

NORTHERN LIGHT

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Rachel DuCharme, Documenting Part(s) of Bretting

Rachel DuCharme has worked at C. G. Bretting Manufacturing for three years in Technical Publications. Her main responsibility is preparing parts manuals and updates to parts manuals. A parts manual for a complex machine can be 500 pages or more of information. Updated information usually consists of replacement pages for any existing parts manuals. There are three other staff members who work on parts manuals, and two who do operations manuals in the department.

"Information for the parts manuals comes from Engineering and also from the Asset Group. We get a list of all the parts from the PDM software program which helps us to identify them," she says. "The engineering drawings are in SolidWorks®. We use several computer programs to prepare the manuals, including SolidWorks, Photoshop®, Illustrator®, Frame Maker®, and Auto Cad®."

"The drawings from Engineering go right into the manuals. We have access to all their drawings, and sometimes we're told which drawings to use. We use all the new ones for new machines parts manuals," Rachel says. "The ASSET Group tells us which drawings to use on the component upgrades."

"There is a library here of all the older manuals from the 1960's all the way to the 1990s", she says. All the newer manuals and some scanned manuals are saved as a PDF in the computer system. "Then using our programs, we can type in the pages that need to be updated, and the new pages are inserted into the manuals."

"The parts manuals look a lot different than the old ones. The old ones were typed with a typewriter," she says incredulously. "It's nice now because we work with the photos and copy digitally. Our upgrades are mainly components, but if it's just a gear that is changed then it is updated as a part number."

"We're assigned projects. I'm working on a new machine now that is very interesting. Some parts are similar to what I already know, but what I don't know I need to ask questions of the engineers and the staff who are working on the machine. I've had to learn exactly how to present the information to the customer," she says.

Rachel came to Bretting well trained in most of the software programs required for her job. She has had to learn about some new equipment in addition. For instance, Rachel often heads out to the shop floor with a camera. "I go out to take photos of the machines for new manuals and get information from the guys out there. We shoot photos of certain parts like the drives just for example, but we take many others. We're also informed of changes that are being made for the future. We use photos any time we can in the manuals. At times we have done as many as 500 guarding photos from around the machine. I also need to shoot at different stages, from the time the machine starts going up. We shoot the framework, and then every step throughout the whole process. Then we take skid photos before the machine goes out the door," she explains.

Rachel usually has two new manuals in process at the same time, "We have a list of when machines are going to be started and finished. The updates are also mixed in with main machines."

Rachel graduated from Marenisco High School in 2004 and then attended Gogebic Community College for two years, completing an Associate's Degree of Applied Science (CADD) in 2006. She then took additional business classes, and worked locally before being hired at Bretting. Like her dad, Barry (story on page 4) she

Rachel DuCharme



likes to fish bass, trout, and walleye. Rachel also makes the long daily commute of 63 miles each way from Marenisco, Michigan, but she usually gets to ride with her dad, and occasionally takes a nap. Naps are good!

"I enjoy the people I work with. When I run into a problem they are always willing to help. I get to meet a lot of new people. I'll get calls from the customers complimenting me and the team on the manuals. They'll tell us we do nice work and the manuals are easy to understand."

Greetings from Ashland

It's been only a few months since acquiring S&S Specialty Systems of Iron River, Wisconsin and we continue to be very pleased with the transition. We are learning a lot from each other through limited cross-training of engineers and designers. Exchanging ideas and understanding different thought processes will benefit both companies in the long run. S&S will continue to be a stand-alone company, but we will both gain useful knowledge from each other and pass it along to our customers.

Unwind stands have come a long way from when we started building them many years ago. Our continual improvement on design, functionality and usability allows us to offer several unwind stand options to work in your facility and fit into the space available. The floor-level trolley system is a great example of listening to our customers and developing a new tool to meet their requirements; no need for an overhead crane and less downtime during roll changes.

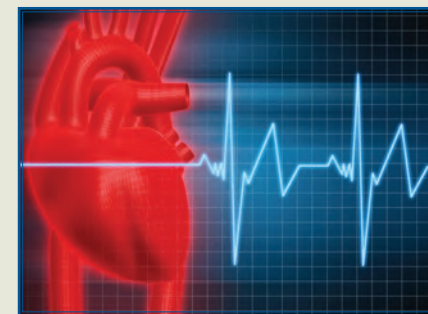
As companies go, most are divided into departments or sections where team members concentrate on one process; one area of expertise...Bretting is also sectioned this way. We have sections in Engineering that only focus on separators or only on napkin folders. Two members of the Bretting team, father and daughter, Barry and Rachel DuCharme don't fit neatly into that mold. As Customer Support on the ASSET team, Barry needs to work on all areas and sections of old and new equipment. Rachel works in the Publications department and also needs to understand all types of equipment and their parts. Both work with the customer and our Engineering staff. Both need to use complicated software programs. Both work on current and past machines. Both do their jobs very well and keep their customers happy.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and stop by for a visit if you're in the Ashland area!

