GREETINGS & Farewell

All of us at the Paper Technology Foundation are hoping that the warm weather, reduced COVID guidelines (hopefully), and outdoor activities are helping to make lifelong memories for all of our alumni, students, friends, and supporters!

Summertime in the PTF office means reconciling the books for the fiscal year, yielding new students into the program, preparing for the annual meeting in the Fall, creating the content for the annual report, and making sure our students are ready to hit the ground running in the Fall! It’s a full year-long process with milestones events throughout.

Sadly, I will not be taking part in these events this summer. In April, I informed WMU and the Officers of the Board of Trustees that I would not be renewing my contract when it expires on June 30th. This decision was not easy for my family and me to make as I love WMU, the PTF, our program, our faculty and staff, and most of all, our great students! My career was operations-based for 25+ years before joining the PTF. After long and heartfelt reflection, papermaking is the environment that I am most comfortable operating within and will return to.

Our program has some of the best and brightest young minds being coached and mentored by industry executives and dedicated faculty. We also have the full support of the paper and allied industries, along with an army of Paper Bronco alums who love to share their insight and knowledge! With the focused student development that the PTF and our Board of Trustees provide, the future is bright and in great hands. I want to thank Jan and Colleen, Rob, Jen, Lon, Dr. Butt, Scot, Dr. Cavalli, and all PTF officers and trustees for an incredible two years as managing director, and I depart with many fond memories and friendships.

If I can assist any of our students or graduates, please reach out at any time. It’s been a pleasure to be involved in this great organization for over seven years, and it is always a great day to be a Bronco—but an even better day to be a Paper Engineering Bronco!

My best and stay safe,
Tim (1994 Bronco)

ENDOWED PROFESSOR CAMPAIGN Update

We are in the final phase of the $2.5 million Endowed Professor goal with $1.5 committed to date. Unfortunately, the pandemic delayed our efforts for nearly two years. However, the campaign is in full force with refreshed marketing materials and champions for corporate and alumni support.

Please join us by supporting this extraordinary opportunity to strengthen the tradition and legacy of the WMU Paper Engineering program as a leader in our industry!

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE AT WMUALUMNI.ORG/WMUPTF
I am proud to announce Brian Pahl has joined the PTF as our next managing director taking over from Tim Hagenbuch, who is leaving for new challenges. A 1980 Bronco, Brian brings a wealth of experience and energy to this position.

Most recently, Brian was the President and CEO of BTG Group based in Switzerland, from which he retired and is now living in Indiana. Brian’s focus will be on reinvigorating the recruitment effort to build the program enrollment to sustainable levels. Other planned activities are getting to know our current students and provide mentorship, help drive fundraising for our endowed professor scholarship campaign, and continuing to recruit new board members.

Special thanks to the Governing Board during this transition. Together we are taking a fresh look at our organization and reducing our cost to serve while still providing leadership and enhancing the student experience. We all appreciate the time and talents of Jennifer Johnson through this period as well. Her leadership and high level of concern for the students are always present and provided a solid foundation as we work through this transition. Jennifer will be taking on additional responsibilities for recruiting for the Paper Engineering Program. Her long service and dedication to the students and the foundation makes this a great chance for Jennifer to add even more value to the program and ensure we have a strong admissions into our program.

Finally, despite the challenges of Covid during the past year, I am proud that we were able to continue to meet with our students regularly. The virtual meetings were a big hit with the students and the board members as well. We will continue this even as travel restrictions recede as we found it a great way to interact more frequently than we have in the past.

Mike Farrell
President Paper Technology Foundation

**BRIAN PAHL ‘80**

Effective July 1, Brian Pahl has been named as Managing Director for the Paper Technology Foundation of Western Michigan University. Brian is a 1980 WMU Paper Engineering graduate. Upon graduation, he joined Hercules, Inc. in Portland, OR as a technical service representative. After several assignments in sales, marketing, and business management within Hercules, he assumed the role of President of Hercules’ Paper Technology Division in 2001 based in Wilmington, DE. In 2006, Brian left for Switzerland to join Ciba as Head of Paper Effects. Then in 2008, he became President and CEO of BTG Group in Eclee’pens, Switzerland, a position he held until 2017.

