



Newsletter

SOCIETY OF WOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
May/June 2004

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SWST Snapshot

SWST Membership	May 2004
Full members	287
Student members	61
Retired members	50
Affiliate members	3
Delinquent members	57
Fellows	0

Financial	May 2004
Cash & Bank Accounts	\$101,297
Investments	\$58,751
Liabilities	\$649

Wood And Fiber Science Journal	May 2004
Subscribers	217
Delinquent Subscribers	42
Number of articles in 36(2)	15
<i>Currently in the pipeline</i>	
Ready for typesetting	34
Under revision by authors	34
Under review	29
Rejected	7

Web Page	May/June 2004
Number of unique visitors	848
Number of new visitors	553
Megabytes transferred	514
More data: http://www.swst.org/nettracker/reports/	

NEWS

Donating Old Journals

If you no longer need your old *Wood and Fiber Science* journals, please consider donating them to a needy member or a university library in a developing country. Contact Pascal Kamdem, chair of the International Relations Committee (kamdem@msu.edu, 517-355-7735) to make the arrangements.

Back Issues

The Society has a supply of almost all of the back issues of *Wood and Fiber Science*. They are currently being sold for \$10 per volume, including shipping. This does not include the current issue or the previous year, which are available at full price. Contact Vicki Herian (vherian@fs.fed.us).

Committee Sign-up Form

At the end of this newsletter is a committee sign-up form. You can find a description of each committee responsibilities at <http://www.swst.org/handbook.pdf>. If you wish to serve on a committee, please e-mail or fax filled-out form to Vicki (vherian@fs.fed.us, Fax: 608-231-9592).

Student Poster Competition Judges Needed

Fran Wagner still needs a few more judges for the SWST Student Poster Competition held Saturday evening, June 26. Members may contact him to volunteer for this important and rewarding work. E-mail is fwagner@uidaho.edu and phone number is 208-885-6700.

FPS Public Awareness Committee

I think SWST members will be interested in the program at the annual FPS meeting organized by the Public Awareness Committee. The program will consist of communication representatives from AF&PA, TAPPI, SAF, FPS, and F.R.E.E. who will discuss their programs for communicating with the public, followed by a panel discussion on how we can leverage the various programs to make our communication more effective (Jean Mater).

Search Engines

One of our computer gurus sent the link to a computer newsletter, "Brian's Buzz," concerning the increasing ineffectiveness of the Google search engine <http://briansbuzz.com/w/040408/>. Just for grins, I hit the link to a site mentioned in the article, Google-Watch's demonstration page <http://www.google-watch.org/scrapper.html> and ran a search for "wood science." The demonstration page lists 41 sites, including some very familiar ones to SWST members, that should be listed in the Google top 100 hits but weren't. It also lists the top 100. It appears to me that wood science webmasters could do a better job in tagging web sites. In addition, Google users should be aware of the pitfalls of the browser. James Armstrong.

The University of Minnesota

Department of Wood and Paper Science has recently adopted a new strategy and direction for the department's undergraduate programs and curricula. Changes were made after extensive consultation with partners in the forest products, paper and emerging bio-products industries; faculty from multiple disciplines throughout the country; alumni; and students. As of fall 2004 the name of the department will change to "Bio-based Products," and that name will apply as well to all undergraduate programs of the department.

All curricula have been extensively revised as part of the change. The new "Bio-based Products" curriculum strengthens existing linkages to other academic disciplines of the University of Minnesota, drawing on the strengths and expertise of various units including the Institute of Technology (engineering), the Carlson School of Management, the College of Biological Sciences, and the College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences.

Within the interdisciplinary Bio-based Products major students will be able to choose one of three areas of specialization: Bio-based Products Engineering (joint program with the Institute of Technology), Bio-based Products Marketing and Management, or Residential Building Science and Technology. These specializations combine coursework in science, engineering, technology, and business - all related to the manufacturing and end-use applications of materials, products and energy from renewable resources. In addition, this major provides students with a strong foundation in the sustainable utilization of bio-resources while protecting the environment. The department will also offer a minor in Bio-based Products Engineering, available to students majoring in engineering or any of the basic sciences.

"The new undergraduate programs offer a broad-based education and will vastly increase the career opportunities for our students spanning a wide spectrum of industries including the forest products, paper, and the emerging bio-products industries" says Shri Ramaswamy, professor and head of the department. "This will also position our department and the college to continue to provide outstanding service to our stakeholders well into the 21st bio-century" adds Ramaswamy.

