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# Furniture Highlights

*From* THE FURNITURE RESEARCH UNIT  
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

## MSU's Industrial Assessment Center Available to State's Furniture Industry

Amy Garrard

The Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) program provides no-cost energy assessments to Mississippi's furniture industry. The primary purpose of the IAC is to help serve the energy-, waste-, and productivity-related needs of medium-sized manufacturing facilities within a geographic radius of approximately 150 miles of MSU. Engineering students, under the supervision of a MSU Mechanical Engineering Faculty member, make site visits to obtain information on the facility, energy-consuming processes, waste generation and handling practices, and production methods. An assessment report is then prepared that identifies and recommends specific actions to conserve energy and/or reduce costs, reduce waste generation, and improve production methods. Implementation costs and payback periods are estimated for each recommendation. The IAC program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Look at what IAC has done for industry over the past 3 years:

- Over 450 recommendations made in 75 reports
- 100 different recommendation types
- \$2.1 million in recommended energy savings
- \$450,000 recommended waste savings
- \$4.4 million in recommended productivity savings
- Recommended an average of \$92,000/year in cost savings for each facility.

### 7 Requirements for a MSU IAC Industrial Assessment

- ✓ Standard Industrial Classification Codes (SIC) of 20-39
- ✓ Located within 150 miles of MSU
- ✓ Have a maximum plant energy cost of \$2 million/year
- ✓ Have a minimum plant energy cost of \$100,000/year
- ✓ Have a maximum of \$100 million/year in gross sales
- ✓ Have a maximum of 500 employees at the plant
- ✓ Lack in-house expertise in energy use and energy conservation

For further information on the Industrial Assessment Center, please contact:

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All information on IAC obtained from the Mississippi State University IAC website:  
<http://www.me.msstate.edu/IAC/progdesc.htm>

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### Romanians visit FPL



A delegation of Romanians visited facilities in the Columbus area as part of a tour of timber and forest-products industries in the United States. The 12-member group toured Airline Manufacturing in Columbus and the Forest Products Laboratory at MSU on Thursday, April 11, 2002. Romania is trying to maximize the benefits from forest resources. The trip was spurred by Romania's program of land restitution to individual owners and communities. The group earlier toured a pulp and paper mill, a sawmill, a flake-board mill, a demonstration forest, and a national forest.

**\$3.9 Billion**  
*Total Industry Output*

**49,732 Jobs**

**\$1.3 Billion**  
*In Wages*

**\$1.8 Billion**  
*In Value Added*

**Mississippi's  
Wood  
Furniture  
&  
Related  
Products  
Industry**

*Based on 1998 data. Total numbers stated in this publication include direct, indirect and induced effects of the industry on Mississippi's economy*

# GOOD ENERGY PRACTICES

- Lights turned off when facility is vacant
- Forklift batteries charged during off-peak hours
- Cardboard, paper, scrap metal, wood chips, sawdust, pallets, fabric foam, fiber, and waste oil recycled
- Air conditioners turned off when facility is vacant
- Air leak detection program in place
- Energy efficient motors used
- Synthetic lubricant used in air compressors
- Garbage compactor used to reduce waste hauling fees
- Skylights used
- Waste heat from process equipment used
- High velocity low pressure (HVLP) paint guns used to reduce paint waste
- Outside air used for compressor intake air
- Nesting computer program used to minimize wood and fabric scrap
- Process equipment installed when applicable
- Energy efficient T-8 lamps used
- Night-lights controlled by separate circuits
- Motors checked for over sizing
- Combustion efficiencies checked regularly
- Radiant gas heaters used
- Strip doors used in entryways between conditioned and non-conditioned spaces
- Energy management systems and programmable thermostats used
- Economizers used on air conditioners in production areas
- Spot cooling utilized for worker comfort
- Mechanical sorter used to grade and mark rough-cut wood
- An optimizer used to cut and sort planks

