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## **Vita**

*(June, 2001)*

Christian was born on April 17, 1972 in Stuttgart, Germany. Chris graduated Magna Cum Laude from Besigheim High School in 1991. He then began an apprenticeship to become a licensed Joiner/Furniture-maker and graduated as best student in 1993. Upon graduation, Chris entered the Wood Technology program at Rosenheim University and was awarded a Carl Duisberg Society Fellowship supporting an industrial training semester in the U.S.

After completing an internship at a flooring company in Lynchburg, Virginia, in the Summer of 1996, Chris was granted admittance to the graduate program at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and fulfilled the requirements of a Master of Science degree in Wood Science and Forest Products in December 1997. The topic of his thesis was the cyclic response of wood shear walls. The work is the basis for many of the design provisions currently used to design shear walls according to the “perforated shear wall method” which was recently accepted into U.S. building codes.

Chris received a Master of Business Administration from the Pamplin School of Business at Virginia Tech in the Summer of 2000.

During his stay at Virginia Tech, Chris has been an active member of the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, the Graduate Students Relations Committee, and the Graduate Student Assembly. He served as Investigator for the Graduate Honor System and was nominated for Chief Justice in 2000.

Chris received the 1998 Forest Products Society’s Wood Award, which is presented to the author of the best research paper written by a graduate student each year. He was nominated as outstanding graduate student of the College of Natural Resources in 2001 and was awarded the 2001 A.B. Massey Award given by the College of Natural Resources for superior performance and professionalism while a graduate student. Chris is a member of four honor societies at Virginia Tech: Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Gamma Sigma, Gamma Sigma Delta, and Phi Beta Delta.