

***Vita***

Hongmei Gu was born in Beijing, P.R. China in February 1969. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the Beijing Forestry University in China, 1991. After graduation, she was employed by the Chinese Academy of Forestry, Research Institute for Wood Industry in 1991. After working for four years on several wood drying projects, she felt the demand for advanced studies and trainings. She applied for the Wood Science & Forest Products Department at Virginia Tech, and got accepted in 1996. She finished her Master studies in 1997, and started her Ph.D project right after obtaining the Master of Science degree. She specialized in wood drying studies and anatomy, with interests in the computer programming and statistical quality control for the wood industry operations.