The 40th session of the Texas International Cotton School was held August 2nd-12th, 2021. The Lubbock Cotton Exchange in coordination with the Fiber & Biopolymer Research Institute hosted 8 professionals from across different areas of the cotton industry and 3 Texas Tech University Graduate Students. These students were immersed into the many aspects of cotton from the farm to the textile mill and everything in between. This was an intensive two-week educational course on cotton and textiles that provided experience, knowledge, and insight into future developments affecting global markets. Speakers from the different segments of the cotton industries volunteered their time to bring their knowledge to this class. Some of the classes that were taught were: History of the Cotton Industry & Systems, Conversion of Yarn to Fabric, Cotton Sustainability, Cotton Insurance, Trade Finance and so many more. The students also went on tours at: The Heinrich Brothers Farm, the FBRI, BASF, Lubbock Cotton Growers Gin & Farmers Coop Compress to name a few. During these two-weeks, the students were given many opportunities to network and connect with professionals from across the industry.

Invention disclosures in 2021


Grants in 2021

- Hequet: Enhancing the marketability of U.S. cotton through length uniformity improvement. Cotton Inc. $150,000.
- Hequet, Abidi: Exploring alternatives to the current HVI classification system. USDA AMS. $924,320.
- Abidi: Chemical and Structural properties of cotton fiber base and associate seed and their impact. CI. $22,500.
- Abidi: NSF-CellMat—High performance sustainable solution to plastic-based materials. National Science Foundation. $50,000.
- Abidi: Developing bioproducts from low maturity cotton and cotton wastes. Cotton Inc. $50,000.
- Abidi: Exploring the application of Selenium-based compounds on cotton yarns and fabrics. TTUHSC/CH Foundation $30,000.
FBRI Team Expands

In January of 2021, Dr. Shamshina joined Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute (FBRI) at Texas Tech University as a Research Assistant Professor. Her current research interests focus on all aspects of biopolymer processing, from fundamental properties to overall material preparation to industrial applications. She is particularly interested in development of high-value biopolymeric products with a control of shapes, sizes and porosities, with an ultimate goal of elimination of synthetic plastics. She is a recipient of the American Chemical Society Green Chemistry Challenge Award Focus Area 2, Greener Reaction Conditions for “A Practical Way to Mass Production of Chitin: The Only Facility in the U. S. to Use Ionic Liquid-Based Isolation Process”, has authored 73 peer-reviewed publications, 11 book chapters, and is inventor on 19 patents/ patent applications.

Chris Turner is a Post-Doctoral Research Associate with the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute. He obtained a Ph.D. from the TTU Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in 2016 with a research focus on computer vision and machine learning. From 2016 until 2020, he worked as a Research Associate with the TTU High Performance Computer Center. There he provided advanced consultation for faculty and students in the use of the academic computing clusters as well as helping plan and implement cluster upgrades. In 2020, he began his current position with the FBRI where he uses his technical expertise to improve cotton fiber quality measurements.

Dr. Sayeed joined FBRI as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate. He obtained a B.S degree and M.S. degree from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He graduated in the spring 2020 with a Ph.D. in Plant and Soil Science (Major Fibers and Biopolymers) from the Department of Plant and Soil Science at Texas Tech University. During his doctoral research, Sayeed developed new technologies to improve cotton fiber quality measurements. In his current position, his focus is to continue developing and implementing new fiber quality measurements to be used by the cotton industry.

New Staff members

The FBRI was pleased to welcome also two new technicians this Fall. Maria Sosa and Dominga Anaya will be working as technicians in our Cotton Phenomics Lab. Maria comes with 30 years experience working at the USDA classing office seasonally.

New Graduate Students

Brooke Shumate, Ph.D.
(Advisor: Kelly)

Reagan Heinrich, MSc.
(Advisor: Kelly)

Other Staff News

- Mario Pedroza, Dolores Lopes, Raquel Ruiz, and Brenda Young were promoted to Senior Technicians.
- Tytayonna Outland was promoted to Tech. III.
- Connie Herrera (Senior Technician) passed away in September. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. Connie was one of our best employees. She joined FBRI October 1, 2001.

Students Graduation in Spring and Summer

- Prakash Parajuli, PhD. Major: Plant & Soil Science. (Chair: Dr. Abidi)
- Harsh Chaudhari, Masters. Major: Plant & Soil Science. (Chair: Dr. Abidi)
FBRI peer-reviewed publications

Peer Review Publications:


Book chapters:


*: Graduate student, ¥: Postdoc, ¥: Previous student
Presentations

FBRI Laboratories:
Provide valuable research and evaluation services to cotton breeders, researchers, producers, and seed companies. They also provide excellent opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to perform their research projects on cotton. In addition to various research projects, our support to the cotton industry include ginning, fiber testing/evaluation, fiber processing, yarning spinning. Questions about testing or research? Please feel free to reach out to us at fbri@ttu.edu

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