To learn more about the Department of Bio-based Products in the University of Minnesota, College of Natural Resources, visit <http://www.cnr.umn.edu/BP>

Leaders wanted for IUFRO D05.02.

In the past year, D05.02 was restructured to broaden our scope. However, we need to fill out the leadership structure and would like to have world-wide representation. We are looking for two deputies to serve in 5.02.01 and 5.02.02, and a new leader and deputy leader for 5.02.03 (where I am serving as temporary leader). If you are interested or have suggestions of others who might be, please contact me at frank.beall@nature.berkeley.edu.

5.02 Physiomechanical properties and applications (Frank Beall)

Scope. The Research Group is concerned with all aspects of physical and mechanical properties

and applications to wood and wood-based materials and products. The scope encompasses the entire field of wood science and technology and both destructive or non-destructive, such as the evaluation of growing trees; determination of the physical and mechanical properties of raw material; measurement of characteristics during processing; and assessment of properties of products after processing and in-service; and application to engineered structures.

5.02.01 Nondestructive evaluation (Ferenc Divos)

The Working Party is concerned with all aspects of nondestructive evaluation (NDE) of wood and wood-based materials and products.

The scope is intended to cover techniques that are non-intrusive and/or do not impair the processing or functionality of the object studied. As such, NDE includes both nondestructive and quasi-destructive techniques, and often is done in conjunction with destructive tests for verification of data.

5.02.02 Fundamental properties (Patrick Perre)

The Working Party is involved in all basic aspects of physical and mechanical properties of wood and wood-based materials.

The scope encompasses not only the basic properties of these materials, but also the interaction of physical and mechanical properties. The determination of these properties includes experimental and/or modeling techniques that lead to information for expansion or improvement of reference data bases, and to support the efforts of researchers in other Working Parties.

5.02.03 Engineering applications (Frank Beall)

The Working Party is primarily concerned with applying engineering techniques to the use of wood and wood-based materials in structures.

The scope includes elements, subsystems, and complete systems for residential and non-residential structures in applications throughout the world. The applications could apply to new and renovated construction, recycling/reuse, and issues related to engineering reliability, including durability improvement and disaster resistance.

Poster Presentations Help Available

SWST has partnered with SciFor Inc. to provide you with all your poster presentation needs. To order your posters, handouts, poster booklets or CD complications – visit the SWST page listed under the Association Partners tab at <http://www.scifor.com>

Journal of Wood Chemistry and Technology

The *Journal of Wood Chemistry and Technology* is now available on-line at <http://www.dekker.com/servlet/product/productid/WCT>

Jennifer Williams (jennifer.williams@taylorandfrancis.com)

Promotion

Dr. Qinglin Wu, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center, School of Renewable Natural Resources, LSU Ag Center has been promoted to the rank of Professor.

Chinese Society of Wood Science

The Chinese Society of Wood Science is one of the 30 branches in the Chinese Association of Forestry. Up to now, nine symposiums have been successfully held by the Chinese Society of Wood Science. Recently, the 9th symposium was held in Haerbin, Heilongjiang Province, China from January 7th to January 10th, 2004. The host institution of this conference is Northeastern Forestry University in China. The president of this university, Prof. Jian Li, who is also a wood scientist, was reassigned as the president of the Chinese Society of Wood Science. The proceeding of this conference includes 104 scientific papers, which are classified into 7 sections, namely, the fundamental research on wood science, wood preservation, wood environmental science, wood biology, bio-mass composites, material engineering and detecting technologies, and others. More than 140 people working in this field attended this conference. The participants are mostly from universities and research institutions, such as Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing Forestry University, Nanjing Forestry University, Northeastern Forestry University and some departments of forestry in regional universities. Also, there are members from the wood industries in China, such as the Huahe Furniture Co. Ltd., Baoshi Wood Industry Co. Ltd., and Haerbin Dongda Inc., etc., which are also the co-sponsor of this conference.

