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The PFS Laboratory in Focus



The PFS Lab staff left to right: James Van Schoyck (Lab Administrator), Pao Lor, Robert Vogt, Dennis Brooks, Jim Sheldon (Lead Technician), Jon Madderom (General Manager), Luke Vogt, Cindy Martinelli, Alan Kobussen, Rock Hortshorn and Dwight McDonald (Lab Testing Manager).

“Our laboratory staff is composed of a very diverse and talented group of individuals,” says Jon Madderom (*front & center in above photo*), “This team has successfully completed one of the most productive months in PFS’ laboratory history.”

“We have the privilege of working with the movers and shakers in the industry who are creating new products. We enjoy our part in the testing and development of those products as they are prepared for the marketplace.”

Typical products tested in the PFS Laboratory are:

Engineered Wood Products—MDF panels, I-Joists, Rim-board, LVL, Trusses

Wood-Plastic Composite Lumber and Guardrail Systems—Deck Boards, Structural Elements, Guards and Handrails

Building Structural Components— Load Bearing Performance

Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) —Structural Performance and Adhesive Qualification

Structural and Construction Adhesives — Exterior Wet-Use, Building Materials Product Use, Sub-floor and General Purpose

Roof Coverings and Exterior Sidings — All Types

Fasteners and Connections — Nails, Screws, Staples, Bolts, Connector Plates, Joist Hangers

James Van Schoyck, Laboratory Administrator, has an exceptional understanding of the test procedures for which PFS is accredited.

“He is an excellent resource to our customers, whether he is working out the details of a testing contract or providing consulting services for a customer interested in model code approval,” says Jon Madderom, Lab General Manager. “James is very active in standards development through ASTM and other organizations. He displays a high level of professionalism in his dealings with customers and industry colleagues.”

James himself told Encore, “It has been very interesting to participate in the growth of PFS testing Services. Our progress has been realized through our excellent clientele and the conscientious efforts of PFS’ hardworking employees — they are the best!”

Dwight McDonald, Lab Testing Manager, has a broad knowledge of all PFS testing procedures. With his ability to multi-task, Dwight schedules the lab testing, takes responsibility for meeting deadlines for test projects and prepares most of the PFS test reports.

“Dwight is a great team player and maintains a very good rapport with all the PFS lab staff,” says Jon Madderom.

Dwight and his wife, Denise, a financial analyst, have three children. “Dwight J. aka “DJ” (9) aspires to be a professional athlete. Seleata (6) is a ballerina, and Natalie (2) bosses everyone in the family,” says the proud daddy. When time permits, Dwight enjoys woodworking projects.

Encore wrote about **Jim Sheldon’s** promotion to Lead Technician in the July issue.

“Jim’s knowledge of the standards for which PFS is accredited, his attention to detail and ability to work with and train his co-workers has contributed to his success,” says Jon Madderom. “Jim’s military background comes through as he promotes teamwork and keeps the lab organized.”

Jim Sheldon is a Desert Storm veteran who today volunteers for the VFW and Department of Veterans Affairs mentoring when there is a need. Jim plays an active role each year in the set-up and organization of the Veterans Day celebration at the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison.

Jim enjoys golf, volleyball and music. He and his wife, Deb, are expecting their first child in December 2005.

Cindy Martinelli, a recent and welcome addition to the PFS laboratory staff, enjoys the variety and balance of her job — the physical work of doing the tests followed by data analysis.

According to Jon Madderom, “Cindy handles her projects from start to finish, including writing the test reports. She shows excellent attention to detail, is diligent and reliable.”

Cindy grew up on a dairy farm in Cottage Grove with five brothers and four sisters. She is an Edgewood College graduate — Bachelor of Arts in Education, *cum laude*.

She and her husband, Steve, a Section Chief for Risk and Safety working for the State of Wisconsin, Department of Transportation, have a daughter, Cori an Economist for the Federal Government in Washington DC, and a son Joe, working for Epic Systems in Madison, Wisconsin.

Cindy enjoys gardening, landscaping and woodworking. When the Martinellis built their new timber frame home constructed with recycled Douglas Fir from the 1800's and structural insulated panels (SIPs), Cindy built part of the cabinets, laid 1100 square feet of tile herself, and helped her husband with the finish work. She is proud to share some photos of her home.



