams, Senior Scientist and Dr. Jerrold E. Winandy, Research Wood Scientist, Forest Products Lab, Madison, WI.

3:15 – 3:30 Opportunities for Inter-Disciplinary, Industry-Academic Research Collaboration in Wood Coatings - Dr. Jamil Baghdachi, Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator of the CRI, EMU, Ypsilanti, MI.

The session starts with registration and coffee at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, June 28 in the Gerald R. Ford Room at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI. Our speakers will begin promptly at 1:45 p.m. The session will conclude at about 3:30 p.m. to allow plenty of time to make the poster session.

**Small Wood 2004** Call for posters and Exhibits, May 18-21, 2004. Information at <http://www.forestprod.org>

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Graduate Research Assistantship** (Purdue University) is available for M.S or Ph.D. students in the area of furniture design, construction and testing. For more information contact Dr. Eva Haviarova, 1200 Forest Products Bldg., West Lafayette, IN 47907. Phone: (765) 494 3619, e-mail: [ehaviar@fnr.purdue.edu](mailto:ehaviar@fnr.purdue.edu).

**Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Economics and Policy**, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho. Tenure track, academic year appointment. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching innovative graduate and undergraduate coursework in natural resource economics and policy, and developing a nationally recognized, externally funded research program addressing natural resource economics and policy. See complete position profile, application procedures, and contact information on our web site at <http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/cnr/>. Review of applications will begin August 1 2004 and continue until the position is filled. On campus interviews will be conducted in mid-September 2004. To



enrich education through diversity, the University of Idaho is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

**Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Economics and Policy**, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho. Tenure track, academic year appointment. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching innovative graduate and undergraduate coursework in natural resource economics and policy, and developing a nationally recognized, externally funded research program addressing natural resource economics and policy. See complete position profile, application procedures, and contact information on our web site at <http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/cnr/>. Review of applications will begin August 1, 2004, and continue until the position is filled. On campus interviews will be conducted in mid-September 2004. To enrich education through diversity, the University of Idaho is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

**Academic Coordinator I: Forest Products Marketing & Utilization Position.** The University of California is soliciting applications for a full time, 2-year contract position in wood utilization and marketing based at the UC Richmond Field Station, Richmond, CA. This position is focused on issues facing the Pacific Northwest and Southwest Regions, and is designed to provide outreach, education, and technical assistance on issues related to the use of wood resources, with a focus on small-diameter trees and other woody biomass materials.

Qualifications include a Master's degree in Wood Science and Technology, or closely related field; broad and diversified knowledge of forest product utilization, marketing, and resource management; ability to apply this knowledge to individual situations and a wide range of audiences, and to build and maintain working relationships with multiple agencies and a diverse clientele; knowledge of biomass and small-diameter issues, problems, and opportunities; and strong writing and oral communication skills.

Responsibilities include coordinating a program that encompasses multiple State and Federal organizations and universities; identifying technical assistance needs, including local market considerations, properties of available resources, processing challenges, and new technology; planning outreach and information-sharing activities; providing direct technical and marketing assistance to startup and small businesses; and generating and coordinating grant funding from State, Federal, and private sources. Travel and participation in workshops and conferences is also required.

To request a UC-DANR application packet, contact: Anne Rothfarb--Academic Recruitment, Central Coast & South Region--#213, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521 (909) 787-2529, or ([ccsracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ccsracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu)).

**Plant / Marketing Engineer.** Live in the Okanagan Valley! A dynamic, value-added manufacturing company seeks a Plant/Marketing Engineer to support their aggressive growth targets. Reporting to the VP Sales and Marketing, you have the following responsibilities:

Analyze and provide Sr. Management with practical and strategic direction on new products. Internal and external technical support of existing products and new product development. Management of product certification through code bodies (eg. ICC, ICBO, CCMC). Supervision of technical aspects of product literature. Development, supervision and management of quality control functions and standards. Support and interaction with the internal sales organization, private consultants, code officials, contractors and clients. Risk analysis regarding product application and warranties.

You will have a professional structural engineer designation in Canada and/or the US (plus eligibility for the same status in multiple provinces or states). This is backed by three to five years of related experience as a licensed structural engineer, preferably in a wood products manufacturing environment.

You also have superior knowledge of engineering first principles and a working knowledge of engineered wood products, product testing, and quality control procedures. Your understanding of the North American residential construction practices and wood structure designs is excellent.

You are highly motivated, results-oriented, innovative, and have the ability to work in a fast-paced, flat organization. You have excellent interpersonal, communications, and problem solving skills, can act decisively, and work well with senior management.

The company offers competitive compensation and benefits package.

Qualified candidates are invited to send their resumes by March 19th c/o:

Jane Campardo  
JMC Management Consulting  
E-mail: [jane.campardo@shaw.ca](mailto:jane.campardo@shaw.ca)

### **Production supervisor/manager**

A value-added manufacturing company located in the Okanagan region of B.C. seeks a Production Supervisor to establish, standardize, and implement processes and procedures for planning and scheduling production, inventory management, certification requirements, quality control, and management reporting. This position is intended to become Production Manager within 6 – 12 months of successful establishment.