David Bretting
President & CEO



Nurses Corner



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), heart disease is the leading cause of death and disability in the United States of America.

Do you ever wonder what those numbers look like locally? The Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services also has heart disease listed as the leading cause of death in Wisconsin. Nearly 50% of all Ashland County residents have two or more risk factors that contribute to heart disease. Although there are some risk factors you can't do anything about (age, sex, etc.), the American Heart Association has been very proactive in teaching the public about risk factors they can change. Nutrition, exercise, fitness, and tobacco use are the leading risk factors for heart disease – and they are all controllable by you!

Heart disease knows no age, no sex, and is not limited to one specific ethnic group. Remember – it is the leading cause of death! That means any of us with risk factors may be diagnosed with heart disease.

It is important to know the symptoms of a heart attack – chest pain, shortness of breath, dizziness, sweating, etc. – but it is just as important to learn about the risk factors and to take steps to reduce them. If you have more than one risk factor, don't tackle them all at once. Take it one at a time. Even small changes can greatly reduce your risk of heart disease.

If you are unsure of your real risk of heart disease, stop by the nurse's office or make an appointment with your primary health care provider.

Take care-
Carrie

S&S Specialty Systems

S&S Specialty Systems, LLC got its beginning in an 800 sq. foot garage in northern Wisconsin in 1980 and was known as S&S Machining, Inc. Over the next several years, they outgrew a couple manufacturing spaces around Ashland and found a spacious 20,000 sq. foot facility in Iron River, WI. With this latest move, they also changed their name to be more encompassing of their goals – they were not just a contract machining shop, they also aspired to design and manufacture paper converting and packaging equipment – specialty equipment.

In early 1988, the opportunity to introduce the S&S packaging equipment line had arrived. During this year, the first packaging machine was manufactured and sold; orders for five additional packaging machines followed in 1989. In 1991, they began servicing and rebuilding converting and packaging equipment. With more and more exposure to the paper converting industry, new challenging opportunities arose for designing and building technology-driven equipment.

Over the years, S&S gained recognition for its technological innovation in specialty equipment and nonwoven production line for the paper converting industry. Today, S&S offers standard equipment lines for the nonwoven, paper, tissue, and foil interfolded, folded, and wet wipe markets.

With staff of around 20 employees, S&S continues to serve the precision machining needs of their customers as well as designs, builds and services equipment for the nonwoven, paper and packaging industries, while maintaining standards of high quality, service and competitive pricing.

On March 5th, 2011, S&S Specialty Systems, Inc. was acquired by C.G. Bretting Manufacturing Co., Inc. of Ashland, Wisconsin, and became S&S Specialty Systems, LLC.



The S&S Specialty Systems manufacturing plant in Iron River, WI.

Duly Noted

by Andrea Ludtke

■ Babies

Andrew and Jeanette Pope, a girl
Joseph and Kathy Osterman, a girl

■ Weddings

Jeremy and Wendy MacArthur

■ Upcoming Trade Shows

Paper Arabia
18 – 20 September 2011
Dubai, UAE
Stand # 4A139

ABTCP
3 – 5 October 2011
Sao Paulo, Brazil

MIAC 2011
12 – 14 October 2011
Lucca, Italy
Stand # 17

■ 4th of July Parade

Our 4th of July parade float was a beach theme this year which featured a tiki hut and surfboards. We didn't place, but got an Honorable Mention in the float category. We also raised some money from the sale of the small surfboards that lined the edge of our float for the Bretting Relay for Life team.



The Bretting 4th of July parade float.

■ Women's Volleyball

Congratulations to the Women's Volleyball team – they took 2nd place again this year! They had a record of 86 wins and 34 losses. And a special shout-out to Joann Erickson for making the games (at least one game) a “'rippin’ good time”!!



The Bretting volleyball team: (front row) Jane Brilla and Corinne Roy, (middle) Beth Vedder, (back) Stephanie Larson, Joann Erickson, Nicole Erickson, and Deanna Regan.

Unwind Stand Automation

Now you can win the race with both non-stop production and high speed by combining our new unwind stand automation options with our latest generation of high speed converting equipment.