Dr. Jinzhen Cao
Beijing Forestry University, China

Unique Packaging Science Option to Focus on Unit Load Logistics, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA (April, 2004): Starting fall 2004, undergraduate students in the department of wood science and forest products at Virginia Tech will have a new educational study option in packaging science. Significant opportunities exist to improve the efficiency and safety of the global unit load logistics system for product storage and distribution by understanding how critical components in the system interact during use. Graduates of this program will be unique in the industry with an understanding of transport packaging and unit load systems-based design technologies, which include the interactions of packaging, pallets, and unit load material handling equipment. Interdisciplinary education and research will include all components of the unit load logistics system, including packaging design, pallet design, unit load stabilization, dunnage, blocking, and bracing, unit load handling equipment design, and associated interactions, and includes courses in wood science and forest products, industrial and systems engineering, material science engineering, and graphic arts. The first program graduates, anticipated in spring of 2006, can expect employment in a variety of industry groups including

box plants, wood pallet and container manufacturers, folding carton suppliers, and corporate packaging, warehouse, shipping, and logistics departments. Future plans also include a proposed graduate program in packaging and logistics science.

The Center for Unit Load Design develops information and technologies to optimize the relationship between the design and performance of unit loads and to maximize the efficiency of unit load material handling systems. The center focuses on system optimization in studying the mechanical interactions between containers, pallets, and unit load material handling equipment. Facilities include the William H. Sardo Jr. Pallet and Container Laboratory and Unit Load Testing Laboratory, which feature a comprehensive packaging testing laboratory and automated material handling equipment typically found in many automated warehouses. The center's team includes experts in packaging, palletization, material handling, and unit load design.

To learn more about the Center for Unit Load Design and the new undergraduate packaging science program visit our website at <http://www.unitload.vt.edu> or contact Bonnie Maccubbin at (540) 231-5370 or by email at bjmac@vt.edu. The Center for Unit Load Design is a center in the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products in the College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wood and Fiber Science Editor's Report

Volume 36, 2004

	No. of Pages	
	Total	Technical
January issue	132	128
April issue	156	154
July issue	176	173
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Total Number of Pages	464	455

The annual budget calls for 600 pages of technical articles paying page charges. We fell behind that goal due primarily to the transition from Allen Press to Impressions for composition and type setting starting with the January, 2004 issue. If we want to maintain 600 technical pages per year, we should have 150 such pages per issue. In January, we fell behind by 22 pages while we were working out the logistics of the new arrangement of Impressions doing the type setting and Allen press doing the printing.

With the April and July issues, having 154 and 173 technical pages, respectively, we have caught up and the October issue will require to have a minimum of 145 technical pages only to meet the 600 goal. It will still be a squeeze because that issue has a lot of non-paying pages such as the index, the list of the winners of the various competitions, an editorial, the remarks by the DSA

recipients, etc. However, Carol and I feel, we can meet the budgetary goal.

Manuscript in the process as of June 10, 2004

Accepted and forwarded to Carol	19
Back to authors for revision	32
Out for review	28
Rejected	9
In Editor's office	3

Total number of papers in the process	91

If the average number of papers in each issue is 15, we have more than enough accepted (19) to fill the October issue. This means that any manuscript accepted from now on can only be published in Volume 37, 2005.

During the last couple of months we had an unusual number of manuscripts which had to be rejected. The major reason for the rejections was English. However, there were a few with deficiencies in their technical contents.

In general, publication of *Wood and Fiber Science* has been going smoothly except for the January issue for which we had some minor problems with the transition from Allen Press to Impressions for composition and type setting. Carol still has to watch carefully the work of Impressions. For example, Carol discovered that for the July issue Impressions would have wasted a lot of space by printing some figures on single pages when those figures could easily fit on less than ½ pages. Carol Owens is doing an excellent job, especially in editing for language and format and in overseeing the galleys.

Publication Policy Committee

Activity of the Publication Policy Committee this year has been mainly concerned with the design and format of *Wood and Fiber Science*. The objective is to replace the current 7x10 inch plain yellow journal with an 8 1/2 x 11 possibly multicolored journal. Three designs by Azzeddine Oudjehane were submitted to generate reaction to general layout, pictures, and contents on the cover. Reaction to these indicated a preference for pictures on the cover.

The same designs were submitted to Allen Press for estimates of cost for printing. Their estimates indicated that we can print a journal 8 1/2 x 11 on white paper with pictures on the cover as shades of one color for essentially the same cost as the current journal. The 7 x 10 size and yellow cover of the current journal increase printing costs.

Consideration of a logo for the new journal format is in progress. This will be submitted for Board and membership consideration when it is ready.

