Executive Report

HISTORY
We have proudly offered fifty eight years of support for the students studying Paper Science and Paper Engineering. In recent years, the department has eliminated the Paper Science curriculum and focused entirely on Paper Engineering. PTF offers support to ChP Graduate students thru a quasi-endowment dedicated to graduate thesis research support. The support offered is designed as seed funding to encourage and support the solicitation of external research grant funding.

Our Foundation continues its excellent support for Western Michigan University, the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and specifically the Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering.

The Paper Technology Foundation, a 501(c)3 corporation, was established in 1958. The primary mission of the Paper Technology Foundation is to recruit students for the Paper Engineering program at Western Michigan University and to provide those students with competitive scholarships. Careful, directed recruiting, provision of competitive scholarships, and co-op and intern placements are strategies and tools that ensure that we provide strong leaders for the paper and allied industries well into the future.

The purpose of the Foundation is to encourage the paper-engineering students at Western Michigan University by carrying out the following objectives:

A. To attract and interest students in preparing for careers in the pulp, paper, and allied industries.
B. To aid and promote by financial assistance and guidance all types of education and research in paper engineering and related areas at Western Michigan University.
C. To provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships, loans, and grants to students studying for careers in the pulp, paper, and allied industries.
D. To assist in developing programs and curricula of advanced study which will attract students from schools and industry; and further, to aid graduates in becoming leaders in the operations, technical, research, marketing, and managerial areas of the pulp, paper, and allied industries.
E. To encourage industry government and non-profit organization support of faculty and graduate student research in specific areas of science as designated by the supporting companies.
F. To encourage industry use of the pilot plant facilities in order to strengthen industry-university relationships to provide greater industry-student exposure.
G. To help augment the staff in pulp and paper instruction with highly qualified personnel.
H. In general, to do all acts deemed necessary or expedient for the development, expansion and extension of education and research relating to paper engineering.

Your Foundation continues its tradition of providing excellent support for the paper engineering program and the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.
The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences has a new dean, Dr. Houssam Toutanji. Dr. Toutanji holds a Ph.D., Civil Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts, his Dissertation: “The Development of a Cementitious Composites Axial Tensile Techniques and its Application to Carbon Fiber Reinforced Cementitious Composites.” He is a visiting professor at the University of Gent, Department of Structural Engineering (Gent-Belgium). In 1996 he was the recipient of the National Science Foundation’s CAREER award. He received the NSF-EPS CoR Scholarly Productivity Award two years in a row, for research performance, intrinsic merit of research work, and for potential in research. He served as the associate director of the University Transportation Center for Alabama from 1998 to 2000 and 2008 to 2013. He organized three NSF International Conferences in 1994, 1996 and 2005. He has served as principal or co-principal investigator on research projects-funded by NSF, DOD, NASA, NOAA, ALDOT, and University Transportation Centers - whose cumulative funding exceeds $6 million. He is the author/co-author of over 200 publications in the areas of FRP composites, cementitious composite materials, recycled materials and lunar construction materials and design, and edited three major conference proceedings. He has directed over 18 doctoral and 50 master’s students to completion. Dr. Toutanji has worked with faculty to develop new strategy and focus for the College.

THE NEW MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE COLLEGE:

Mission

- Educate: develop career-ready engineering and applied science graduates for success in the global market;
- Discover: advance knowledge and innovation through high-quality research, teaching, and student engagement;
- Inspire: prepare our learning community for lifelong excellence, ethical behavior, and professional leadership;
- Transform: cultivate an inclusive learning environment, contributing to diversity in the engineering workforce; and
- Respond: answer challenges in our local and global communities to improve the wellbeing of society.

The strategy sets specific goals for retention and enrollment and lays out solid tactics. The department also has a new Chair, Dr. Kecheng Li with an outstanding track record.

