In addition to a 2-year graduate assistantship, financial assistance for thesis research will be provided to the successful candidate. The research project objectives are 1) to better understand current and future acceptance of forest certification systems by major home retail centers and forest landowners and 2) better inform private, non-industrial forest landowners of certification so they can make decisions on which certification system, if any, is appropriate for their forestland.

Interested parties should email a Letter of Interest, Resume, and 3 references to Dr. Richard Vlosky, Director and Professor of Forest Products Marketing, email: Vlosky@lsu.edu; phone: (225) 578-4527; fax: (225) 578-4251, 227 School of Renewable Natural Resources, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

STUDENT PROFILE --- Kristin DuChateau

Kristin DuChateau is a Graduate Research Assistant working at the Wood Materials & Engineering Laboratory at Washington State University. As part of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, she began her work under a Weyerhaeuser Fellowship. Now nearing the completion of her master’s degree work under the direction of Dr. Dan Dolan and Dr. Michael Wolcott, Kristin is demonstrating applications utilizing extruded wood plastic composites as a structural element for wood-frame construction. The prototype wood composite sill plate system aims to improve wall performance under lateral loads from earthquakes and hurricanes, along with improving moisture resistance and constructability in low-rise buildings. Development of this material application has required investigating formulations, section designs, and machining methods, as well as analyzing behavior of the improved shear wall system.

Kristin completed her bachelor’s degree in civil engineering at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan, in May 2003.