You will have a post secondary diploma in operations management, industrial engineering, or wood products processing. This academic requirement may be offset by excellent related experience (below).

Essential experience is 3-5 years related experience in a remanufacturing environment and practical experience with press (eg. finger-joint, glue laminating) and moulding machinery. Your strengths are in helping a mill transition from a start-up plant to a full-line production facility.

Preferably you have experience in the value-added wood product industry and management of a certified plant; and knowledge of non-North American wood characteristics relevant to growth objectives.

Base annual salary for this position is \$50,000+ upon initial placement and \$65,000+ upon assuming Production Manager responsibility.

Qualified candidates are invited to send their resumes by March 19th c/o:

Jane Campardo

Fax: (250) 546 9390

E-mail: [jane.campardo@shaw.ca](mailto:jane.campardo@shaw.ca)

**Fire Researcher Engineer or Forest Products Technologist**, USDA, Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI

Research scientist position in fire research - Primary responsibility will be a research program to document and enhance the survivability of wood structures in the wildland-urban interface. The position is in the Fire Safety Research Work Unit at the USDA, Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI. Work will include both empirical studies and theoretical modeling of fire behavior in potential scenarios involving structures in the wildland urban interface.

In early April 2004, we intend to re-issue a vacancy announcement for this GS- 11/12/13 position on the [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov) web site. The new announcement will not include the requirements of fire research experience that was in the previous announcement (Nov./Dec. 2003 SWST newsletter). Must be U.S. citizen to apply. For further information, please contact Robert H. White, Project Leader for Fire Safety, [rhwhite@fs.fed.us](mailto:rhwhite@fs.fed.us), (608)-231-9265.

**Project Leader, Wood Preservation**, USDA, Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI

Position is that of Project Leader of the Wood Preservation Research Work Unit (RWU) FS-FPL-4723, Wood Products Research, Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), Madison, WI. The mission of the work unit is to improve the durability of forest products in the context of changing environmental and societal needs, thereby sustaining forests, the economy, and the quality of life. The three problems assigned to this RWU are: (1) improved methods of evaluation and analysis of test samples and data are needed for timely and accurate prediction of long-term performance of durable forest products, (2) environmental impact of treated forest products needs to be reduced, and (3) ability to treat a diverse range of species and underutilized small-diameter materials for treated wood applications needs to be improved. Line responsibility for the administration, research planning, and program execution in areas of preservative treatment of forest products and performance evaluation of preservative-treated forest products and related issues such as disposal or reuse of treated wood.

For more information regarding this GS-13/14 position and directions on how to apply go to <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>. Click on the “Search Jobs” button, then in the “Keywords Search” type either FPL-42-04D for Forest Products Technologist, FPL-44-04D for Plant Pathologist, FPL-46-04D for Microbiologist or FPL-40-04D for Chemist. For current Federal Government employees, the corresponding vacancy announcement numbers are as follows: FPL-43-04, FPL-45-04, FPL-47-04, and FPL-41-04, respectively. Must be U.S. citizen to apply. Vacancy announcement closes May 3, 2004.

**2 positions at the USDA Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI** - Two permanent research scientist positions are available at the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI. The positions are responsible for conducting independent research in suspension flow or interfacial phenomenon, or engineering mechanics related to fiber network consolidation or paper physical properties. Fundamental knowledge or research experience in colloidal or noncolloidal suspension flows, or interfacial phenomenon, or engineering mechanics is required. Applicant must be a US citizen. Please refer to [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov) for more information on benefits, salary, duties, qualifications, and how to apply. Click on the “Search Jobs” button, then type either FPL-52-04D, (for Materials Research Engineer), or FPL-54-04D, (for Chemical Engineer), in the “Keyword Search” box. If you do not have internet access, please call Lee Norton at 608-231-9268 for an application package. Application packages must be postmarked by 4/21/2004.

Thomas J. Urbanik, U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, 1 Gifford Pinchot Drive, Madison, WI 53705-2398. Tel: 608 231 9428, FAX: 608 231 9538, e-mail: [turbanik@fs.fed.us](mailto:turbanik@fs.fed.us)  
<http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us>

**Nanoscale Structure Of Polymer Materials.** Permanent Scientist Position At INRA (National Institute For Agronomical Research), France. During the first semester 2004, a competitive examination will be organised by INRA to recruit a scientist, on a permanent post doctoral research position. This scientist will be in charge of a long term programme on the secondary cell wall of wood. The position is open at the LERMaB (Joint research unit for wood as a material, involving INRA, the Forestry Engineering School and the University of Nancy 1), Nancy, France.

(<http://compact.jouy.inra.fr/compact/CONSULTER/INTER/external/unites/ecrans/1093>)

Objectives:

To develop a deterministic approach able to predict the secondary cell wall properties, taking advantage of the last developments in the field of structural biology and of the investigation facilities at the micro- and nano- level. This level of observation is of the utmost importance to understand and predict, hence to modify, some properties of wood at the macroscopic level (shrinkage, visco-elastic properties, wood-water relationships...)

