Thank you to all those who attended or were represented at the ribbon cutting ceremony for our new paper machine and recycling plant in April. It was a great day; highlighted by an address from WMU President Edward Montgomery, the dedication of the plants to two of our distinguished alumni and a successful paper machine run.

President Montgomery and VP Jan Van Der Kley both recognized how unique and important the connection of our program to the industry is. The project, “represents the best of WMU,” says WMU President Edward Montgomery. “It is research that impacts the world and creates unparalleled opportunities for our students.” “Today’s accomplishment results from a 70-year partnership between the paper industry and the paper science and engineering program,” says Jan Van Der Kley, WMU vice president for business and finance. “The new machine provides greater opportunities for our students to have hands-on-experience with a one-of-a-kind facility in North America, new research opportunities for our faculty and allows WMU to conduct more product trials for our industry partners.”

Dating back to 1968, the new-to-WMU machine from NIST, replaces an older model the University used in the former McCracken Hall, which was installed in 1958. During its yearlong installation process, the newer machine has been upgraded with many pieces of modern technology to help with trial efficiency and real-world learning for students. The head box and forming section

Continued on page 4

EXPO 2019

WMU’s Engineering Expo will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 25 at the Parkview campus in Floyd Hall. Registration opens in Handshake on June 10. Wait lists form quickly so early registration is encouraged. Last fall, 25 paper and allied employers attended the career fair. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to secure your next talent!
PTF MANAGING DIRECTOR Transition

Congratulations to John Bergin ’66 on his well-deserved retirement. He has championed PTF, the WMU Pilot Plants and the Paper Engineering program into world-class leaders due to his exceptional leadership. Thank you John! On April 15, industry friends, WMU leadership, the PTF Board and distinguished guests joined together to celebrate John’s achievements. A special thank you to those who traveled significant distances to share kind sentiments with John in person.

Tim Hagenbuch ’94 will begin serving PTF and WMU Pilot Plants full-time starting July 1. Please provide Tim a warm welcome!

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FAREWELL TO PTF AND WMU

Personally, it has been my good fortune to serve the Paper Technology Foundation (PTF) and Western Michigan University (WMU). I have been lucky enough to serve under three vice presidents of business and finance. Bob Beam and I struck a deal in October 2006 as I left the PTF Board of Trustees as Stora Enso’s representative. Bob remains supportive of PTF and sustains a roll on our board, true dedication! Subsequently it has been my pleasure to serve under Lowell Rinker and Jan Van Der Kley and Patti VanWalbeck the latter two a symbiotic pair. I want to thank all of them for that opportunity, and their kindness and friendship to me. I also want to thank them for their outstanding support of the Paper Technology Foundation and the Paper Engineering program at WMU. Each had their own way of encouragement and support and all deserve my admiration and appreciation.

When I retired from Stora Enso in 2006 to come to Western, I could never have imagined what was in store for me. Working with a small group of amazing folks in the pilot plant provided many challenges and some excellent success. Bringing the recycling plant back into operation and creating the opportunity for the pilot plant to truly take a lead role in sustainability initiatives has been a highlight and very rewarding. Pilot plant crews assumed the role of experts in the recycle plant operation and have met with continued profitable success.

Another Pilot plant challenge saw us resurrecting the digester and successfully processing a non-wood fiber from raw material to pulp and further to a coated printed package, the pilot crews again met this difficult challenge and completed a profitable project. Unfortunately, only the digester controls will be a part of the now revitalized pilot operation on the Parkview Campus.

The Foundation board of trustees is a group of dedicated volunteers supported by their corporations who contribute their time, talent and treasure to insure PTF’s sustainability. This has been a fantastic group to work with during these past 13 years and I am eternally grateful for their support. Foundation board members are the backbone of PTF and are the link to industry needed by the paper engineering program that sustains the foundation and enhances the student experience through student mentorship and career opportunities.

Those students, who have been benefactors of the opportunities PTF and the Paper Engineering program affords, have in my view accepted the benefits, employed them well, and made us proud of our existence and demanded that we continue to serve future students and our industries through talent recruitment and development.

Today the Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering has the strongest leadership and academic capability encountered during my tenure, thank you to dean, Dr. Houssam Toutanji and department chair, Dr. Kecheng Li.

