

News Briefs

Newsletter of the Architectural Woodwork Institute

NEW AWI MEMBERS

MANUFACTURING

Burr Fox Specialized Woodworking
Martinsville, VA
Elipticon Wood Products
Little Chute, WI
Jensen Millwork
Harahan, LA
Northshore Millwork, LLC
Mandeville, LA
Phoenix Millwork
Alvin, TX

SUPPLIERS

Bill Kraemer Veneers
New Albany, IN
Rogupe/SaSa Moulding, Inc.
El Paso, TX
Russell Construction Company, Inc.
Davenport, IA
Software Design Technologies, Inc.
Cypress, TX ■

INSIDE...

Professional Development.....	2
Association News.....	3
About QCP.....	4

New Business Exposure for Members

Commencing with the October 23rd edition of AWI e-briefs, we introduced a new service for members. AWI is posting the Web site addresses of all new members for the period in the listing of new members in e-briefs, and we are encouraging all members to use the online search feature of the AWI Member Directory for locating architectural woodworkers and product suppliers. ■

State of the Association

An Update from AWI President (2007-2008) Richard A. Ungerbuehler, Sr.



AWI President (2007-2008) Richard Ungerbuehler, Sr. (right) passes the President's gavel to 2009 AWI President Whitney Coombs, currently President-Elect until January 1, 2009.

As AWI President Richard Ungerbuehler approaches the end of his 15-month term, he shares highlights of AWI's most significant achievements during this period. Because of the change of AWI's fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year, the tenures of all 2007/2008 AWI officers, Board of Directors and committee chairs continue through December 31, 2008.

QCP Progress

In late 2007, we saw the establishment of the Quality Certification Corporation (QCC) with its own Board of Directors and bylaws. While a separate corporate 501(c)(6) entity, the QCP program is affiliated with AWI. The continued growth of the Quality Certification Program (QCP) is assured under the capable new leadership of Craig Elias who succeeded Randy Estabrook, program director, after six very productive years ... not only lifting the QCP out of the red, but repaying the advanced funding as well as providing positive cash flow, producing benefits not only for the QCP participants, but enhancing educational offerings of AWI, as well.

(continued on page 3)

MATC Education Program: Nurturing Tomorrow's Woodworkers

Third in a series of stories about successful academic programs, Adopt-a-Shop and workforce issues.

This year, AWI scholarship funds were awarded to another worthy academic institution, Madison Area Technical College (MATC) in Wisconsin. The intricate relationships that bind this high-profile school to the association exist at AWI National, through AWI Manufacturing and Supplier Members, and with the AWI Wisconsin Chapter.

AWI Scholarships

AWI's William H. Winter and Southern Woodwork Association Scholarships were awarded for the WoodLINKS USA – IWF 2008™ RTA Competition, August 20-23, 2008. MATC received \$1,000 and the balance of AWI's scholarship funds went to support WoodLINKS "Teacher In-Service 2008" Program which enabled 45 instructors from the U.S. and Canada to attend IWF 2008 for the competition and industry education. In the RTA Contest, MATC

(continued on page 2)



MATC Education Program... (cont. from page 1)



Photo courtesy of Patrick Molzahn

In the MATC lab, students built a LEED®-certified reception desk, sawing, drying and milling wood from timber harvested on the site of the project owner, the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation. MATC instructor Patrick Molzahn is pictured far right.

came away with two of the four awards, attesting to the quality of the school's Cabinetmaking & Millwork curriculum guided by the department's program director Patrick Molzahn.

MATC Program

What makes the MATC Cabinetmaking & Millwork Program so effective? The one-year diploma program provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to plan and complete cabinetry, furniture and millwork projects. Students learn to work with prints, specifications and shop drawings. Emphasis is placed on selecting proper materials, determining the best procedures, manufacturing parts to specification, and assembling and finishing individual projects.

