Over a decade ago, one of my first decisions was to retrofit our Oliver jointer with a Terminus Cutterhead. I remember shaking nervously as we carefully slid the motor windings off the direct-drive shaft to replace the existing cutterhead, wondering if the machine would work when we were done. We’ve enjoyed 2 minute knife changes ever since, along the ability to quickly “fix” a nicked knife by sliding it to the side when necessary. We’ve enjoyed a nice relationship with Hal Volmer and his staff ever since. Terminus, a Swiss Company, offers a full line of cutterheads and replacement knives for moulders, planers, jointers and shapers.

We have once again turned to a Swiss company to retrofit the guard on our Oliver jointer. Machine Guarding is often overlooked in our industry. During 2010, 24% of OSHA’s most commonly cited standards for the manufacturing industry dealt with machine guarding violations. Those 20,000+ violations led to more than six million dollars in proposed penalties. There were nearly 6,000 occupational amputations in the US during 2009 (the most recent data available). Many of these amputations were consequences of improperly guarded equipment or interrelated lockout violations.

The Suvamatic is designed to increase operator safety on Jointers. Unlike the original “pork chop” style guard which came with our jointer and which is common on most jointers in the U.S., the European style bridge guard always shields the operator from the cutterhead during use. Suva took this concept one step further by creating a spring loaded guard which automatically raises and lowers, accommodating a wide range of stock thicknesses. The guard immediately retracts into place after face and edge jointing, ensuring the operator is never exposed to the cutter—see below for a short video on how this guard works.

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**SUVA DONATES “SUVAMATIC” JOINTER GUARD**

Madison College is pleased to welcome Suva of Switzerland into our Partners for Educational Progress (PEP) program. Thanks to their generosity, we are now able to showcase this cutting edge technology in our lab. Suva specializes in accident prevention in numerous industries and occupations, including specialized guarding of Woodworking Equipment. For inquiries, e-mail: sicherheitsprodukte@suva.ch

[Click here](#) to see a video of our newly acquired Suvamatic in action.
STILES VENEER SEMINAR A HUGE SUCCESS

The Cabinetmaking & Millwork Program hosted a Veneering Lunch & Learn on March 22nd. The combination of topics created a “cell” of information that was very much appreciated by the attendees. The interaction between speakers and the audience enhanced the experience by all. The seminar quickly filled, with over 30 individuals in attendance, including attendees from companies located in Wisconsin, Illinois, New York and North Carolina. Madison College students participated as well.

School of Applied Technology Dean, Ken Starkman, secured funding to provide 2 sign language interpreters for a hearing impaired attendee. Lunch was provided by Stiles. The seminar featured 3 speakers: Peter Van Dyke of Stiles presented the veneer section, Josh Bartlett of National Casein presented the adhesives section and Ken McFadden of Stiles presented the pressing section. In addition to his presentation, Josh included several lab demonstrations that were very interesting and well received.

CABINETMAKING STUDENT TAKES GOLD AT SKILLS

For the second year in a row, we will be returning to Kansas City to compete in the National Skills USA Cabinetmaking Competition. Current student Zach Marsden won the Gold medal recently at the WI State Competition. 43 students from around the state competed in this event—the largest number ever. Thanks to the AWI-WI Chapter for making this year’s event a success.

Special recognition is due for contest chair Barry Schoening of Eggers Industries, Scott Fletcher of Central Wisconsin Woodworking Corporation, and Steve Finnessy of Frank Paxton Lumber for their huge investment of time and for donating the materials to make this event happen.
DONOR SPOTLIGHT

We gratefully acknowledge the following companies, who combined have provided more than $20,000 in donations and discounts for machinery and supplies since April, 2011. Without their support, we would not be able to provide the quality of training we do.

- Quickscrews
- Fastcap
- Bessey
- Creative Laminates
- Suva
- Hafele
- F.V. Fowler Co.
- Delta Power Equipment Corp.
- Wynmatic
- Aigner Safety Products
- Amerhart
- Planit
- National Casein
- Invis
- Hafele
- Stiles Machinery
- Blum
- 3M
- Colonial Saw & Tool

UPCOMING DATES

- 5/15/12 Advisory Committee Mtg
- 5/20/12 Graduation
- 8/22-25 International Wood Fair (IWF), Atlanta
- 8/27/12 Fall term begins
- 10/19/12 WoodLINKS_WI Inservice

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

Madison College, 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.wisconsintechconnect.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

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