

United States Embassy Stockholm

Press Release

**2nd Generation Ethanol Expert Selected to Hold
Inaugural Alternative Energy Chair
at Chalmers University***May 23, 2008*

Arthur Ragauskas, Professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology, has been selected as the first holder of the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Alternative Energy Technology at Chalmers University. The award includes a stipend of \$125,000, one of the largest in the 60-year history of the Fulbright Program. Funding support for the Distinguished Chair is being provided to the Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States and Sweden by Marianne och Marcus Wallenbergs Stiftelse.

The Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Alternative Energy Technology has been created as part of the U.S. Embassy's One Big Thing initiative, fostering alternative energy cooperation between the U.S. and Sweden. "My work will contribute to innovative green chemistry sustainable technologies for the conversion of woody biomass to biofuels, bioenergy and in the next generation of biorefineries," said Dr. Ragauskas. "This will be accomplished by bringing together the best students, businesses, and academicians in the United States and Sweden to address the global bioenergy challenge of this millennium."

Chalmers University was selected to host the new position because the University is increasing its efforts in the area of developing fuels and chemicals from renewable resources. This development is driven by the need to conserve energy and a desire to produce more value-added products from wood and wood waste. Wood can be a source for fuel, plastics and advanced chemicals, as well as paper and lumber.

Michael Wood, U.S. Ambassador to Sweden, and Chalmers President Karin Markides led the effort to create the new Fulbright Chair. Ambassador Wood said, "Senator Fulbright's intention was to promote international good will through the exchange of students and professors. He may not have foreseen the issue of global warming or the importance of bioethanol, but his vision is alive and well in this new program. Dr. Ragauskas was selected from among a field of highly qualified applicants. I'm excited about the possibility that while at Chalmers, Professor Ragauskas may work on a technology breakthrough that allows people to drive cars on 2nd generation ethanol from non-food sources."

This Fulbright Chair will provide Dr. Art Ragauskas the opportunity to share his internationally recognized expertise in lignocellulosic biofuels with Swedish and international students, postdoctoral research fellows and faculty. He will develop a Swedish-American network to address society's need to develop sustainable cellulosic biofuels and bioenergy. These interactions will be pursued by participating in formal classroom discussions, industry workshops, school presentations, and the development of unique web-based learning resources, including pod-casts. Dr. Ragauskas will be based in the Forest Products and Chemical Engineering department at Chalmers.

"My academic and research career has benefited from President Bush and his administration's vision and support of bioethanol," said Professor Ragauskas. "I am honored and humbled to now be able to expand this vision beyond Georgia Tech and the southeast U.S. to Sweden and Scandinavia."

Arthur Ragauskas is a Fellow of the International Academy of Wood Science and TAPPI. His research program at Georgia Tech is seeking to understand and exploit innovative sustainable bioresources. This multifaceted program seeks to develop new and improved applications for nature's premiere renewable biopolymers for biofuels, biopower and biomaterials. Ragauskas has published more than 220 papers, patents and conference proceedings. He has served on several advisory boards and review panels, including: European Commission Research Directorate; National Science Academy; J. Paul Getty Trust; Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research; VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland; and the Finnish Academy of Science. Ragauskas has been an invited visiting professor at Universidade da Beira Interior, Portugal; Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden; Royal Institute of

Technology, Sweden; and South China University of Technology, China.

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