

PROFESSIONAL PAGES

AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION OF WOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The SWST Distinguished Service Award is given in recognition of distinguished service to the profession as a whole and for extraordinary contributions in wood science and technology. Such service may have been made in any educational, technological, scientific, or professional area directly related to the profession of wood science and technology in furtherance of the objectives of the Society as outlined in its Constitution and Bylaws. Guidelines for the award and past recipients can be found at <http://www.swst.org/news2/awards/dsaguide.html>.

The 2016 award goes to **Robert W. Rice**. Robert accepted the 2016 Award in Vancouver at the SWST 2017 International Meeting in conjunction with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) meeting. The 2016 Committee was composed of: Sheldon Shi (Chair), Alain Cloutier, Todd Shupe, Sue Anagnost, and Jim Funck.

Dr. Rice's comments are below:

Good afternoon, President Smith, the SWST executive board, fellow members of the International Academy of Wood Science, colleagues and friends.

Some years ago my friend Mike Barnes, who was about to receive a service award, sent me a draft of his presentation. It was short and well written and straight from the heart. As I sat down to write these brief remarks, I knew that I could not match his skill in writing but I can match his genuine appreciation and gratitude for being given the Society's highest award.

As I prepared these remarks, I asked myself why anyone would travel thousands of miles to sit in long meetings, for no pay, little glory, and with only the hope of making a small difference in the profession. The more I thought about serving the profession, the more I realized that service has more to do with working with and supporting colleagues and the profession than anything else

Like many in this room, my career began far from wood science and technology. I started long ago with a background in physics and working as a nuclear engineer building and testing reactors for the US Navy. I continued for some years as an engineer in industry. After almost 10 years, I was bored, and I wanted to follow my passion: wood. I wanted to understand what we know as a remarkable natural material. After long thought and many discussions with my wife, I contacted Bruce Hoadley a professor of wood science at the University of Massachusetts and the only wood scientist whose name I knew because he had written a book called *Understanding Wood* that I had read. It turns out, he was also a person who grew up about a half a mile from where I grew up in Connecticut.

Bruce spent 4 hours on a Saturday morning in his office telling me about the profession. As I listened to him, my interest soared. At the end of the visit, he said that if I wanted to change careers, I could come to UMass if I wanted to but that I would probably like Virginia Tech much better. He said the program was run by a kind of wild Hungarian, Geza Ifju, a former classmate of his at Yale. But, he added that VA Tech was a strong program with a lot of money.

A year later, I quit my well-paying job and with my wife and a 3-month old baby, moved to Virginia to start graduate school. Need I mention that more than a few questions arose from my family over doing such a stupid thing? Still, my wife and my mother were strong supporters.

VT was brimming with motivated, interesting graduate students with a strong faculty and a dynamic research atmosphere. I was impressed with it all. My fellow students were as interested in

wood as I was. I liked them, and I still do like them, and I wanted to work with them and others in the profession.

Near the end of my graduate school days, I met another wood scientist: Don Argenbright. Don was remarkable for a number of reasons but more for surviving Berkeley in the 1960's. I told him that I didn't know many in the profession. "Go to an SWST meeting" he said, "you'll know everybody soon." I went. Surrounded by wood scientists and technologists whose papers I had been reading for years, I was in awe. They were friendly, interesting people who shared by passion for wood. Those scientists and technologists, like many in this room, have solved problem after problem, increased productivity, and uncovered the secrets of a remarkable natural material. They were interested in protecting the resource and the environment.

Because of the people, because of the passion for wood that I sensed was shared, I wanted to serve both SWST and the Forest Products Society. Over many years and many long meetings, far from home, the people and the focus of our profession have made service enjoyable.

As I move to the ranks of gray-haired wood scientists and technologists, I have had the opportunity to meet and to train as graduate students, a number of young, dedicated professionals with new ideas and approaches to forestry and forest products studies. I would urge all to get involved and to stay involved with your fellow scientists and technologists. You will not find a better group to work with anywhere.

To those who nominated me for this award, I know it is a time consuming process that requires the efforts of a number of people—I thank you. To my wife who has supported my work for years—I thank you. For the many people who have been friends and colleagues for years, I thank you for your support and friendship.

The 2017 award goes to **Frederick (Fred) Kamke** the JELD-WEN Professor at Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR. The award was accepted by Dr. Eric Hansen, on behalf of Fred Kamke in Vancouver at the SWST 2017 International Meeting in conjunction with the IUFRO meeting. The 2017 Committee was composed of: Michael Wolcott (Chair), Sheldon, Shi, Alain Cloutier, Todd Shupe, Sue Anagnost, and Jim Funck. Dr. Kamke's comments are below:

First, I'm very sorry that I cannot be in Vancouver to accept the award in person. Duty calls for family and work—in that order. This is the week of final exams at OSU, which I could blow-off (even if my DH doesn't like it). However, my family is gathering in Corvallis this week to watch my youngest son graduate from OSU on Saturday. As you hear this, I will be shuttling family members from the Portland airport to Corvallis. Second, I must thank Eric Hansen for accepting the SWST Distinguished Service Award on my behalf. Eric is a really great guy who understands that I really would not blow-off a final exam without a really good reason. The DSA is a really good reason.

