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 three-person committee—one each from academia, government, and industry.

This year's winners are:

First Place: Russell J. Chedgy, Paul I. Morris, Young Woon Lim, and Colette Breuil. Black stain of western red cedar (Thuja plicata donn) by Aureobasidium pullulans: The role of weathering. 39(3):472 – 481.

Second Place: Lori Elkins, Jeffrey J. Morrell, and Robert J. Leichti. Establishing a through-boring pattern for utility poles. 39(4):639 – 650.

Honorable Mention: Erin N. Anderson, Robert J. Leichti, Edward G. Sutt, Jr., and David V. Rosowsky. Sheathing nail bending-yield stress: Effect on cyclic performance of wood shear walls. 39(4):536 – 547.

2007–2008 Committee: Chair Ron Anthony, Tom Eberhardt, Lech Muszynski, and Paul Cooper.

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR GEORGE MARRA AWARD

1. Award recognizes excellence in research and writing.
2. Papers considered are those published in the four quarterly issues of one volume of *Wood and Fiber Science*.
3. The first place award consists of the following:
   a. $1000 to the author(s) (provided by the Marra family)
   b. Aplaque to the sponsoring firm or institution
   c. Certificate(s) and plaque(s) to the author(s)

   The second place award, if warranted, will consist of certificate(s) and plaque(s) to the author(s) and a plaque to the sponsoring firm or institution. Up to two other papers may be selected for honorable mention, for which the certificate(s) will be awarded.
4. Presentation of the awards will take place at the annual meeting.
5. The selection committee will be appointed by the President.
6. The selection committee will consist of at least three members, one of which will be designated the chair by the President. One member will be selected from each of the areas of the private sector, industry, government, and academia. A committee member may not have a paper considered for an award.
7. Committee responsibilities are as follows:
   a. Individually "score" all papers in the volume using George Marra's judging criteria.
      1) Research quality (30 points)
         Complexity of the problem
         Originality Impact on present knowledge of the subject
      2) Clarity and Completeness of the introductory section (30 points)
         Objective
         Introduction
         General procedures
      3) Conclusion, recognition and literature (20 points)
         Conclusion that speaks to the objective
         Recognition of important assistance received
         Command of the literature
      4) Clarity of exposition; i.e., understandable to those in other specialities (20 points)

b. Committee chair will rank papers based on average score obtained from combining each member's scores.
c. Each member re-review and rank the four papers with the highest combined scores.
d. Combine reviews and select the first and second (if warranted) place papers and those for honorable mention (if any).

8. The chair will report the selection of the winning paper(s) to the President by 90 days prior to the SWST annual meeting.

STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION AWARDS

(Judges: Chair Jim Armstrong, Sue Anagnost, William Gacitua, and Russell Chedgy)

There were 10 participants in the competition, which was held in Concepcion, Chile, during the SWST Annual Meeting. The winners were:

First Place: Gloria Oporto, University of Maine. *Production and testing of wood plastic composites manufactured from hot water extracted wood.*

Second Place: Sandeep S. Nair, University of Tennessee. *Evaluation of interphase properties in fiber reinforced polymer composite using atomic force acoustic microscopy (AFAM).*

Third Place: Zanin Kavazovic, Universite Laval. *Sensitivity study of a numerical model of heat and mass transfer involved during the MDF hot pressing process.*

Contributors to the competition fund were: APA–The Engineered Wood Association, Asian Woods Inc., Balazs Zombori, CA Cedar Products, Entwood LLC, Forintek Canada Corporation, Iowa State University, Louisiana State University, Mississippi State University, North Carolina State University, Oregon State University, Pennsylvania State University, State University of New York (SUNY) ESF, Virginia Tech, University of British Columbia, University of Idaho, Washington State University, and Willamette Industries, Inc.

WOOD SCIENCE THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

Beginning with issue 40/4 (October 2008), recent titles from North American and other universities have been listed. For 40/4 and 41/1, we are listing those over the period of 2005 – 2008. The titles are also listed on the SWST web page (www.swst.org) — click on "Wood and Fiber Science" and then "MS/PhD Titles," where an electronic link can be found. For anyone wishing to submit a reference, please see "Student Submission of MS/PhD Title for W&FS" on the SWST webpage.

Candan Z (2007) Effect of some production parameters on vertical density profile (VDP) and technological properties of MDF. MS thesis. Department of Forest Products Engineering, Faculty of Forestry, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey (adviser: Turgay Akbulut). 400 pp.

Cheng Q (2007) Fabrication and analysis of polymeric nanocomposites from cellulose fibrils. PhD dissertation. University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN (advisers: S Wang and TG Rials). 310 pp.

Filson PB (2008) Novel methods of producing cellulose nanocrystals from lignocellulosic materials and cellulose nanocrystals reinforced polymer nanocomposites. PhD dissertation. West Virginia University, Division of Forestry and Natural Resources, Morgantown, WV (adviser: BE Dawson-Andoh). 98 pp.

Neimsuwan T (2007) The influence of selected wood characteristics and composites production parameters on the sorption behavior of wood materials. PhD dissertation. Department of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN (advisers: S Wang). 153 pp.

Zhang X (2008) Characterizing strength and fracture of wood micropillars under uniaxial compression. MS thesis. Tennessee Forest Products Center, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN (Advisor: Siqun Wang). 99 pp.