Industry Support

The industry is committed to MATC. AWI members Robin Carly of Carly Wood Associates and Randy Schmidt of Randall Cabinetry serve on the program's Advisory Committee. Like most schools, MATC operates within a modest budget. Equipment subsidies and donations are coveted not only for their monetary value but also for critical hands-on training merits. AWI Supplier Members Delmac Machinery Group, Microvellum, and Stiles Machinery are among MATC equipment supporters. "During the last 12 months, we received donations in excess of \$110,000 from a variety of vendors," Patrick said.

"The program also gives students on-the-job training through unpaid 28-hour internships with architectural woodwork firms," he said. At the end of each semester, students also enjoy shop tours to talk with prospective employers and see job sites. "One of the greatest components of our program is internship," Patrick said.

Pro-Active Program Director

This is no ordinary education program. By being proactive, Patrick has built the quality of the school's Cabinetmaking and Millwork program by networking with industry representatives and national associations. He is a regular user of the AWI Web site researching prospective businesses in which to place students, he hosts "Lunch & Learn" sessions for area businesses, serves on the state and national Board of Directors for WoodLINKS, maintains Affiliate Membership in AWI, is a member of the AWFS Education Committee, participates on the Woodwork Career Alliance (WCA) Board of Directors, and leads a writing team for the WCA Skill Standards initiative.

At MATC, a digital training program for woodworkers is under development. Assisted by web-based media and digital video, students are able to learn theory and process outside of class. This reserves lab time for practice and demonstrations of proficiency to the instructors. To learn more about this pioneer program, contact Patrick at pmolzahn@matcmadison.edu.

Patrick Molzahn (right) accepts the Woodworking Machinery Industry Association "Educator of the Year" Award for outstanding achievement by the Madison Area Technical College's Cabinetmaking & Millwork Program. John Park of the Delmac Machinery Group presented the award. AWI is a past recipient of the award.



Support for Industry

Support for education programs like MATC offer a good return on industry's investment. Prospective employers around the country can tap into the MATC "TechConnect" to post job openings free of charge. MATC's record of job placements is high. In 2007, 87.5% of MATC's Cabinetmaking & Millwork graduates were employed in a related occupation.

(continued on page 4)

The one-year diploma program provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to plan and complete cabinetry, furniture and millwork projects.

State of the Association... (cont. from page 1)

“After many years of discussion, an AWI Education Foundation has been established, thanks in large part to board member, Robert Stout.”

Education Advancements

After many years of discussion, an AWI Education Foundation has been established, thanks in large part to board member, Robert Stout. The Foundation Board will not only be monitoring our scholarship programs, but also serving as a conduit for donations and estate planning contributions.

Our AWI Education Committee has taken on new life under the capable chairmanship of Michael Bell, following the excellent work of Scott Nelson and Greg Heuer who established the future framework for AWI's educational offerings. New education modules have been introduced and presented, receiving rave reviews, invoking the call for more.

Skill Standards

Under the capable leadership of Greg Heuer, Skill Standards are being developed for our industry, following the receipt of two annual grants from the U.S.D.A. Forest Service and funds matched in kind by AWI, AWI chapters, and other industry partners. The Woodwork Career Alliance of North America is seeking additional experienced woodworkers to participate in the development of the Skill Standards to supplement the commendable work of existing writing teams. The

projected date of completion for these standards is 2013. Online learning opportunities are also on the way!

Joint Standard

Combining the talents of volunteers of the Architectural Woodwork Institute (AWI), the Architectural Woodwork Manufacturers Association of Canada (AWMAC), our partner on the Eighth Edition of the *Quality Standards Illustrated*, and our new partner, the Woodwork Institute (WI), headquartered in Sacramento, CA, a new joint *Architectural Woodwork Standards* is nearing completion. Draft copies of several sections are available for review and comment online.

