Last summer I had the opportunity to judge the Veneer Tech Craftsman’s Challenge. Veneer Tech sponsored myself, Robert Stout (current AWI president) and Robert Lang of Popular Woodworking magazine, to spend 3 days at their company headquarters in beautiful Beaufort, NC. We were treated to tours of their veneer plants, and spent two days judging the incredible veneer work entered into what has become the dominant venue for woodworkers to showcase their projects. The experience gave me a greater understanding and appreciation for veneer work. I returned inspired and determined to revise our veneer curriculum. To do so, I consulted with several experts in the industry. John Halpin of Saunders Wood Specialties, and Sabrina Parisette-Herzog of Herzog Veneer provided images for my Power Points. Alan Hubbard of Veneer Tech responded to my request for material by sending over 475 square feet of veneer for my students practice with. When I contacted Margaret Fisher of Lange Bros, expressing my disappointment that I wasn’t able to attend her AWI sponsored veneer seminar in Chicago, she responded by driving to Madison and giving her seminar to me personally! And finally, Peter VanDyke of Stiles Machinery came in and did a wonderful presentation on machinery used for processing veneer in today’s workplace. All of these individuals helped raise the quality of our instruction, proving that by working together, we can achieve more.

WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE

Speaking of working together, there are three great organizations which should be on the radar of anyone involved in the Wood Industry. They represent our future workforce. I have been involved with all three in different capacities and have experienced first hand the impact they’ve had. WoodLINKS bridges the gap between the educational world and industry, ensuring teachers are delivering relevant curriculum. Skills USA supplies the workforce ready component, making sure their members are properly prepared to enter their careers. And the WCA has created a credentialing system that allows us to accurately measure an individual’s skill level and provides a career path for advancement (see page 3).

At AWFS this coming July, I officially begin serving a 3 year term as president of WoodLINKS USA. With state & federal budget cuts continuing to impact education, these organizations represent our best defense to avoid further declines in programs which supply our future labor needs.
ADAM MINCH

Age: 27
Previous Education: Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Dayton
What inspired you to pursue a career in the Wood Industry? I wanted a career that I was both passionate about and one that mattered to me.
Where do you see yourself in 5 years time? I’m hoping to be a project manager for a sizable company in the wood industry.
What are you currently working on? I’m currently designing and building my final project - a J-shaped booth with an attached bar for use in the basement of a cabin. In addition to that, I’m building various cutting boards, and exercises required for class.
The most important thing I’ve learned this year: To tell you the truth, I’ve learned so much that I can’t tell what is most important thing I’ve learned.
What advice would you give to future students? Work your *$% off! Use the shop to your advantage. Stay late whenever you can.
Extra-curricular interests: Beach volleyball, home renovation, gardening, cooking, and just about anything outdoors.

CALVIN VALENTINE

Age: 18
Previous Education: Two years of wood working and metal working in high school, which was a WoodLINKS site. I pretty much lived in the wood shop.
What inspired you to pursue a career in the Wood Industry? I've always liked doing things with my hands and when I got to high school I found that wood working came to me real easily.
Where do you see yourself in 5 years time? Hopefully I'm either working full time with CNC machines or a rep that goes around and sells and works with CNC and other high end machinery.
What are you currently working on? I've got a bunch of things going on: I have a chair by Gerrit Rietveld that I'm recreating. And I'm building a mobile island for my mother's kitchen, with a garbage/recycling drawer.
The most important thing I've learned this year: To tell you the truth, I've learned so much that I can't tell what is most important thing I've learned.
What advice would you give to future students? Work your *$% off! Use the shop to your advantage. Stay late whenever you can.
Extra-curricular interests: I like to body boarding, and really I just like working with my hands.

2010-11 Program Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following companies and individuals who donated over $65,000 in support over the past 10 months. Their contributions help ensure that our current students continue to receive scholarships and are exposed to the latest technology. Without their contributions, we would not be able to deliver the quality of programming given our current budget constraints.

- Jaeckle Wholesale
- Woodcraft of Madison
- Veneer Tech
- Stiles Machinery
- Planit Solutions
- Ms. Judi Roth
- Madison Area Builder's Assoc.
- RCS Systems, Inc
- Terminus Technologies
- Bessey
- Delmac Machinery
- Airtight Clamps/Martin Campshure Co.
- Woodwork Career Alliance
- Mr. Jim Donovan
- International Wood Fair
- Colonial Saw & Tool
- Quickscrews
- Home Depot
- National Casein
- CG Schmidt
- AWI Wisconsin
UPCOMING DATES

4/30/11 National WCA Evaluator Training
5/10/11 Advisory Committee Meeting
5/14/11 Graduation
8/29/11 Fall term begins

DONATIONS TRULY MATTER

We are grateful for the numerous donations over the past several years which have supported a number of class activities and scholarships. If you have something to donate, be it materials, money or time, please contact us. Your support makes a difference in the lives of our students!

FREE EMPLOYMENT LISTINGS AVAILABLE ON TECHCONNECT

MATC, in collaboration with the other 15 Wisconsin Technical Colleges, has created a job posting website - Wisconsin TechConnect. Employers can post an ad free of charge via this link:

http://www.wisconsintechnetconnect.com/

Graduates who sign up for this service automatically receive e-mail notifications of your posting. Here are a few tips on using the Tech Connect website:

♦ You must first register your company. Upon registering, an employer ID# and password will immediately be sent to you via e-mail.
♦ Once you have the ID# and password, you can log on and post your job(s).
♦ If you have any problems or questions, contact Patty Geske at 608/246-6401 placement@matcmadison.edu or Rochelle Wanner at (608) 243-4273 rwanner@matcmadison.edu

TRUE TO THEIR WORD

We are fortunate to receive many donations. Despite the recession, we continue to average around $70,000 annually. Donations come in many forms: machinery, materials, discounts, scholarships as well as cash contributions. We do our best to recognize all of the individuals and companies who support us, but this year we also want to single out one particular company: Delmac Machinery Group. Last August we received a donated Fravol Edgebander. What we thought required minor attention actually took a major amount of time. DMG technician Rod Purdon made several visits and put in more time than originally estimated. However, DMG has stood behind their promise to get this machine in working order. The true measure of character is not what someone says, but what they do.

CHANGES ON THE HORIZON

This past November, our district voters approved a $133 million referendum. We are currently in the planning stages to add 5,800 SF to our lab, almost doubling it’s current footprint. Included in these plans is a larger space for finishing, a second classroom, additional storage space, and an anticipated addition to handle our rough mill and Moulder operations. The construction and remodel projects are expected to occur over the next 2 years, and will include the replacement of our dust collection system.