



Oregon Wood Innovation Center

Connecting people, ideas, resources

APRIL 2016

COMING OWIC EVENTS:

- **August 22-25: Biochar's Connection to Ecology, Soil, Food and Energy.**

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WHAT'S NEW?

Read the new Wood-Based Entrepreneur's Toolkit publications:

[Operational Planning](#)

[Quality Management](#)

[Pricing Your Products and Services](#)

Welcome Dr. Mariapaola Riggio!

Dr. Mariapaola Riggio joined the Department of Wood Science & Engineering on August 31st of last year, directly coming from Italy, where she was working at the IVALSA- Trees and Timber Institute of the National Research Center, the biggest Italian institute for research in the wood-forest sector.

Dr. Riggio studied Architecture in Florence, Italy, where she received her Master's degree with a thesis on restoration of timber vaults. She has worked in Italy and Germany, as a designer and consultant for both the private and public sector. During her stay in Germany, she developed an interest in the application of digital technologies in architecture, working at the Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics in Darmstadt. This interest and her fascination for traditional timber structures brought her to join the Timber Structures group at the Department of Structural and Mechanical Engineering, University of Trento, where she investigated the use of emerging digital technologies and non-destructive techniques for the characterization

of timber structures, during her PhD and postdoc studies.

Mariapaola served as Chair of the Organizing Committee of the 2nd edition of the *Structural Health Assessment of Timber Structures*- SHATIS'13 conference, which provided a forum for researchers and professionals to exchange experiences and discuss subjects related to the appraisal, control and conservation of timber structures.

Dr. Riggio actively participates in diverse associations, technical committees and scientific cooperation frameworks, operating in the promotion of education and training and in the development of guides to good practice and recommendations in the construction field. She served as Working Group Leader in the COST ACTION FP1101 *Assessment, Reinforcement and Monitoring of Timber Structures*, leading the efforts of European experts, for the promotion and advance in the field of the assessment of timber structures, through the organization of training schools and workshops and the publication of journal papers and a book.

She is currently a member of the RILEM Technical Committee for

the Reinforcement of Timber Structures and an expert member of the ICOMOS- ISCARSAH International Scientific Committee on the Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage.

Recently, her research interest on building assessment and monitoring has included modern mass timber structures.

Within the Renewable Materials Program at OSU, and in collaboration with the Architecture Faculty at the University of Oregon, she is currently involved in the development of a new curriculum that can involve students from wood science, engineering and architecture, to form a new generation of professionals that can understand the qualities and potential of renewable materials for advanced applications in the built environment.

Dr. Riggio has just begun teaching a new course on *Wooden Architecture: tradition and innovation of renewable materials in the built environment* this term. The course introduces the many ways that wood (and other lignocellulosic renewable materials) is used as a building material, and in particular for load bearing structures. Focusing on "exemplary" architectures and design solutions, in different historic, geographic and cultural contexts, the course aims at providing the student with the ability to evaluate the effectiveness of a given technological solution and to recognize the underlying aesthetic and functional principles.



NAWLA Executive Management Institute

In September 2015, OWIC staff helped the North American Wholesale Lumber Association (NAWLA) re-launch its Executive Management Institute (EMI). The four-day event was highly successful and will be repeated, on-campus in Corvallis this September. What follows is a piece created by NAWLA staff member Vickie Crews-Anderson.

Training the next generation of company leadership showcases your commitment to professional development at all levels while helping to solidify succession plans and develop essential skills.

For those experienced managers, NAWLA offers EMI, which will take place Sept. 19-22, 2016, at OSU alongside Wood Basics. Participants of this four-day course will learn about their role as an executive and how to manage legal is-

ssues, customers, inventory, sales and marketing. In an effort to showcase the real-world applicability of this course, each participant is encouraged to bring key issues and first-hand experiences to discuss throughout the course.

2015 EMI attendee, Dan Semsak of



A Team Working to Build a Spaghetti Tower

Pacific Woodtech Corporation, said, "The financial training will help me to better prepare for Board meeting discussions and financial analysis of in-

vestments in operations. I will also be working toward better supply chain management. Those areas were most helpful."

Industry experts and experienced instructors will be on hand, guiding participants through courses that detail every aspect of running a successful company—from establishing the right company culture and philosophy and practice of leadership, to contract and HR law, EMI covers everything a manager would need to know to keep a business thriving.

"Attending the EMI has given me a more well-rounded view of the business principles required to set goals, delegate accordingly to reach those goals, and incentivizing fairly and properly to maintain a high level of employee focus and morale," said Mike Lind of National Industrial Lumber Company.

OWIC 2015 Annual Report

Our 2015 annual report is now complete and on the OWIC website. See <http://owic.oregonstate.edu/annual-report-2015>. As in prior years, the report is a brief summary of our activities last year including workshops, webinars, publications, projects, outcomes & impacts, as well as a list of some of our work-in-progress.

One theme that is developing for our work is related to evaluation of flooring—solid wood as well as engineered and reclaimed. Last year we conducted numerous tests of hardness and stability, proposed methods for evaluating checking of veneer on engineered flooring, and are now working with a company to evaluate impact of installation method on ability to reclaim flooring for reuse.

And as a testimonial for the impacts of our educational programs, a participant in the *Forest Products Management Development* course stated: "This workshop is a valuable experience for developing leaders in our organization... The true value of the workshop is as much in the interaction and networking that develops between peers in the industry as it is in the content of the training. The projects developed by our teams in the last 2 years have been put into action at the plant and are earning us real return to the bottom line. These projects have added an additional \$120,000 per year through a combination of operational cost savings, improved reliability, and gains in quality. The individuals who receive this training are now able to identify opportunity, quantify the potential gains, and apply financial analysis to move projects forward."

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Entrepreneurship is Alive and Well at OSU!

WSE 375-The *Concept-To-Market Entrepreneur Experience* class was at it again winter term. This year they designed and produced collapsible 22 oz. bottle carriers and Oregon River Map magnets. They also decided to name the business Avery Wood Products- so look for next year's product under that name.



During the term, 11 students from OSU and U of O were

given the opportunity to simulate a real product launch, from concept to market. The students prototyped the products, refined the design, created a production schedule utilizing the CNC router, laser engraver and other conventional wood-working equipment, using skills they have learned from other classes in renewable materials manufac-

turing, marketing, product design, and business. The success of the class depends on students with diverse backgrounds so that all aspects of a small business can be handled efficiently. They also redesigned the website (averywoodproducts.com) and created all promotional materials for the project.

The project was hugely successful again this year and profited over \$2000,



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