



March 2009

## The Current Economic Situation: How did we get here and where do we go from here?

Presented by:  
The Willamette Valley Chapter, Forest Products Society  
and the Oregon Wood Innovation Center



**Registration Deadline  
March 15!**

March Dinner Meeting  
6-8 PM, March 19th, 2009

Richardson Hall Room 107  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, OR

### Inside this Issue:

- Current Economic Situation 1
- OWIC Forms Advisory Council 2
- Keeping Oregon Forestry Directy Current 3
- OWIC On Facebook 3
- Online Wood-Based Composite Course Series 3
- Graduating Student: Michael Shew 4

The United States is in the midst of the worst recession in decades. The implications of this recession have been especially hard on the forest products industry. The Willamette Valley Chapter of the Forest Products Society has organized a panel of speakers to address how we got into this economic situation, the implications for forest landowners and the forest products industry, and how can we position ourselves to be ready when the economy turns.

### Speakers

- Art Ayre - Economist, Oregon Employment Department
- David Ford - Director, Oregon Small Woodlands Association
- Craig Adair - Director of Market Research, The Engineered Wood Association

**Registration** (Includes dinner):  
FPS Members \$25  
Non Members \$35  
Registration Deadline: March 15

For more information and to register visit <http://owic.oregonstate.edu/FPS-WVC/>.



## OWIC Forms Advisory Council

In December 2008, the Oregon Wood Innovation Center formed its initial Advisory Council. The council will provide the faculty in the Oregon Wood Innovation Center with feedback and ideas on how to best serve Oregon's diverse forest products industry. The Advisory Council is composed of people with experience and knowledge that represent this diverse industry. Members of the OWIC advisory council will serve for two-years. The members of the inaugural council are:



Roy Anderson  
The Beck Group  
Consultant



Blake Holton  
States Industries  
Process Engineer



Lee Jimmerson  
The Collins Companies  
Manager of  
Manufacturing Accounts



David Schmidt  
Upstream 21  
Forest Products Director



David Stallcop  
Vanport International, Inc.  
Import/Export Manager

# Keeping the Oregon Forest Industry Directory Up-to-Date

Given the dismal state of markets right now, it is more important than ever that you do all you can to locate new customers - and to ensure your customers are able to find you. The primary tool we use for linking buyers and sellers in Oregon's forest industry is the Oregon Forest Industry Directory.

Visitors to the directory can search for potential suppliers and customers. And we use the directory as well to help link people with Oregon firms. For example, we often receive phone calls or emails with questions such as, "which com-

panies produce tanoak flooring?", "who buys alder logs?", "how many sawmills are using pine in eastern Oregon?" and the list goes on. But we need your help to ensure we are providing detailed and up-to-date information. Company information is listed in the directory free of charge.

Please visit the directory at <http://www.orforestdirectory.com> ASAP and have a look at your company's listing. You can follow the link to 'Companies' on the lefthand side and search alphabetically or simply enter any part of your company name

in the Search box at the top left. If you have already registered, you can log in and update your listing. If you have not yet registered, you can click on the link at the bottom of your company page that says "Are you with this company? Request an account to edit this listing."

**Questions?** Let us know at [owic@oregonstate.edu](mailto:owic@oregonstate.edu)

## OWIC on

The Oregon Wood Innovation Center recently started a new group on Facebook. The group is open to all members of Facebook. We will use this group to help keep you up to date with current and future center events. We will also use the discussion board feature to allow people to post relevant questions and get answers from industry peers as well as OWIC faculty. To join search for "Oregon Wood Innovation Center" under Facebook groups.

# New Wood-Based Composite Science Online Course Series

Oregon State University's College of Forestry has teamed up with the Wood-Based Composites Center, the Oregon Wood Innovation Center and OSU Extended Campus (Ecampus) to deliver Wood-Based Composite Science courses in a 19-course online series.

The new online Wood-Based Composite Science Short Course Series will debut in May and will provide career professionals with a fundamental knowledge of wood as an engineering material in the manufacture of wood-based composites. Students who complete courses

from the series may be eligible for a Certificate of Mastery and will be able to improve manufacturing efficiency and product performance, troubleshoot processing problems and enhance their value to their employer.