AWI's three representatives on the Joint Standards Committee are: QCC Representative Dan Wendell of Woodwork Consulting and Chair of the Joint Standards Committee, Mike Bell of Kentucky Millwork; and Randy Jensen of Leonard Petersen & Company.

Best Practices

Four Best Practices Groups are meeting regularly and a fifth group is about to be launched. Participants consider their involvement one of the most rewarding opportunities available through AWI. If you are seeking answers to questions regarding your business or have answers for some who need them, contact AWI Executive Vice President Phil Duvic to become involved in a new Best Practices Group.

AWI Education Foundation

Formed in 2008 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization, the AWI Education Foundation is an avenue for making fully tax deductible contributions that fund the AWI scholarship program. During the recent 2008 Annual AWI Leadership Event, AWI Education Foundation Chairman Robert Stout of RLS Commercial Interiors received the AWI President's Award recognizing his efforts leading to the formation of this Foundation. There is now good reason to include AWI in your estate planning, as the Foundation will serve as a conduit for your tax exempt gifts. Members are invited to make a tax deductible contribution to the AWI Scholarship Fund. In 2008, AWI distributed \$6,000 in scholarships as well as \$20,000 to WoodLINKS USA in support of woodworking education across the United States.

Our AWI Education Committee has taken on new life under the capable chairmanship of Michael Bell...

Rewarding Year

It has been a tremendously rewarding year for my wife, Kay, and me. Thank you for entrusting us with the leadership of this tremendous association. We have an outstanding staff which is passionate in its resolve to be responsive to the direction of your Board of Directors and eager to respond to the critical needs of all members. Your board is energized and will have an outstanding year in 2009 under the capable leadership of Whitney Coombs.

Watch for the December issue of *NewsBriefs* highlighting the major initiatives of AWI's committees in 2008. ■



QCP Is Growing

The AWI Quality Certification Program (QCP) is experiencing strong growth. At the end of the third quarter, the number of new applicants for the year exceeded the total for 2007. Project certification increased 22% against the same period last year, and the withdrawal of the certification requirement declined by 37%. Moreover, we expect these numbers to grow. Project registration remains strong. All factors considered, the demand for certification is anticipated to strengthen.

Many applicants join because the design professionals are demanding project certification. Project owners increasingly agree to the certification fee as an effective risk management tool.

The importance of risk management cannot be overstated in any industry or business. We encourage all QCP participants to plan for the renewal period which is fast approaching. QCP policies dictate that firms which choose not to maintain their certification must apply anew if they need to become certified again. This means they must pay the application fee, submit the references, take the test, undergo the inspection process, and reenter the program under probationary status. Despite their history, they enter the program as brand new applicants. They must earn the self-labeling status all over again.

Don't let this happen to your firm. Nearly 10% of applicants in 2008 opted not to renew at the end of 2007. Even more had resigned two, three or four years ago. We urge you to plan for the renewal. *QCP will be mailing invoices at the end of October.* ■



Photo courtesy of Stiles Machinery, Inc.

MATC students thank Stiles for the new Kentwood moulder

MATC Education Program... (cont. from page 2)

Just Do It

Whether you are in Wisconsin or Washington, a technical school in your region can benefit from industry support. AWI retired Board of Directors member Steve Waltman of Stiles Machinery regularly talks about the AWI Adopt-a-Shop program with AWI Manufacturing Members and association chapters around the country. To start your own "Adopt-a-Shop" program with a local school, contact Steve Waltman at 616.698.7500 or at swaltman@stilesmachinery.com. It's easy; just do it! The payback is a workforce for tomorrow. ■



2008 AWI Sponsors

Thanks to all of the following 2008 AWI Sponsors whose support helps to fund association programs and services that benefit all AWI members. Visit www.awinet.org to contact these suppliers the next time a need arises for their services. ■

Sustaining Sponsor:



Major Sponsors:



Level 2 Sponsors:



Level 3 Sponsors:



Level 4 Sponsors:

