

## VITA

Elena Vasilyevna Kultikova was born on October 24, 1972 in Kotlas, Arkhangelsk region, Russia. She graduated from Kotlas high school # 18 in 1990. She studied at Vyatka State Technical University in Kirov, Russia and obtained a Diploma of Engineer in Civil Engineering with honors in June 1997. In 1995-1996, Elena participated in exchange program “Wood as Impact on the Rejuvenation of Russian Economy and Life” and spent 1 year at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. In August 1997, she enrolled in the graduate program in the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and completed her MS degree in September 1999. Elena has started her career as a Wood Technologist at Bayer Corporation in Pittsburgh, PA.