Currently, Brian serves as a business advisor and holds various board memberships. He brings over 35 years of global paper industry experience and vast management and organizational experience to this role. Brian stated, “WMU has a longstanding reputation for exceptional engineering students who are prepared for substantial impact and lead sustainability in the paper industry. This is achieved through an amazing faculty, staff, and facilities. I look forward to supporting this and foundation member companies by building upon our legacy in ways that will impact our industry today and well into the future.”
PAPER PILOT PLANT RUNNING

The Paper Pilot Plants continue to run strong as we close out the fiscal year. The new paper machine has been in high demand, with several scaling up production, while the coater and recycling plant also remains busy. We are accepting visitors/customers/tours, while currently utilizing a daily health screening questionnaire.

WE HAVE THREE STUDENTS WORKING FOR US THIS SUMMER THAT I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE:

**Aidan Bowie** will be entering his sophomore year in the Paper Engineering program this fall. Aidan grew up in Holland, MI. He toured the WMU Engineering college as a high schooler and was drawn to the equipment and processes that he saw in the Paper Pilot Plant. He also got excited about the hands-on learning that the program provides through labs, pilot plant, and internships. Aidan has been a valuable asset to the pilot plants this summer and has proven to be a quick learner. His highlights include learning/running the different TAPPI test methods, seeing the paper recycling process run, and getting experience with our DCS and running different processes. In his free time, Aidan enjoys playing basketball, hanging with friends, and playing with his golden retriever (Billy).

**Meegan Heerlyn** will also be entering her sophomore year in the Paper Engineering program this fall. She grew up in Scotts, MI, and initially heard about Paper Engineering from her high school engineering teacher. She toured the engineering college, was impressed with the pilot/lab facilities and excited to hear our students talk about the many areas of innovation in paper. As an artist, she has always liked paper as a medium and was interested to learn the science behind it! Meegan has proven to be very versatile, as she has taken on a various projects with a smile. Her pilot plant summer highlights include seeing the paper machine run, refining and working on paper formation, breaking down products and testing their yield for recycling, and learning all of the different paper grades through a huge sortation project she led. Meegan sorted paper into eight different grades/types! Meegan enjoys photography, biking, family time, and works weekends at a nursing home/rehab center in her free time.

**Iylani Syafiah** will be graduating with a degree in Chemical Engineering this Fall. Iylani grew up in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She decided to follow in the footsteps of her father and uncle, both WMU grads, and become a Bronco! Iylani has always had an engineering mind and loves to work through logical processes leading her to Chem E. Her summer pilot plant highlights include learning freeness and consistency calculations to guide the process; performing refining studies and seeing the change in paper properties, and learning from the pilot plant staff. In her free time, Iylani enjoys painting, listening to alternative music, and cycling.
SAVE THE DATES

ENGINEERING EXPO

Wednesday, Sept. 22

The Engineering Expo will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 22, VIRTUALLY on the Handshake platform. Registration will open the first part of July.

PTF members-only: PTF will again offer premier access to the paper engineering talent before Expo. This virtual event will also be held on the Handshake platform. Mark your calendars for Thursday, Sept. 16, for the VIRTUAL paper industry night. More information will be announced in late August.

BIKE RALLY

WMU PTF AND LAKE STATES TAPPI

Saturday, Sept. 18

Papermakers, let’s ride!! Please support the paper engineering students at Western Michigan University to raise funds to create resources for personal and professional development opportunities in the forest products industry. WMU paper students are part of TAPPI (Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry) Ts’ai Lun- a WMU registered student organization and the Lake States TAPPI. Our students learn methods and strategies to use paper and non-wood fibers to create renewable, reusable, and recyclable products, replacing harmful petroleum-based products. We hope you will join in the fun and help us exceed our goal!

