

# WMIA, PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY BRING NEW BLOOD TO WOODWORKING INDUSTRY

The Woodworking Machinery Industry Association (WMIA) continues to work with Pittsburg State University to bring new talent to the woodworking industry. Since WMIA began its scholarship program in 1998, the association has awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarship rewards to students pursuing careers in woodworking technology. Of those funds, \$46,000 has been given to students attending Pittsburg State University's Wood Technology program in Pittsburg, Kansas.

"When WMIA leaders took a look at the woodworking industry in the '90s, one of the major challenges was increasing the number of young people pursuing careers in woodworking," says WMIA President Giordano Checchi. "One of the steps we took to address that challenge was creating the WMIA Scholarship Program."

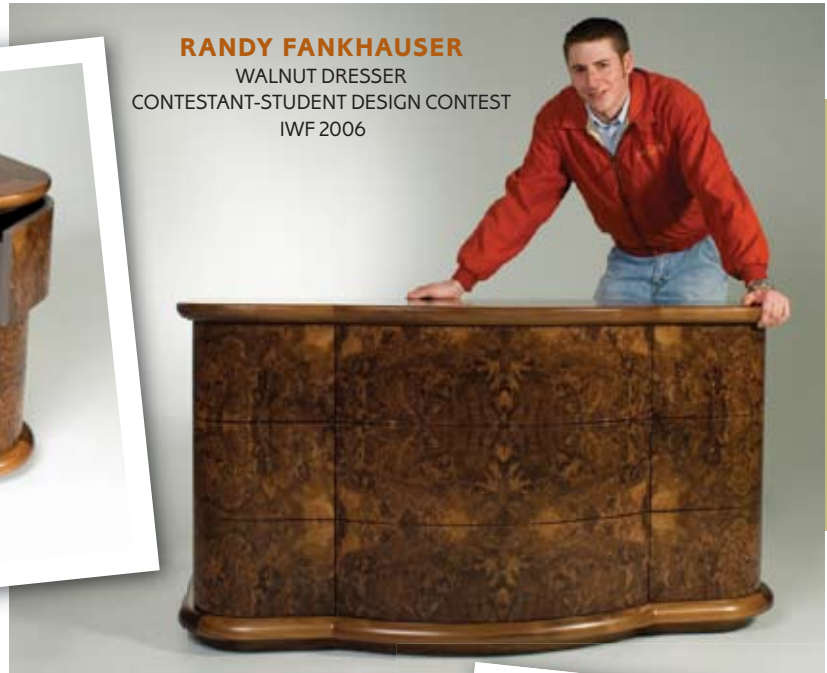
Located in Pittsburg, Kansas, Pittsburg State University sets the standard for higher education in technology. When WMIA wanted to know whether its scholarship program was effective, the association asked the university for information on where scholarship recipients are now. WMIA found that its scholarship funds have been put to good use in bringing young people into the industry. Here are a few of the success stories:

## BJ WEIL

SAPELE (MAHOGANY) DRESSER  
CONTESTANT-STUDENT DESIGN CONTEST IWF 2006



**RANDY FANKHAUSER**  
 WALNUT DRESSER  
 CONTESTANT-STUDENT DESIGN CONTEST  
 IWF 2006



**1998, 1999**

**SCOTT BRAWNER**

Project Manager at New World Products, in Sedalia, Colo. and was responsible for the project featured in the Summer 2004 issue of AWI Design Solutions.

**1999, 2000, 2001**

**TODD ST. MARTIN**

Worked three years at Republic Industries in Marshall, Texas and has recently moved to Madison, Wis. to open his own "Green Cabinetry" business.

**2000**

**JULIE WESTHOFF**

Joined the armed services and currently serving overseas.

**2001**

**CHRIS ZOGELMANN**

Chris is plant manager for Custom Cupboards, Inc. in Wichita, Kansas. Chris has made several recruiting trips to PSU for graduates.

**2001, 2002, 2003**

**SCOTT ADDINGTON**

Scott is currently a CNC Programmer at Gilpatrick Woodworks in Kansas City, KS.

**2001, 2002, 2003**

**BOB HOLLOWAY**

Winner of the 2002 Student Design contest at IWF in the Casegoods Division. Bob is now working for Merritt Woodworking near Cleveland, Ohio as a CNC programmer and operator.

**2002**

**BRIAN HAAG**

Engineering manager at Casework, Inc., Kansas City, KS

**2003**

**GARRETT FRIEDEN**

Completed his BS in Wood Technology and is currently finishing his MBA at Pittsburg State University.

**2004, 2005**

**B.J. WEIL**

Graduated with honors in the Spring of 2006. Has accepted a job as a project manager with Gilpatrick Woodworks, Inc. in Kansas City, KS.

**2004, 2005**

**RYAN LARSON**

Ryan is now a senior at PSU, has served as vice president and will be president of the Society of Architectural Woodworkers at Pittsburg State University. He is currently serving an Internship with Imperial Woodworking in Chicago, IL. Ryan will be graduating in December of 2006.

**2005**

**KREG HOLT**

Kreg is a senior and will be graduating in Spring 2007.

**2004, 2005**

**TYLER HARTMAN**

Past president of the Society of Architectural Woodworkers at Pittsburg State University, graduated in the Spring of 2006 and has accepted a job as project manager with Imperial Woodworking in Chicago, IL.



Recognized as one of the top two secondary wood manufacturing programs in U.S., the program received the very prestigious "Educator of the Year Award for 2001" from the WMIA. PSU is the first two-time winner of this award, and has a near 100% placement of graduates over the last 10 years. PSU students consistently do well in international refereed design competitions that feature selected entries from all over the world.

