Professor Art Ragauskas recently solicited and organized papers for a special session on Lignin and Black Liquor at the IPST 2012 Meeting of Members, "Leveraging Emerging Technologies To Advance Forest Bioenergy and Biomaterials." The event featured over 150 researchers and over 40 papers on topics such as lignin chemistry, black liquor chemistry, and the potential for using lignin as a resource.

For example, "As a result of what we learned, we solved the initial problem, and will proceed with the next steps."

Also at the meeting, IPST welcomed 80 members of the biomass and bioenergy community to its biannual meeting in May of this year, marking its 10th anniversary. The meeting featured a special session on "Black Liquor Flow Modeling in the Southern Forest Biorefinery," directed by Professor Ragauskas. Mike and Chris are beginning by rebuilding the mailing list: send your new address, company and title (or most recent employ) to: IPST@ipst.gatech.edu.

Parisa Pooyan's poster, "Cellulose and Lignin: How to Move from Lignin in Black Liquor to MWL" was awarded at the meeting. Pooyan is a Ph.D. student in the latest research and most pressing issues of papermaking. His research includes the development of new methods for the extraction of lignin from black liquor, which can be used as a renewable source of energy.

"As previously reported, we have synthesized a novel method for the extraction of lignin from black liquor. We have demonstrated that this method can rapidly increase the degree of polymerization of lignin for high molecular weight (HMW) applications."

"Professionals and students gathered at the IPST meeting to learn about the latest advancements in forest bioenergy and biomaterials. The meeting was a great opportunity to share ideas and collaborate on new projects in this rapidly evolving field."