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2003

Southern Lean Manufacturing
Conference
April 22-24, 2003

Furniture Highlights

From THE FURNITURE RESEARCH UNIT
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Forest Products Offers Many Choices to Students

Amy Garrard

Ask a college student what their career goals are after graduation and the first reply will be **GET A JOB!** That's what the Department of Forest Products at Mississippi State University is preparing students for - to find an exciting, challenging position at a competitive salary in a desirable location.

Education: The Department of Forest Products (FP) offers six major options for undergraduate students which allows for maximum flexibility and specialization within the field of forest products. These options include Wood Industries Management, Wood Materials Science, Building Supply Operations, Forest Products Marketing, Forest Products Technology, and Industrial Environmental Operations. Because the FP Department has a relatively small number of undergraduate students at a given time, the faculty are able to work closely with the students. Class sizes are small allowing for individual attention and more student discussion and input.

Experience: The FP faculty are highly qualified in both teaching and research. In fact, several are internationally known and respected researchers in their fields. Many of the undergraduate students have the opportunity to work directly for researchers and thereby gain valuable work experience within the field.

Placement: Maximum flexibility in the FP curriculum allows students to focus as broadly or as narrowly as they like within their option. This feature helps students to define career goals early and to prepare accordingly. This preparation helps immensely when the graduates are ready to seek employment.

How many departments can claim that all of their graduates find jobs in their field immediately? Forest products can boast 100% placement of graduates in entry level professional positions. These students are in great demand. Currently, forest products students receive up to three job offers upon graduation.

Salary: Starting salaries vary widely depending on the position, option, and location. The average starting salary for entry level positions is \$32,700 per year for students with a Bachelors Degree in Forest Products. FP students usually advance quickly in industry and salaries increase accordingly.

So.... If Forest Products is such a great field, then why don't more students major in it? We believe the reason is that most don't know about the great opportunities that are available for FP graduates. It's our job to change this. That's why the focus in this issue of the Furniture Highlights is on students, the forest products program and it's various options. **So, help us get the word out to your children, friends, co-workers and colleagues - Forest Products is a great path to take!**



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MISSISSIPPI STATE STUDENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP

Teresa Hooper

The Celia Moh Scholarship program is pleased to announce that Jonathon C. Busby has been selected as a Celia Moh Scholar for the 2002-2003 academic year. Busby, a native of Vicksburg, is a senior at Mississippi State University where he is studying business administration with a focus on furniture management. Busby is an outstanding student and athlete having served as an intern with Miskelly Furniture in Jackson for the summer of 2002 and being a member of the Bulldog football team.

The Celia Moh Scholarship is a competitive scholarship for students in fields of study that would logically lead to careers in the home furnishings industry. Scholarship recipients must meet rigorous academic standards as well as demonstrate leadership skills and a passion for their area of study, as illustrated through a personal essay and instructors' recommendations.

Winners of the Celia Moh Scholarship receive full tuition, including room and board, books and fees at the college or university of their choice.

For the 2002-2003 academic year, nine students from five universities across the country were named Celia Moh Scholars.

The Celia Moh Scholarship program was launched in October 2001 by home furnishings industry veteran Laurence Moh to honor his wife of 42 years. Since its inception the Celia Moh Scholarship program has been touted as one of the most comprehensive and influential educational opportunities ever undertaken on behalf of students in home furnishings majors.

WHERE OUR STUDENTS OBTAIN JOBS

Private Enterprises

Forest products companies

Furniture manufacturing companies

Wood product retailers

Chemical companies

Timber/paper companies

Research units, firms, institutes

Consulting firms

Utilities

Investment firms

Non-profit organizations

Equipment suppliers

Universities/Community Colleges

State Agencies

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Governmental Agencies

USDA-Forest Service

Environmental Protection Agency

Army Corps of Engineers

Forest Products Laboratory

Foreign Agricultural Service

Research Institutes

Other federal agencies

STUDENT ORGANIZATION FOR FURNITURE MAJORS

Teressa Hooper

Mississippi State University offers several degree options for students who are interested in furniture related careers in business, manufacturing, engineering, design, transportation, etc. To offer more visibility to university furniture programs, Mississippi State's Furniture Management Program has proposed the formation of a student organization for these students who are tomorrow's leaders in the furniture industry. The goal of this organization is to allow students to become more familiar with the furniture industry by providing information that enhances an understanding of the business aspects of the industry, by keeping students

up-to-date on new developments in the industry, and by offering interaction with industry representatives. It will promote professional development for future furniture industry leaders.

A student organization for furniture students can be used as a resource in attracting professional, future employees to the industry. The organization at the college campus level will help to communicate the career opportunities the furniture industry can provide. Through this organization, the furniture industry will have opportunities to educate young people about current issues and events within the world of furni-

ture. The industry will have an opportunity to directly provide information which will help students to become ideal employees in their respective career areas.

This student organization will give the furniture industry first-hand opportunities in training future employees. It will provide companies with additional opportunities for identifying and evaluating students as potential employees and networking with faculty. This student organization will be an excellent addition to the academic institution and a great tool for the furniture industry.

This Forest Products Ad will run in Mississippi high school newspapers throughout the spring to recruit new students into the Forest Products program.



College of Forest Resources

Department of Forest Products

<http://www.cfr.msstate.edu>




The forest products industry is one of the most vital in Mississippi, as well as in the United States. The combined number of employees in the furniture, lumber, wood products, composites, and paper sectors far exceeds the employment of any other manufacturing sector in the state.

Mississippi's forest products industry recognizes the need for well-trained young people. Mississippi State's forest products graduates always are in demand with relatively high starting salaries and excellent opportunities for advancement.

Forest products provides strong career opportunities in materials science, engineering, materials processing, wood preservation, environmental remediation, chemistry, marketing and business.

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Academic options available:

- wood industries management
- wood materials science
- building and supply operations
- forest products marketing
- forest products technology
- industrial environmental operations

If you would like to sponsor an ad in your local high school newspaper, contact Martha Wilson at 662.325.2116.

OPTIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREST PRODUCTS AT MSU

Building Supply Operations

Emphasis: Technical aspects of building material capability, interaction, and service life.

Jobs: Management and retail positions in the building supply field.

Forest Products Marketing

Emphasis: Basic sciences, business management and marketing, wood properties and manufacturing technologies.

Jobs: Marketing and management positions within the forest products and related industries.

Industrial Environmental Operations

Emphasis: Environmental issues within forest products and furniture industry, including air emissions, wastewater treatment, wood waste disposal.

Jobs: Environmental managers and compliance officers within the forest products field. Research, product testing, and analytical positions.

Forest Products Technology

Emphasis: Comprehensive forest products background, industrial technology.

Jobs: Manufacturing management positions in forest products and related companies.

Wood Industries Management

Emphasis: Multi-disciplinary curriculum, broad background in basic sciences, business management & operations, and wood technology.

Jobs: Management and technical positions with forest products industries and suppliers. Marketing and quality control managers. Research positions at colleges and universities.

Wood Materials Science

Emphasis: Rigorous curriculum in basic sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

Jobs: Manufacturing management positions in forest products and related companies. Technical and quality control, product development. Research positions in industry and at university level.

Mississippi State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability or veteran status.



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