Submitted by Bob Youngs, Chair

Accreditation Committee Interim Report

The Accreditation Committee has received the Interim Accreditation Report from West Virginia University. Committee Chair Jim Armstrong cannot participate in the review of the WVU program and has asked Vice Chair Audrey Zink-Sharp to chair the WVU review.

The SWST Executive Board granted the programs at the University of Idaho and North Carolina State a one-year extension for re-accreditation to coincide with the date of their next SAF accreditation. Visits to these two institutions and to Virginia Tech are due to take place in 2005.

The Committee was charged to "finalize and provide new accreditation handbook for the March Board Meeting. The Board approved the new handbook, which may be found on the SWST web page at http://www1.fpl.fs.fed.us/swst/accred_handbook.pdf. Members are urged to review the guidelines since they incorporate significant changes in the accreditation procedures for WST programs. The Committee is grateful to Tom McLain for his efforts in coordinating the revision of the Accreditation Standards.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Armstrong,
Accreditation Committee Chair

Affiliate Member Report

My name is Dr Reynolds Okai a Visiting Scientist from the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana now on sabbatical leave at Shimane University in Japan. I was very busy last year attending the All Division 5 IUFRO Congress in New Zealand, the 15th International Wood Machining Seminar in Japan, and the XII World Forestry Congress in Quebec, Canada.

Since last year, I have been conducting research in Japan on the development of a new technology for band sawing using tip-inserted saws. Most companies in Japan have adopted this technology, which has helped to increase lumber yield and productivity.

CONFERENCES

9th International IUFRO Wood Drying Conference. You are invited to attend the 9th International IUFRO Wood Drying Conference to be held in Nanjing China in August 2005. When you send E-mail please indicate IUFRO-9WDC as subject.

Conference Coordinator
Prof. Gu Lianbai
Faculty of Wood Science & Technology
Nanjing Forestry University
Nanjing 210037, China
E-mail: iufro-wdc@wooddry.com or: iufrowdc@njfu.edu.cn

Phone: 0086 25 85427058
Fax: 0086 25 85435067

International Conference on Inorganic-Bonded Composites

The International Conference on Inorganic-Bonded Composites which is scheduled for October 11-13, 2004 in Vancouver, BC. The conference web site is:

<http://www.uidaho.edu/inorganic>

This web site has a great deal of information including the full program. It is also designed for on-line registration, etc. This is the 9th conference which I have organized once every two years. Nearly 200 people from 25-30 countries are expected based on our prior experience.

Anyone interested to receive more information, can go to our web site or communicate with:

Holly Palmer
The Conferences Office
University of Idaho
P.O. Box 441205
Moscow, ID 83844-1205
Email: hpalmer@uidaho.edu
Phone: 208-885-6486 or 1-888-884-3246

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.

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.

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@purdue.edu.

Assistant / Associate Professor — Packaging Science. The Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Tech is seeking applications for the position of assistant professor in the area of packaging science.

Position Description: The tenure-track position will be at the Assistant or Associate Professor level and will be a calendar year appointment. The position will be split approximately as 60% applied and/or fundamental research and 40% teaching. The successful candidate is expected to develop an internationally recognized research program in packaging science from renewable resources, with major focus on wood and woody fiber resources. The successful candidate will be expected to conduct extramurally funded research in packaging, product storage, and distribution. Research areas to include, but not limited to, development of technologies which improve distribution packaging and unit load performance efficiencies with a focus on the design of wood fiber based packaging, wood crates and containers, and wood pallets. The successful

candidate will work cooperatively with the staff and facilities of the Center for Unit Load Design (<http://www.unitload.vt.edu>) and the Pallet & Container Research Laboratory (<http://www.palletlab.vt.edu>). Service responsibilities will include consulting with members of the Center for Unit Load Design as well as participating in workshops, short courses, and other outreach programs of the Department. Teaching responsibilities will include two undergraduate courses and one graduate course in the related areas of expertise. Opportunities to develop new courses in the area of expertise will be encouraged. The position provides excellent opportunities to develop a strong interdisciplinary program with other researchers in the department and the Department of Food Science or Industrial and Systems Engineering on the Virginia Tech campus. The successful candidate will be expected to obtain extramural funding, publish in refereed journals, participate in local, regional and national meetings of professional societies, serve as major professor for graduate students, and serve on graduate committees. Cooperation and collaboration with other scientists in the department and across our campus is expected.