To have been selected for this award makes me truly grateful and proud—because I deeply respect the Society of Wood Science and Technology and the many people who volunteer their time to the Society. Some SWST members who I consider mentors during my career are Bob Erickson, Jim Wilson, Geza Ifju, Bob Youngs, and Tom McLain. Bob Erickson was the reason I pursued a career in academia. Jim opened my eyes to the possibilities of wood as an engineering material. Geza taught me to create my own opportunities, while Bob Youngs introduced me to the international community of wood science. Finally, Tom McLain showed me the value of preparation and planning. Bob Erickson and Geza Ifju are no longer with us, but I appreciate the influence all of my mentors had on my life and the service they have provided to the Society. Of course, I must thank Vicki for being the consistent shining light over all of these years of my SWST experience.

I've been a member of SWST for over 30 years, which officially qualifies me as an old guy. Old guys aren't necessarily the smartest bunch, but we've been around long enough to observe many things, which gives me license to make observations. SWST works because it has a clear purpose that has not wavered - and that purpose is to maintain a body of knowledge distinctive to the science and technology of wood, and to nurture and disseminate this knowledge to the profession and the public at large. We know who we are. We know we are "wood geeks" who dabble from time to time with other lignocellulosic materials. We are a small group, but amazingly consistent, persistent, and productive. We are not going to be famous, but we can be content in the knowledge that we have chosen a career that studies an amazing material that touches the life of nearly everyone on Earth.

I'm proud to be a member of SWST, and I plan to continue to serve the Society as long as I'm able.

Thank you.

FELLOW AWARD

The Fellow award recognizes significant contributions to the wood science and technology profession and service to the Society by SWST members. Guidelines and past recipients can be found at <http://www.swst.org/news2/awards/fellowguide.html>. The 2016 and 2017 committees were the Past President's Council with Sheldon Shi as Chair for 2016 and Michael Wolcott as Chair for 2017.

The recipient of the 2016 award is **Alfred Teischinger**, Professor, University of Natural Resources and Life Science (BOKU), Vienna, Austria.

The recipient of the 2017 award is **Susan Anagnost**, Professor, Department of Paper and Bioprocess Engineering, Director, N.C. Brown Center for Ultrastructure Studies, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF), Syracuse, NY.

GEORGE MARRA AWARD

The George Marra Award is given in memory of George Marra by the Marra family in recognition of George's devotion to excellence in writing. Every article in each issue of the most recent volume of *Wood and Fiber Science* is read and judged by a committee. The committee members were Jim Funck (Chair, APA), Sam Zelinka (USDA FS, Forest Products Laboratory), Jeff Morrell (Oregon State University), and Elisha Ncube (Copperbelt University). Guidelines for the award can be found at <http://www.swst.org/news2/awards/marraguide.html>.

The 2017 (Volume 48) winners are

- **Zelinka, Samuel L., Leandro Passarini, Jose Colon Quintana, Samuel V. Glass, Joseph E. Jakes, and Alex C. Wiedenhoft.** "Cell wall domain and moisture content influence southern pine electrical conductivity," Volume 48, Special Issue, pages 54-61—Second Place
- **McKinley, Paige E., Daniel J. Ching, Frederick A. Kamke, Michaela Zauner, and Xianghui Xiao.** "Micro x-ray computed tomography of adhesive bonds in wood," Volume 48, Special Issue, pages 2-16—Honorable Mention
- **Gardner, Douglas and Mehdi Tajvidi.** "Hydrogen bonding in wood-based materials: An Update," Volume 48, Number 4, pages 234-244—First Place
- **Bergman, Richard, D. Kaestner, and Adam Taylor.** "Life cycle impacts of North American wood panel manufacturing," Volume 48, Special Issue, pages 40-53

STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION AWARD

The purposes of the Student Poster Competition are to 1) encourage student membership and participation in SWST, 2) encourage student attendance at the SWST Annual Convention, 3) recognize excellence in student research, and 4) improve the visibility of student research efforts. Guidelines can be found at http://www.swst.org/news2/student_poster/index.html, past winners at http://www.swst.org/news2/student_poster/recipients.html, and competition contributors at http://www.swst.org/news2/student_poster/donation_request.html.

Judges for the 2017 competition were Lech Muszynski (Chair, Oregon State University); Rupert Wimmer, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU); Henry Quesada, VA Tech; Rakesh Gupta, Oregon State University; and Eini Lowell, USDA Forest Service

Twenty-two posters were in competition at the Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The winners were

First Place

Shiori Sato, University of Tsukuba, Japan, "*Extremely large mechanical loss tangent of compressed wood in the radial direction.*"

Second Place

Nanami Zeniya, University of Tsukuba, Japan, "*Changes in vibrational properties and color of Sitka spruce wood due to accelerated aging.*"

Jose Guerrero, Oregon State University, USA, "*Applying Lean Six sigma in the wood furniture industry: A case example in a small company.*"

Third Place

Juliana Vincente Becker, University of São Paulo, Brazil, "*Engineered bamboo as a construction material for an urban environment: Proposals of structural systems for social housing in Brazil.*"