## Wood-Based Composite Online Course Series cont.

Courses are taught by experts in the field of wood science and technology and have been selected from top universities, government research labs and industry. The courses are integrated and build upon each other to provide a logical progression as participants transfer newly-acquired skills to the workplace. Although the

courses are self-paced, the instructors will provide consultation online through discussion and weekly chat sessions.

Each course is five weeks long and includes five to 10 hours of instruction. The fee for a 10-hour course is \$750. The Certificate of Mastery requires a minimum of 120 hours

of instruction and costs \$9,000. The first course begins May 11. For more information on upcoming courses, visit <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/workforce/wood-based-composite-science/>.

## Graduating Student Profile: Michael Shew

Mike came to OSU with the intent of becoming a Chemical Engineer, but after a year in that program began having second thoughts. "I come from the small town of Marcola, OR", Mike explains, "that is historically a logging boom town. Most of my family members have either worked in a mill or in timber-



lands at some point in there life. I switched to Wood Science and Engineering because it fit my lifestyle and my ambitions. I enjoy math and problem solving, but most of all I enjoy interacting with people."

Mike chose to focus on "Pro-

duction Planning and Quality Control". This option path places a heavy emphasis the kinds of skills needed for managing manufacturing operations, such as engineering principals, statistics, process control, and experimental design. In addition to his BS in Wood Science and Technology, Mike will also earn a minor in "Business and Entrepreneurship" when he graduates in June, 2009. These credentials, coupled with internships and work experience in SierraPine's Springfield particleboard plant and the Flakeboard mill in Albany, OR have Mike well prepared to start his professional career.

Senior Project: "My senior project was a study of the effect cooling time had on the mechanical properties of particleboard produced at Flakeboard's Duraflake mill in Albany, OR. Panels were exposed to different lengths of time in the board cooler and then tested to deter-

mine if hot stack degradation was a quality control issue the mill needed to address."

In his own words: "I possess a wide variety of skills surrounding engineering, forest products, and business. I have taken a broad spectrum of math and statistical courses to develop my problem solving skills, along with several business classes to help me understand that side of the industry. Probably my best attribute however, is my ability to get along with people of all different types of backgrounds and personalities.

I have always been a fairly independent person, but I believe that the success of the team is more important than that of the individual. For this reason I have always pushed myself to do what was needed for group success. I prefer to have a regular schedule but welcome change from time to time to prevent burnout. I don't want

## Graduating Student Profile cont.

to be stuck in an office at a desk all day and would rather be doing something hands on in a mill or lab.

I think of myself as a hard worker but I try to have some fun while I'm working. Most of my work experience has been in quality control for particleboard mills but I think that I am well rounded enough to be successful in other areas of wood-based

composites.

Right now I am looking for a place to work that will help me to further develop my skills beyond what college has taught me. I want a job in quality or process control where I can learn from those above me and gain experience. In five years I hope to be in a management-type role where I will have the opportunity to make day-to-day

decisions and work my way up in the company."



Are you an employer looking to hire qualified students?  
Post a position on our jobs board: <http://owic.oregonstate.edu/jobs/form.php>

To subscribe to this newsletter send an email to Chris Knowles with "subscribe to newsletter" in the subject line.

Contact us:

Oregon Wood Innovation Center

<http://owic.oregonstate.edu>

119 Richardson Hall

Corvallis, OR 97331-5751

Fax: 541-737-3385

Scott Leavengood  
[Scott.Leavengood@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Scott.Leavengood@oregonstate.edu)  
541-737-4212

Chris Knowles  
[Chris.Knowles@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Chris.Knowles@oregonstate.edu)  
541-737-1438

Previous issues of the OWIC newsletter are available at <http://owic.oregonstate.edu/newsletter/>



Oregon State UNIVERSITY **OSU** College of Forestry

**The Oregon Wood Innovation Center**  
Connecting people, ideas, resources