Qualifications: Candidates will have a Ph.D. in packaging science or wood science, pulp and paper science, chemical engineering, industrial and systems engineering, or closely allied fields, with demonstrated experience in packaging science. The successful candidate must be able to communicate effectively with people at all levels in university, industry and private sectors.

Application: Application materials should include a current vitae, copy of official transcripts for all degrees at all institutions, and the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of five professional references. The applicant should address his or her interest in the position by preparing a written statement of interest that addresses the matching of personal skills and education with the position description. Review of candidate files will begin June 30, 2004 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

Inquiries: Dr. Marshall White, Search Committee Chair
Department of Wood Science and Forest Products
College of Natural Resources, Virginia Tech
Brooks Forest Products Center, Mail Code 0503, Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone 540-231-7134 or email mwhite@vt.edu

Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Statement

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of race, sex, disability, age, veteran status, national Origin, religion, political affiliation, or sexual orientation. Virginia Tech has a strong commitment to the principle of diversity and in that spirit, seeks a broad spectrum of candidates including women, minorities, and people with disabilities. The university is subject to Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistant Act of 1974, the Federal Executive Order 11246, Governor Gilmore's State Executive Order Number Two, and all other rules and regulations that are applicable. Anyone having questions concerning any of those regulations or accessibility should contact the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Office, 336 Burruss Hall (0216), Blacksburg, Virginia 24061, (540) 231-7500, TTY (540) 231-9460. Individuals with disabilities desiring accommodations in the application process should notify Dr. Marshall White, Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, 540-231-7134 or 1-800-828-1120 by the application deadline.

Two Research Forest Products Technologists, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Vacancies close June 15, 2004.

The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station is advertising two permanent positions (US citizenship is required) for Research Forest Products Technologists/Research Foresters. The first GS 12/13 position is in Portland as a member of the Ecologically Sustainable Production of Forest Resources team and the second GS 13/14 position is as Team Leader of the Wood Utilization Center in Sitka, Alaska. The salary ranges from \$60,670 to \$85,255 (with a 25% pay differential for the Alaska position). The first position focuses on research to advance knowledge, establish protocols, and develop methods through integration of multi-disciplinary research in support of the ecologically sustainable production of forest resources in the western United States. It also includes conducting and analyzing product recovery studies. The second position shares many of the same research areas but focuses on utilization issues in Alaska. It also is a supervisory position where the incumbent is responsible for leading a five member research and development team. In both positions, the research is generally of an applied nature directed at understanding how different forest management activities affect forest outputs (especially wood utilization and wood quality) over time, at different geographical scales, and what opportunities exist for achieving joint production of goods and services from forested landscapes.

Candidates for the position must have a strong scholarly background similar to that expected from someone with a doctoral degree, as well as a familiarity with National Forest Management. Essential requirements of this position include a working knowledge of the wood products industry, a demonstrated facility for planning and conducting research, and examples of combining forest management with wood technology research. Candidates must also have strong skills in implementing a program of work using formal and informal team arrangements and be adept at analyzing data, writing and publishing scholarly articles, and presenting results orally to diverse audiences.

The vacancy announcements are available at <http://www.usajobs.gov> or for more information about the position, contact Richard Haynes, Program Manager, PNW Research Station, at e-mail rhaynes@fs.fed.us or phone (503) 808-2002.

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

The USDA, Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) at Madison, WI is recruiting for a scientist in fire research. While previous experience or education in fire research is desirable, it is not required to apply for this position. Selectee will be part of a three scientist unit dedicated to developing data, methodologies, and technologies needed to insure that wood products and wood based structures do not adversely contribute to the loss of life and property in fires. The primary responsibility of the scientist will be a research program to document and enhance the survivability of wood structures in the wildland-urban interface.

FPL is the nation's leading wood research institute, and is an internationally recognized authority on wood science and use. More information about FPL is available at <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/>. Due to a recent re-organization, the fire research program is now a separate research work unit

(RWU 4725) instead of being part of the Wood Preservation and Fire Safety Engineering Research Work Unit (RWU 4723) shown on the web site. Robert White (rhwhite@fs.fed.us) is the Project Leader and contact person for information regarding the research assignment.