We offer a number of automatic splice options... up to splice-on-the-fly at full production speed. We have combined auto-splice with automatic roll change to provide complete automation of the splicing and roll change operations. You can mix and match splice and roll handling options into a configuration that provides flexibility in floor plan and capability to meet your unique needs. If floor space is critical we offer a number of automatic roll change options that fit into tight spaces.

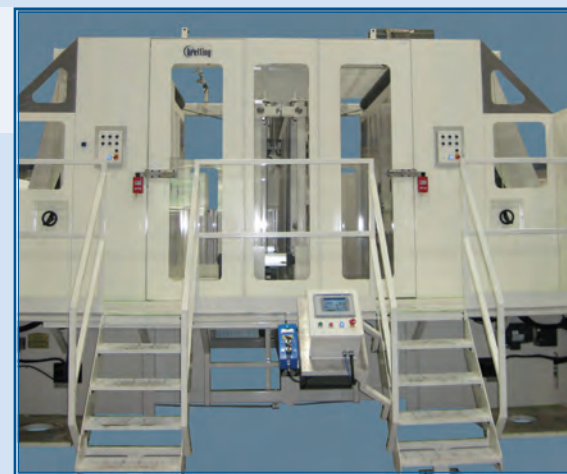
Our patented stop/start splice system can be combined with the only floor loaded trolley system available. Eliminate the need for your overhead crane systems with several floor loaded options. The

trolley stand can handle 10 foot diameter rolls with ease and requires only one minute of downtime for a splice.

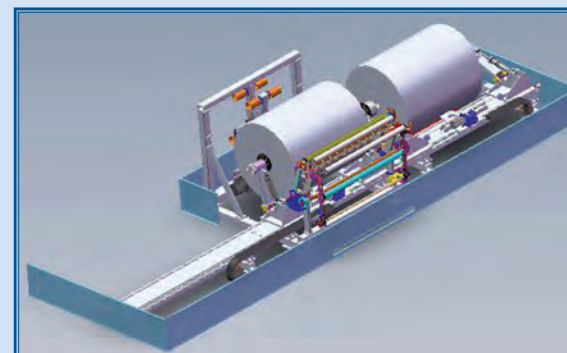
Retrofit automation into many of your existing unwind stands. Take the pressure off your operators by allowing them to load and prepare rolls while the line is in production. Reduce strain by providing core chuck handling systems or eliminate handling of the chucks altogether. Ultimately the goal is predictable and efficient roll changes with reduced strain on operators.

When an overhead crane is necessary to change rolls, consider our Roll Handler. The roll handler eliminates the need for the operator to handle core chucks. It functions like a typical J-hook system, but clamps the chucks, hydraulically extracts them from the spent core, and inserts them into the new roll.

Let us work with you to provide a solution that best fits your needs.



Auto-splice system.



Floor loaded trolley system.

Barry DuCharme, Driving the Distance

In his Customer Support position with the ASSET Group at C. G. Bretting Manufacturing, Barry DuCharme has seen improvements in all ages and types of machines. "We work on log saw drives, conveyor drives--from folders to embossers, and unwind stands, it covers everything and just about every part of the machines," Barry says. "It's designing improvements on existing machines and certain upgrades. I basically work on mechanical upgrades including the mechanical part of servo drives."

When asked why changes get made, Barry laughs, because there is no one answer to that. "There are many reasons for making changes. Some of it can be heavy towards electrical and other times it's mechanical. It's a variety. The requests are internal as well as from customers. We've had a customer ask for a change before a machine ever got there. It keeps me on my toes."

There are machines back as far as 1971 that have been recently worked on. When working on older machines there are many variables. "We use old drawings or computer files to start," he explains. "Then the machine has to be evaluated for customer changes that may have been made over time. Sometimes a machine has been moved to a different plant, or a different company, so it may have had some changes made for producing different products. If machines have been moved, it's possible the customer doesn't know what modifications have been made. We need measurements and photographs. On complicated jobs it's helpful to have one of our technical service staff there."

The records are a bit easier to work with on newer machines, because the files are in AutoCAD® or SolidWorks® files. "Machines produced as recently as last year sometimes are updated," he says. Barry averages about three different projects going at the same time. There are seven staff working on projects like this. "Every year it seems to increase more," he says. "Because we get information to customers that there are improvements, they request them."

A project comes from the customer and goes through the lead person in the ASSET Group or the lead person in COP. Sometimes a project may also go through Sales. "After a quote is presented, then the job comes down the line to us and we make it work," Barry explains. "Some jobs can take a day and big jobs can take up to a month. Jobs are completed and out the door in two days on a less complicated project, to six weeks total if there are a lot of

parts. Then I have to look at every project before it is shipped to make sure it's right. We have service techs who install it in the field."