Required Competence:

Applied mathematics, Physics, Theoretical Chemistry and Modelling, Polymers, Physical-Chemistry, Biochemistry. Because the proposed research topic typically needs a multidisciplinary approach, the candidate is supposed to be well versed in at least one of these

sciences. Some experience or interest in any of the complementary domains cited would be a recommendation.

**Personal Skills:** Interest in mathematical modelling and computer tools. Scientific curiosity, an open mind and fitness for team work are the necessary qualifications for this multidisciplinary project. The candidate should be intensely interested and creative, able to integrate results and information from different scientific fields.

Contact:

Patrick Perré – [perre@engref.fr](mailto:perre@engref.fr) – Tél. : 03.83.39.68.90 – Fax : 03.83.39.68.47

## **STUDENT PROFILE**

### **Sudipta Dasmohapatra, Pennsylvania State University**



I am a PhD student in Wood Products Marketing and Management at the Pennsylvania State University completing my dissertation on “understanding value in the Oriented Strandboard industry in North America”. This research effort aims to provide commercially valuable and timely information on current and potential opportunities for OSB product improvement/development through higher value delivery. Relative value perceptions of OSB customers and suppliers were examined in order to determine strategies for differentiating a commoditized OSB product on less tangible attributes (e.g., service attributes, brand image, customer relationship). In addition, the study seeks to fill gaps in customer value literature through integration of various value concepts such as, multi-attribute choice models, competitive value strategies, value delivery leading to customer satisfaction, and customer loyalty.

Prior to getting admitted to the PhD program, I did my Masters in Forest Management from India and worked for two years under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi as a project manager (marketing/economics). I am scheduled to graduate in Summer 2004 and am available for a job opportunity in a marketing/marketing research related area. For more

information, please contact me at [sqd103@psu.edu](mailto:sqd103@psu.edu) or (303) 913-8604.

## NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING

- 2004 Annual Meeting - Theme: "Better Ways to Connect: Going Beyond the Technical Report – June 27, 2004, 8:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI. Contact Vicki at 608-231-9347 or go to <http://www.swst.org/meetings/AM04/annualmtg2004.html>
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fundamental Disciplines Session, Monday, June 28, 1:45-3:30 pm, "Surface Chemistry & Wood Finishes", Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Gerald R. Ford Room, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Student Poster Competition, Saturday, June 26, setup 2:00-4:00, judging 4:00-10:00, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, West Concourse, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Awards will be given Sunday, June 27, from 11:00-11:45 a.m. in the Pantlind Room at the same hotel. To see guidelines go to <http://www.swst.org/StudentPoster.html> For an application, go to <http://www.swst.org/Studentposterapp.html> You MUST be a member of SWST. **New Award Amounts: 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$500; 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$250; 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$125 Send your applications before May 1!**
- This year's IAWS Speaker will be Norman Kutscha who will speak on "A compilation of micrographs on wood and wood products" on June 27, 2004 from 3:30 – 4:30 pm in the Emerald A&B Room of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.
- Be sure to come to the Sunday Annual Meeting Technical Session to hear about the exciting work being done by our Ad Hoc Policy and Critical Issues Subcommittee on National Research Initiatives
- The Board approved the Accreditation Handbook. It will be sent to each school rep and put on the website.
- Authors can receive a pdf of their past Wood and Fiber Science journal article for \$20 each. (not inclusive of current issue). Contact Vicki Herian at the Executive Office.
- Work is continuing on investigating a new look for the cover of Wood and Fiber Science.
- Anyone interested in participating in the Visiting Scientist Program in the U.S. or Canada, either as a visiting scientist or a host institution, please contact Hongmei Gu, chair, at [hgu@fs.fed.us](mailto:hgu@fs.fed.us)

## DOUG'S AMMUSEMENTS CORNER

A woman brought a very limp duck into a vet. As she lay her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm so sorry, Cuddles has passed away."

The distressed owner wailed, "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I am sure. The duck is dead," he replied.

"How can you be so sure," she protested. "I mean, you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room, and returned a few moments later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet patted the dog and took it out, and returned a few moments later with a beautiful cat. The cat jumped up on the table and also sniffed delicately at the bird. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck."

Then the vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill which he handed to the woman. The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$150!", she cried, "\$150 just to tell me my duck is dead?!!!"

The vet shrugged. "I'm sorry. If you'd taken my word for it, the bill would have been only \$20, but what with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan..."

## **ABOUT SWST**

The SWST Newsletter is published six times a year by the Society of Wood Science and Technology, One Gifford Pinchot Drive, Madison, WI 53705, USA.

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The Society of Wood Science and Technology is a technical and professional organization for scientists and engineers working in academia, government, consulting and the forest-products industries and is dedicated to providing education and expertise regarding better ways to use and produce wood products.

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