The vacancy is being announced under both the Research General Engineer and Research Forest Products Technologist job classifications. Qualification requirements for each job classification are included in the official vacancy announcements, which can be found at:

<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>. Click on the “Search Jobs” button, then in the “Keyword Search” type “General Engineer” or “Forest Products Technologist”, select WI: Madison for location, and answer the yes/no to the applicant eligibility question concerning current Federal employee/veteran’s preference status to obtain the proper official job announcement. The vacancy announcement numbers are: for Research Forest Products Technologist: FPL-62-04D (All U.S. citizens) and FPL-63-04 (Federal employees), for Research General Engineer: FPL-60-04D (All U.S. citizens) and FPL-61-04 (Federal employees).

It is essential that you access the official vacancy announcement before applying, as it has details that you will not find here, and lists what is needed for the application procedure. Information on grade levels, salary, minimum qualifications, where to send your application and contact for additional information on this position is in the official vacancy announcement.

Must be U.S. citizen to apply.

Vacancy application deadline is June 4, 2004.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

STUDENT PROFILE

Francisco X. Aguilar, Louisiana State University



Francisco X. Aguilar is a doctoral student and graduate research assistant in the Forest Products Marketing Program in the School of Renewable Natural Resources at Louisiana State University. Francisco is studying GIS/GPS/spatial technologies applied to forest sector market problems and issues with Dr. Richard Vlosky and is also taking a minor in Agricultural Economics.

Francisco currently serves as President of both the Governing Board of the International Cultural

Center, Louisiana State University and the LSU International Student Association.

He received his BS in Agronomic Engineering from E.A.R.T.H. University in Costa Rica and completed his MS in Sustainable Rural Development at the Royal Agricultural College (U.K.) as a scholar of the British Council. Experience includes sustainable rural development work in Asia (Sri Lanka, Thailand), Costa Rica and Ecuador with both private and public institutions.

Finally, Francisco has been accepted into the Resources for the Future (RFF) Internship Program for summer 2004. This is a very prestigious program that accepted 12 individuals from such institutions as Yale, Harvard, MIT and New York University. Francisco will be stationed at RFF headquarters in Washington, DC.

COMMITTEE SIGN-UP FORM

I would like to sign up to serve on the following committee(s): (Please indicate your first, second and third choice.)

Accreditation	_____
Education	_____
George Marra Award	_____
International Relations	_____
Membership	_____
Policy and Critical Issues	_____
Publication Policy	_____
Visiting Scientist Program	_____

Name	_____
Address	_____
City/State/Zip	_____
Telephone	_____
Fax	_____
Email	_____

Please Return to: Society of Wood Science and Technology
One Gifford Pinchot Drive
Madison, WI 53726
FAX: 608-231-9592 Email: vicki@swst.org

DOUG'S AMMUSEMENTS CORNER

They're back - Darwin Awards! Yes, it's that magical time of the year again when the Darwin Awards are bestowed, honoring the least evolved among us. Here then, are the glorious winners for 2003:

1. When his 38-caliber revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a holdup in Long Beach, California, would be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked. And now, the honorable mentions:

2. The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat-cutting machine and, after a little hopping around, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company, suspecting negligence, sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine and lost a finger. The chef's claim was approved.

3. A man who shoveled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.

4. After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Bulawayo had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence, the driver went to a nearby bus stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn't discovered for three days.

5. An American teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.

6. A man walked into a Louisiana Circle-K, put a \$20 bill on the counter and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer...\$15. (If someone points a gun at you and gives you money, is a crime committed?)

7. A thief burst into a Florida bank one day wearing a ski mask and carrying a gun. Aiming his gun at the guard, the thief yelled, "FREEZE, MOTHER-STICKERS, THIS IS A ****-UP!" For a moment, everyone was silent. Then the snickers started. The security guard completely lost it and doubled over laughing. It probably saved his life, because he'd been about to draw his gun. He couldn't have drawn and fired before the thief got him. The thief ran away and is still at large. In memory of the event, the banker later put a plaque on the wall engraved with the words, "Freeze, mother-stickers, this is a ****-up!"

8. Seems an Arkansas guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinderblock through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinderblock and heaved it over his head at the window. The cinderblock bounced back and hit the would-be thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. The liquor store window was made of Plexiglas. The whole event was caught on videotape.

9. As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."

10. The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan, at 5 a.m., flashed a gun, and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away.

11. When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle Street, he got much more than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find a very sick man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline and plugged his siphon hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges, saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had.

ABOUT SWST

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