2016 OUTSTANDING TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR
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The state of Mississippi contains approximately 19.8 million acres of forested land, which accounts for 64 percent of Mississippi’s total area. The value of timber harvesting in Mississippi has averaged more than $1 billion per year over the past 20 years, and accounts for over 70,000 jobs in the state. The promoting of sustainable forest management, reforestation after harvest, keeping forests productive, and finding new material applications for timber markets have strategic long-term benefits for Mississippi.

“There have been two primary activities conducted by the TIMBR Team that have sought to fulfill this mission: the TIMBR Symposium and the TIMBR Architecture Design Studio.”

I, along with the School of Architecture at Mississippi State University (MSU), have partnered with the Mississippi Forestry Association (MFA) and the MSU College of Forest Resources Department of Sustainable Bioproducts, formerly known as Department of Forest Products, for the past several years to promote the use of forest products. Recently, our team was awarded a $10,000 “Conservation and Community Partnership” grant from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) for a proposal entitled, “TIMBR: Timber Innovations for Mississippi Buildings Reimagined.” Additional funding and in-kind support for TIMBR was provided by Weyerhaeuser, Shuqualak Lumber, the MSU School of Architecture, the MSU Department of Sustainable Bioproducts, and other private partners. The “TIMBR Team” has worked tirelessly over the past several months to fulfill the primary objectives of the grant by promoting mass timber as an innovative and valued construction technique, furthering the public’s understanding of the enormous environmental and economic benefits of timber construction, and the educating of students and the public about the value of forest certification in the state of Mississippi and beyond.

There have been two primary activities conducted by the TIMBR Team that have sought to fulfill this mission: the TIMBR Symposium and the TIMBR Architecture Design Studio.

TIMBR Symposium

In mid-September 2016, the MSU School of Architecture
Endowed scholarships to Mississippi State University College of Forest Resources
• Traveling Wood Magic Science Fair
• Mississippi Children’s Museum Forestry Exhibit
• Teacher’s Conservation Workshop Scholarships
• MFF proudly supports Boy Scouts of America, Future Farmers of America, Project Learning Tree, and 4-H

Your gift helps shape a greater Mississippi for today and the future.
of Architecture, which spent the 2016 fall semester researching mid-rise mass timber construction. Students also developed building proposals for an eight to ten story commercial building in Jackson and constructed full-scale CLT panels for destructive testing.

Immediately following the TIMBR Symposium, I traveled with my architecture students to Portland, Oregon to research mass timber design and construction. There they met with two architecture firms, LEVER Architects and PATH Architecture, whose work focuses on mass-timber building. Students received tours of several mass-timber building projects in the area including, The Radiator Building, Carbon 12, One North, Framework, Albina Yard, and Union Way. The architecture students then traveled to Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon to meet with Laurence Schimleck (department head, Wood Science and Engineering) and other researchers at the National Center for Advanced Wood Products Manufacturing and Design. They toured testing facilities and were taught about the ongoing testing and innovative application for CLT panels by the Center, including the “Rocker Wall”, a solid-timber panel system that is designed to resist seismic forces. The studio also traveled to Eugene, Oregon to visit with Judith Sheine (department head, School of Architecture, University of Oregon) to discuss the design work the school is doing with mass timber. Students were exposed to some of the most influential research and projects on mass-timber currently undertaken in the United States, including a proposal for a CLT parking garage.

In early September 2016, students in the TIMBR studio conducted a focus group workshop with leaders of the Mississippi Forestry Association (MFA). The purpose of the focus group was to identify the mission and vision that MFA has for the future development of a mass-timber office building in Jackson. The interactions and conversations with the focus group helped to provide students with an understanding of the proposed building program and use, sustainability values and strategies, and the overall message the building should project in promoting education, outreach, and advocacy. For the purposes of the TIMBR studio, we called the collective group of individuals at MFA our ‘client’ for the project. Students gained valuable insights and real-world experience through this activity.

Over the next several weeks, these students worked tirelessly to design an eight to ten story mass-timber building. They developed floor plans, building sections and elevations, experiential renderings of the interior and exterior, a physical model made of basswood, and an animated ‘fly-through’ of their proposal. Needless to say, the lights in Giles Hall (Architecture Building) on the campus of MSU rarely went dim.

Concurrently with the studio, the students developed several innovative designs for CLT panels. In teams, the students produced 1:4 scale models of their CLT panel. These designs were evaluated based on their innovative approach and applicability to the building industry. Three panels were selected for 1:1 scale fabrication. These panels (as seen on the cover of this issue) were tested at the Department of Sustainable Bioproducts the first week in December. Much was learned from the fabrication and testing of the panels. These are the first architectural CLT panels produced for testing purposes in Mississippi. Special thanks are extended to Shuqualak Lum-

ber for providing the dimensional lumber used in the construction of these CLT panels.

On December 7, 2016 leaders within MFA arrived at MSU to see the finished work of the students and to judge their designs. The building proposals were judged based on their ability to promote MFA’s mission, building practicality, and mass-timber innovation. Architecture student Curtis Reed was awarded first prize, Jarred Creel awarded second prize, and Omkar Prabhu awarded the “most innovative” prize. In total, 11 projects were presented for judging by MFA. A public reception was held that evening to celebrate all the hard work the students put into developing their innovative design proposals.

Publication of student’s mass-timber building proposals will be available early 2017.

Jacob Gines is an assistant professor at the School of Architecture at Mississippi State University. His research and teaching focus on innovative applications for mass-timber products in the architecture and construction industry. Gines is also vice president of Research and Design for Method Studio, a Salt Lake City based architecture firm.