Alan Kobussen, the youngest in a family of seven children told Encore, “I grew up on a dairy farm in Kaukauna, Wisconsin, so I have a lot of experience with hand tools, common sense, and creative problem solving.” With these attributes plus a B.S. (Geology/Geophysics) and M.S. (Geophysics) Degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Alan contributes a strong science and research background to the PFS laboratory.

“Alan has proven to be an excellent acquisition to the PFS lab,” says Jon Madderom. He shows diligent attention to detail and is reliable and conscientious.

Alan was married in June 2005 to Melissa, a social worker in child protection services. He enjoys outdoor activities, particularly camping and hiking in the mountains and deserts.

Robert Vogt is described by his supervisor as a reliable person. He is very organized and does most of the ongoing testing of PFS listed products. As the “lab caretaker” Robert maintains PFS laboratory equipment, and takes responsibility for performing the fundamental tasks of running an accredited lab.

Robert listed for Encore what he has loved about working at PFS for the past eight years —

“The variety of products we test and tasks required to complete the tests make each day unique.

“I enjoy thinking that we are helping to save the environment when we test products made from alternate materials.

I enjoy the family atmosphere we have here at PFS where we can chat with the president when he comes by and feel accepted as part of the team.”

Robert’s favorite diversions are major engineering projects on his property that is on a hillside a city block long. His backyard boasts a skateboard ramp, swimming pool, trampoline and basketball court that he built for the benefit of his three children, Luke, Abby and Karley, and all their friends. Robert is known as “Padre” to the youth who are regular visitors to the Vogt’s backyard haven.

The talent, education and innovative ideas **Rock Hartshorn** has brought to PFS have led to a number of improvements to our test fixtures, including an important modification to help streamline our axial testing. This is not surprising since Rock graduated **number one** in his class at Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado Springs, Colorado where he earned an Associates in Applied Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. Transferring his credits to Purdue in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Rock took night courses for four years while working days as a product design engineer, a job that he held for seven years.

Prior to moving to Madison and joining PFS in 2004, Rock owned his own business in Hayward, Wisconsin doing auto, plane and boat restorations.

He and his wife, Derian, an artist, have four daughters — Rene, Kenna, Kellian and Aidan.

Rock likes major building projects. He is within 75% completion on a project he started five years ago — an amphibious flying boat ultralite with composite fixed wings and an enclosed fuselage. He shared some photos of his work in progress with Encore.



Pao Lor told Encore he likes the friendly working environment he has experienced since joining the PFS laboratory staff in October 2003. He performs many fastener tests and structural panel tests for PFS clients. Pao's diligent work helps to keep PFS test projects moving to successful completion.

Pao became a Wisconsinite in 1997 when he moved to Oshkosh from California. In 2000 he earned an Associate Degree in Electronics Technology and a B.S. in Business Technology Management at Herzing College.

He has an interesting hobby — collecting \$2.00 bills. In his spare time he likes to work on his car.

Dennis Brooks, recognized by his supervisor as a persistent and reliable lab technician, takes pride in his work. His physical strength and reliability are called upon whenever heavy lifting is required in the lab. Dennis told Encore he likes what he does, especially performing a large number of racking tests.

Dennis grew up in the South Central Wisconsin area — Sauk Prairie and Waunakee. His family consists of a younger brother, Bill, and about fifty cousins. He is a musician having played the guitar for fifteen years, and he enjoys playing cards.

PFS welcomed **Luke Vogt** home from Iraq on March 11, 2005 after his year-long tour of duty in the U.S. Army. He had worked for PFS prior to enlisting in the Army, and his knowledge of a number of the test procedures, his capability, and the growing amount of lab work made Luke a welcome addition back to the PFS laboratory staff.

"I like working at a job that makes a difference in the quality control of the construction industry," says Luke.

Luke is a loyal Packer fan and watches the Packers week in and week out regardless of their record. He didn't miss a game while he was in Iraq. Many times he got up at 2:00 a.m. to catch the game live. Other times he watched the live play-by-play via NFL.com when the game wasn't televised. "I didn't miss a single game!" said Luke, a true green and gold Packer-fan.

For more information about PFS testing services you may contact Jon Madderom at 608.224.5543, jmadderom@pfscorporation.com; James Van Schoyck, 608.224.5529, jvanschoyck@pfscorporation.com; or Dwight McDonald, 608.224.5549, dmcdonald@pfscorporation.com.

An Employee-Owned Company

www.pfscorporation.com

2402 Daniels Street
Madison, WI 53718

Phone: 608.221.3361
Fax: 608.223.5560