

PEOPLE



Rhonni Mitchell

The Wenger Technical Center has announced the addition of **Rhonni Mitchell** as a laboratory technician in its agrifood laboratory. Mitchell, an employee of Wenger Manufacturing for nearly 3 years, will be responsible for analyzing samples sent to the lab by Wenger customers, as well as those produced by clients using the center's production-scale extrusion and drying equipment.

Jeff Laughlin has joined Grain Processing Corporation (GPC), Muscatine, IA, as a technical sales representative for food, pharmaceutical, and personal care products. Laughlin is responsible for the sale of GPC maltodextrins, corn syrup solids and starches, and superabsorbent polymers throughout an eight-state West Coast territory.

AACC International member **Jeff Gwartz** has returned to the Department of Grain Science and Industry at Kansas State University as a tenured associate professor following a 3-year hiatus. Gwartz will have teaching responsibilities, as well as research and service activities in the milling and grain processing industry.



Kevin Folkes

D.D. Williamson has named **Kevin Folkes** as vice president in charge of global sales. Folkes has extensive experience with sales and sales management in the consumer products industry with companies such as Unilever and Church & Dwight Company. He

is based in Louisville, KY, and has management responsibility for all D.D. Williamson sales managers around the world.

FONA International has added **Gretchen Moon**, **Chris Naese**, and **Donovan Wong** to its sales team. Moon, an account executive with 10 years of food industry experience in the Midwest. Naese, a senior account executive with 20 years of experience in flavor and food ingredient sales, marketing, and product development, will be responsible for several accounts in the Midwest. Wong, director of strategic account development, has 19 years of sales, research and development, strategy, and marketing experience and will be responsible for managing accounts on the West Coast, as well as strategic accounts in the foodservice sector throughout the United States.



Mian N. Riaz

AACC International members **Mian N. Riaz**, head of the Extrusion Technology Program and member of the Graduate Faculty of Food Science and Technology Program, Food Protein Research and Development Center, Texas A&M University, and **Faqir M. Anjum**, director of the Institute of Food Science and Technology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan, have received \$709,000 to establish an extrusion center at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. The two-year grant is from the Pakistan-U.S. Science and Technology Cooperative Program (National Academy of Sciences, USAID, and Higher Education Commission of Pakistan). The Centre for Excellence in Extrusion Technology will facilitate teaching, research, and product development for students, as well as provide educational support to private and government entities.

Takasago International Corp. (USA) has announced the appointment of **Jennifer Mei** as senior scientist and **Agnes Koellner** as senior account manager for the Midwest. Mei will work with Takasago's applications and sensory teams to optimize flavor sys-

tems and assist sales and marketing in developing customer presentations. Koellner has experience in developing sales, promotion, and product strategies and implementing original customer relationship management systems and will work on global accounts.

Riviana Foods Inc. has announced that **Bastiaan de Zeeuw** will succeed **W. David Hanks**, who will retire on June 30, 2006, as Riviana's president and CEO. de Zeeuw joined Riviana as director of internal audit and has served as corporate controller and CFO. Since 1998 he has served as managing director of Boost Nutrition C.V. and its affiliated companies.

COMPANIES

Expansions

Aeroglize has expanded its production and technical capabilities following the acquisition of Food Engineering Corporation and National Drying Machinery Company. It has more than doubled its technical center for testing, expanded its capabilities in the use of 3D design technologies, and invested in additional laser-cutting technology.

Lonza has announced the expansion of its Biologics facility in Portsmouth, NH. In response to customer requirements, Lonza plans to deliver new mid-scale 5,000-L reactors. Lonza Group has also announced plans to expand its activities in Nansha Guangzhou, China. Designs include a multipurpose active pharmaceutical ingredients and ISO-regulated intermediate plant complex with large- and pilot-scale capabilities to deliver a broader range of capacities, products, and services.

Virginia Dare recently completed the expansion of its new product development laboratories at the company's Brooklyn, NY, headquarters. The 5,000-ft² addition includes new laboratories dedicated to sweet goods and beverage applications and a beverage pilot plant with a state-of-the-art UHT beverage processing installation.

Name Change

Tripette & Renaud Chopin has changed its name to Chopin Technologies. Chopin Technologies offers a wide range of solutions for characterizing the quality of cereals and their derivatives, including grain analyzers and storage thermometry equipment.