You can choose from route distances of 5, 10, 18, 25, or 37 miles from the Vicksburg Community Pavilion. You can find more details on the routes at fallbikecelebration.org/multi-charity-bikeathon/

Please register in advance! Join team Paper Technology Foundation or support the team captain Jen Johnson. If you cannot ride, please consider a donation to support our students raising funds to attend TAPPI Student Summit in January 2022! pledgereg.com/3870/Team/16506.

UPCOMING COURSES

July 2022

WMU Paper & Paperboard Coating Course

wmupilotplant.com/coating-course

August 2022

WMU Fiber Recycling Course

wmupilotplant.com/fiber-course
FALL Semester

All university offices resumed to normal work hour July 6, 2021. Yes, all classes and labs will be running at 100% capacity starting this fall semester. Although the posted teaching delivery methods which were done in February include all five methods, we will most likely see more classes switching to in-person from online.

In the fall semester, six paper engineering courses will be offered, i.e., PAPR1000, PAPR2550, PAPR3030, PAPR4400, PAPR4600, PAPR4850. PAPR2420-Paper Coating course will be moved to Spring2022.

Mathew Stoops’ position as a Faculty Specialist ended at the end of June 2021. He has been hired back as a Senior Lab Supervisor for mainly paper engineering program plus some additional duty for the College. With such an arrangement, the impact to paper engineering program is minimal.

Kecheng Li, Ph.D., P.Eng., FRSC(UK)
Professor and Chair
Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering

SPRING 2021

GRADUATING SENIORS

Julia Burk
Green Bay Packaging
Green Bay, WI

Tyler Fleming
International Paper
Riegelwood, NC

Hunter Ridenour
PCA
Manistee, MI

HONORS AND AWARDS

- TAPPI Paper and Board Division Award: Jessica Tocco
- TAPPI Coating and Graphic Arts Award: Lauren Cudeback
- TAPPI Process Control Division Honors: Alex Boyd
- RPTA Scholarship Award: Jessica Tocco
- ISA PUPID Scholarship: Andrew McCabe
TS’AI LUN

SCAVENGER HUNT AND PICNIC

During the Spring 2021 semester, Ts’ai Lun hosted a scavenger hunt and picnic at Oshtemo Township Park! This in-person event was created by the board and a group of enthusiastic paper student volunteers. The scavenger hunt was a great way for students to bond and also work on their problem-solving communication skills. This event was so much fun that students wanted to continue this tradition in future years!

As the 2021–22 school year approaches, I am excited to start my journey as Ts’ai Lun President. I am very excited to work with the rest of the board to spice things up for the program! With the expectation that we will be completely in-person, I am wanting to give the students as many opportunities as possible to connect, both with their peers and with industry representatives. I am hoping to bring in industry professionals that have non-traditional careers within the paper industry to share their experiences so students, for example, can learn more about tools/machinery. Additionally, I am planning to hold fundraisers to assist with the funding for our annual TAPPI Student Summit and more “Ts’ai Lun Fun Nights.” Since I am graduating in the Spring 2022, I am determined to leave the program, that has done so much for my professional and personal life, in the best shape for the future students!

Lauren Cuddeback,
Ts’ai Lun President

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ts’ai Lun is proud to have been able to help the local community in several ways. The pandemic created many social restrictions limiting families from visiting older loved-ones. In response, Ts’ai Lun students made a fun volunteer event out of writing letters to individuals who were in nursing homes. This successfully mixed our group socializing while helping others nearby. Additionally, as a group of young professionals, we banded together with Versisti Blood Centers to hold the ‘2021 WMU Engineering Blood Drive’. With over 30 successful donations, we nearly doubled our initial expected successful donors! A special thanks to Dr. Steve Butt, Susana Wright, Jen Johnson, the Ts’ai Lun leadership, and all the student volunteers and donors who made this possible. Ts’ai Lun considers it a great honor to serve the local community and find meaningful ways to give back.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your student organization president this past year. Great things are anticipated under the direction of the newly elected all female Ts’ai Lun board. Congratulations to the 2021–22 student leaders!

Andrew McCabe,
2020–21 Ts’ai Lun President