Barry estimates that only 20% of all projects are similar to what have been done before on a previous machine. "We don't have many similar machines, so each upgrade or improvement has to be custom per the customer's request. I have to make sure it works," he says.

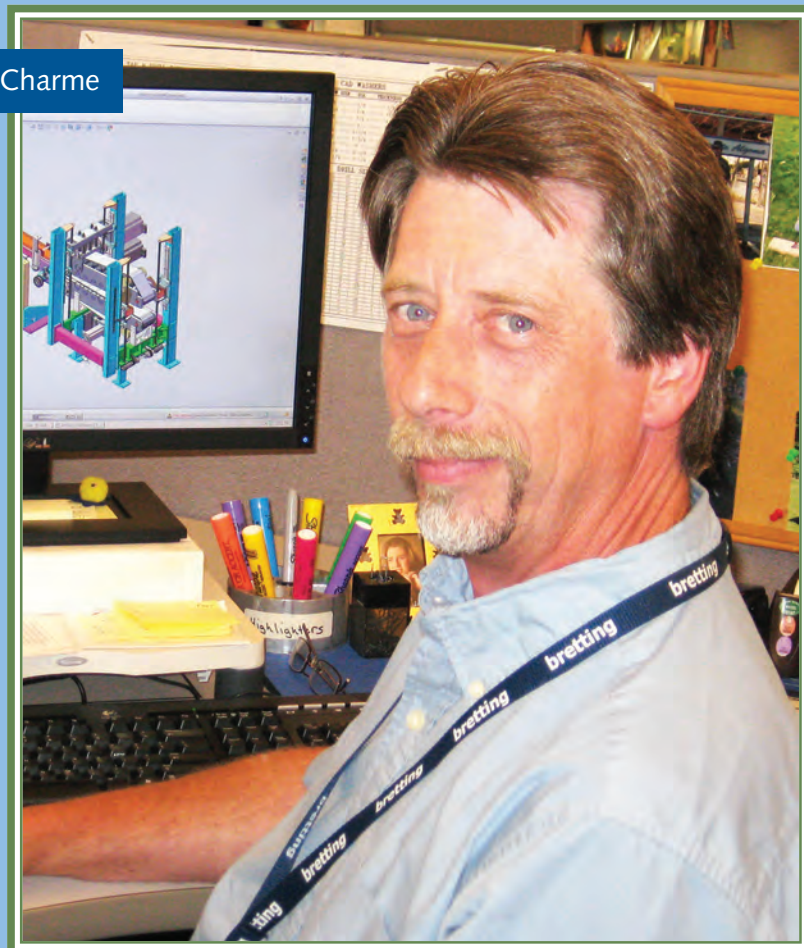
Some recent projects Barry has worked on include bearing upgrades, conveyor upgrades, and folder improvements. "It's tough to explain exactly the projects I work on. I have to know how to work on anything, including rewinders, embossers, drives... We have people in our department that are experienced in different parts of machines. We rely on each other for information," he says.

Sometimes the work involves increasing the speed of the machines. Even older machines can have the speed increased to current levels. "We just have to make it work. The big jobs are changing over drives." Other big jobs Barry cited include changing folding rolls, housings, bearings, and frames. Embossers can be changed to up to four round and different patterns. A recent conveyor job was to lengthen a paddle conveyor by 10 feet to a log saw.

Barry graduated from Roosevelt High School in Marenisco, MI. Out of high school he worked in a small saw mill for five years as head sawyer, and then worked at another factory for 11 years. Following that time he went back to Gogebic Community College for an Associate's Degree of Applied Science, and finally settled into his position at Bretting.

He still lives in Marenisco, which is a 63 mile one-way commute every day. Barry has been married to his wife Chris for 27 years. He has three children; Rachel, age 25, Ashley, 23, and Bradley, 7. Rachel also works at Bretting, (see page 1), and Ashley works as a manager for a McDonalds in Ohio. Barry's hobbies include hunting for grouse, bow hunting deer, and fishing for trout, walleye, and bass.

Barry DuCharme



Barry has worked at Bretting for 13 years. "I started off in Engineering working on interfolders and banders for four years. Then I had the chance to do customer support, so have worked in this position since then," he says. "I've learned each machine one at a time."

"The big challenge here is keeping up with the technology, which has included a transition from AutoCAD to SolidWorks. Bretting has a good internal training program, and I've adapted to the technology and upgrades. It's been fun, interesting."

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