**Polymers**

Dr. William Chirdon is developing new applications for algae cake, the solids remaining after oil extraction in the production of biofuels. However, the economic feasibility of the process is dependent on adding value to the cake, and the production of specialty chemicals from the oil. He recently was awarded a grant to assess the mechanical properties of structural composites made using algae-based binders. The development of this "glue" could have positive economic implications to several other microbial oil sources. This research could provide an economic boost to the state of Louisiana, which has the ideal climate for growing algae as well as the energy industry and infrastructure to capitalize on it.