- Jan. 1987–April 1989: M.Sc., Pulp and Paper Engineering, Shaanxi University of Science and Technology, China
  Sept. 1981–July 1985: B.Sc., Eng., Chemical Engineering, Shaanxi University of Science and Technology, China

Dr. Li’s Employment History:

- July 2008–Present: Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, UNB
- July 2004–June 2008: Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, UNB
- Dec. 2002–June 2004: Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, UNB
- April 1988–Sept. 1997: Assistant Professor, Department of Pulp and Paper Engineering, Shaanxi University of Science and Technology

Dr. Li’s Administrative Experience Includes:

- Sept. 2003–Dec. 2013: Director, Graduate Studies Department of Chemical Engineering, UNB
- Jan. 2005–Present: Associate Director, Limerick Pulp & Paper Research and Education Centre, UNB
- Sept. 1994–99: Associate Director, Pulp & Paper Teaching Division Shaanxi University of Science and Technology
Dr. Li has industry consulting experience and outstanding teaching experience:

Courses taught at UNB:
- CHE6515 Advanced Surface Characterization
- CHE6334/5334 Biorefinery: Principles, Processes and Products
- CHE6913/5913 Wood Pulping Process & Technology
- CHE6915/5923 Papermaking Process & Technology
- CHE5934 Chemical Process Industry
- CHE3414 Fluid- Particle Interaction
- CHE2401 Applied Organic Chemistry
- CHE4225 Plant Design Projects
- CHE 2412 Chemical Engineering Lab I
- CHE3434 Chemical Engineering Lab II
- CHE4404 Chemical Engineering Lab IV
- CHE3423 Practice School projects
- MBA7934 Utilization of Forest Products (Guest lecture)
- MBA7935 Forest Products Manufacturing (Guest lecture)

Courses taught at SUST:
- CHE3001 Wood Chemistry
- CHE3002 Wood Chemistry Laboratory
- CHE4003 Papermaking Principles and Process
- CHE4005 Introduction to Plant Design
- CHE4501 “Introduction to Modern Pulp and Paper Process and Technology”

Dr. Li has also developed courses on leading edge topics in Surface Characterization, Biorefining, and Modern Pulp and Paper process and technology.

In addition to the above, Dr. Li’s awards and publications are extensive. We are proud to have him as our new department chair.

FOUNDATION PERSONNEL CHANGES
During the 2015–16 year, the following changes were noteworthy:
- Dr. Mike Goulet joined the Board as Kimberly Clark’s representative.
- Mr. Chris Wetherford joined the Board as PaperWorks representative.
- Mr. Scott Haimerl joined the board as ABB’s representative replacing long time member Mr. Charlie Young.
- Mr. Henry Krell replaced Mr. Charlie Kahler as the USG representative; Charlie plans retirement from USG.
- Mr. Brad Fadden replaced Mr. John Keaveney as the Ingredion representative.
- Ms. Sue Van Hoy replaced Dr. Greg Roper as Loparex representative.
- Mr. Howard Piotrowski is representing Neenah Paper as they return as members.
- Mr. Sean Wallace replaced Mr. Erik Standerfer representing Glatfelter.
- Mr. Mike Nold resigned from the Board as Buckman discontinued their membership.
STUDENT RECRUITMENT, ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION

Incoming paper engineers for the fall of 2016 is 23; 18 freshmen and five transfers. This is a reasonable result of effective recruiting and follow-up despite a recruitment vacancy at the beginning of February. However, student retention continues to be an area of needed improvement.

The fall 2016 scholarship review indicates we have a total of 78 enrolled in paper engineering, all of whom are majors. The breakdown for majors is 20 freshmen, 16 sophomores, 19 juniors, and 17 seniors. There are also eight masters candidates and four PhD candidates.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The awards for the 2016–17 academic year are expected to be $238,000. PTF awards for the previous five academic years have totaled $963,328

ENDOWMENTS

Endowment performance was lackluster in line with market performance with a net loss of ($328,200) from security transactions as of June 30, 2016. Total invested assets were $5,856,196 as of June 30, 2016 compared to $6,248,544 as of June 30, 2015.

Gifts and Contributions were $396,467 during the fiscal year. Total expenditures and distributions were $638,308 with distributions to Western Michigan University of $323,192 and $315,116 to fund the foundation operation.

Trustee and brokerage fees associated with the endowments were $70,573 in 2016 compared to $76,949 in 2015.

MEMBERSHIP

During 2015–16, membership increased to the strongest level in recent years. Kimberly Clark and PaperWorks joined the foundation and Neenah Paper rejoined the foundation. Our students continue to attract new members because of their strong track record.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The audit committee of the Board met in April to review and approve the recommended audit plan. Plante and Moran has implemented that plan and conducted the audit accordingly. Plante & Moran rendered an opinion that the financial statements represented fairly the financial position of the Foundation. Plante & Moran provided an “Emphasis of Matter” highlighting that as of June 30, 2016, 39% or $2,280,000 of the net assets were valued by management estimates in the absence of readily determinable value.

Patrick T. Gibney ‘77, President

John F. Bergin ‘66, Managing Director