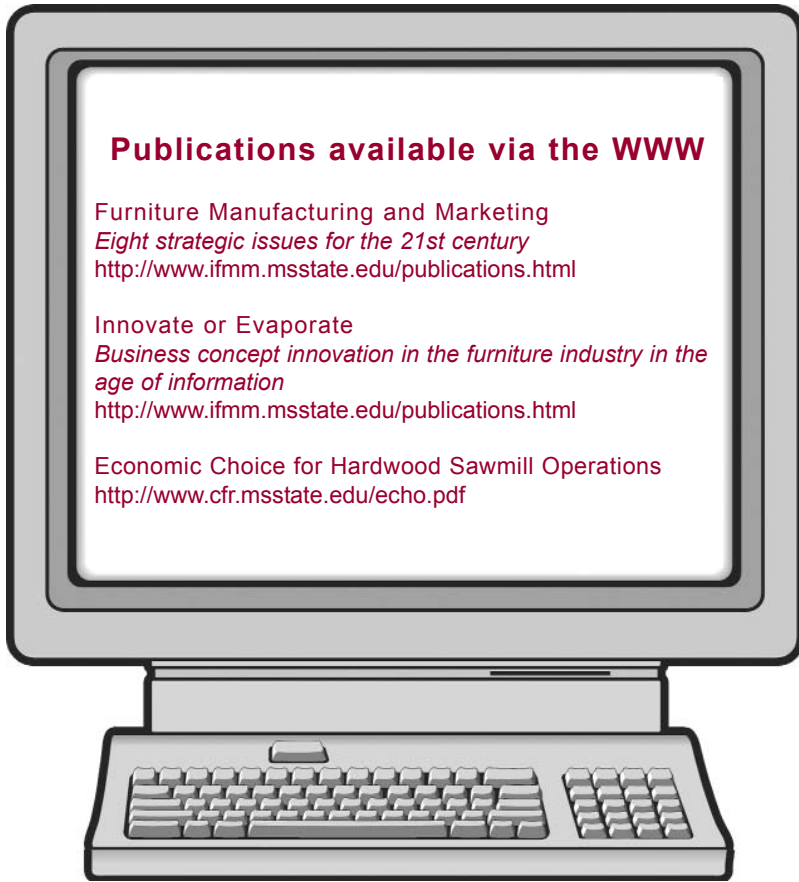


## Franklin Center Groundbreaking Ceremony

On May 28, 2002, the official groundbreaking ceremony was held at the FPL, FWRC, MSU for the Franklin Center for Furniture Manufacturing and Management. After refreshments were served, remarks were made by Dr. J. Charles Lee, Interim President, Mississippi State University (MSU); Dr. Vance Watson, Interim VP, Div. of Ag., Forestry, & Vet. Med., MSU; Dr. G. Sam Foster, Dean, College of Forest Resources, MSU; Mr. Bryce Griffis, President, Mississippi Bd. of Trustees, Institutions of Higher Learning; Mr. Andy Counts, AFMA; Lt. Governor Amy Tuck; Mississippi Senator Jack Gordon; and U.S. Rep. Roger Wicker. Mr. Hassell Franklin, for whom the Franklin Center is named closed the official program.



Pictured from left: The Honorable Lester Spell, Commissioner, Mississippi Dept. of Agriculture & Commerce; Mr. Bryce Griffis, President, Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning; Dr. J. Charles Lee, Interim President, MSU; Mr. Hassell Franklin, President and CEO, Franklin Corporation; The Honorable Amy Tuck, Lt. Governor, State of Mississippi; Dr. Vance Watson, Interim VP, Div. of Ag., Forestry, & Vet. Med., MSU; Dr. G. Sam Foster, Dean, College of Forest Resources, MSU; The Honorable Jack Gordon, Senator, Mississippi Senate.



## Student News

**New Officers for the  
Forest Products Society Student Chapter**

**John Kirkpatrick, *President***

**Nick Hatton, *Vice-President***

**Andrew McKelroy, *Treasurer***

**Brian Sullivan, *Secretary***

**Jeffrey Croom, *Special Projects***

**Dr. Susan Diehl, *Faculty Chapter Advisor***

Several FP students were able to attend the FPS Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin on June 23-26, 2002. Dr. Dan Seale drove a van to the meeting to allow students to attend and keep travel costs affordable. The students presented poster sessions and attended technical sessions on a wide variety of FP issues and current research. The meeting was also an excellent opportunity for students to meet and network with other students, faculty from other universities, and industry leaders throughout the U.S.

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