The future for PTF is bright and great outcomes are expected under the leadership of Tim Hagenbuch. I wish him well and challenge him to make my accomplishments appear trivial! Tim will have Jen Johnson to guide him as I have had and that alone will ensure he cannot fail!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

FAREWELL TO PTF AND WMU

Lucky to Serve
RIBBON CUTTING Continued

of the McCracken machine are now the part of the top fourdrinier, making us the only pilot scale, multi ply machine in North America!

Legend has it that Chuck Klass helped pull the first tail to come down the McCracken machine in 1958. We thought it only fitting to have him do the same for us on the new machine—60 plus years later! Chuck was a big part of getting the NIST machine donated, getting the coater installed 15 years ago and continues to teach and bring projects into WMU. Thank you Chuck for all of your dedication to our program and facility. The new paper machine was dedicated in Chuck’s name and I am happy say he was surprised by the unveiling of the sign.

A new fiber recycling plant also was unveiled, used to test and certify products from around the world for repulpability and recyclability. WMU has recently partnered with the Sustainable Packaging Coalition to be the certification site for their How2Recycle product labeling program. The fiber recycling plant is named for the managing director of WMU’s Paper Technology Foundation, John Bergin. Bergin had a tremendous career in industry and then led the Paper Technology Foundation for the last 13 years, while constantly mentoring, teaching, and striving for excellence. Even on Monday mornings, when I would ask Bergin “How are you this morning?” he would almost always say “Exquisite!” Mr. Bergin, we wish you an exquisite retirement.

PAPERCON

Thirteen students and five staff members attended PaperCon 2019—Setting the Pace, which was held in Indianapolis this May. Students participate in the YP (Young Professional) track and enjoyed networking, engaging in a community service project, attending technical sessions and helping host the Alumni Soiree. Additionally, the students hosted a fun raiser for the “PAPER MILLIONAIRE” shirts.

Major thanks and appreciation to the sponsoring companies that helped the students with their shirt sale. There is a limited inventory of shirts still available; cost is $15. If interested, please contact the Ts’ai Lun President at erin.c.riley@wmich.edu.
Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding achievements announced April 2019:

**STUDENT AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP Winners**

- **Stephen Bussa**, PTF Competitive Scholarship
- **Erin Riley**, PTF Competitive Scholarship
- **Aaron Kischnick**, RPTA Scholarship
- **Abigail Cortright**, RPTA Scholarship
- **JustOne Crosby**, TAPPI Paper and Board Division Scholarship
- **Andrew McCabe**, TAPPI Process Control Division Scholarship
- **Michaela Schnell**, PTF Outstanding Service Award
- **Rielle Walker**, PTF Outstanding Service Award

**GRADUATING SENIOR RECOGNITION and Summer Placement**

Western Michigan University’s Paper Technology Foundation proudly recognized six graduating seniors on April 16. Another strong graduating class in terms of size and skillset offerings! All graduates were placed in industry full-time positions well in advance of their graduation; a trend that has continued for more than 50 years!

- **Jon Fitch**, Huhtamaki in Alabama
- **Tyler MacFarland**, New-Indy Containerboard in California
- **Nathan Rozegnal**, Graphic Packaging International in Kalamazoo
- **Michaela Schnell**, Huhtamaki in Maine
- **Richard Waite**, UPM starting in Illinois
- **Rielle Walker**, Solenis starting in Delaware

**FULL TIME 2019**

- **Salary Average**: $72,542 (High offer of $75,000)
- **Sign On Average**: $5,888 (High offer of $11,500)
- **Relocation Average**: $5,000 (High offer of fully covered)
- **Bonus Average**: 7% (High offer of 9%)
- **Other**: car, cell phone, three week vacation, student loan reimbursement, moving/housing support up to four years

**SUMMER 2019**

- **Freshmen**: $19.75/hr (high offer of $20/hr)
- **Sophomores**: $20/hr (high offer of $27.50/hr)
- **Juniors**: $23.13/hr (high offer of $27.50/hr)
- **Seniors**: $22.92/hour (high offer of $30/hr)
- **NEW TREND**: Sign On Bonus $1,363 (high offer of $2,500)

**HOUSING SUPPORT 2019**

- **Monthly Avg. (37%)**: $525 (Low $300-High $900)
- **One Time Avg. (37%)**: $1,850 (Low $750-High $4,000)
- **% Fully Covered**: 26%