HISTORY

We have proudly offered fifty-nine years of support for the students studying Paper Science and Paper Engineering. In recent years, the department has eliminated the Paper Science curriculum, due to lack of interest on the part of the students, and focused entirely on Paper Engineering. PTF has offered support to Paper Engineering Graduate students thru a quasi-endowment dedicated to graduate thesis research, in 2017-2018 a total of $27,000 in support was provided. This support will end at the conclusion of the 2020 fiscal year. It has been mutually agreed between the department chair, Dr. Li the Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Dr. Toutanji, and PTF that the Quasi Endowment will be distributed equally to the Endowed Professor endowment and the to the Chemical and Paper Engineering Department. The Department will use these funds for research in the Paper Engineering field, and it is designed 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.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The 59th Annual Meeting was very positive from a number of fronts. The University is moving the paper machine and recycling equipment to the Parkview campus, and is making outstanding improvements that are very exciting! The updated equipment is expected to be fully operational in February 2019. The completed machine will have the ability to manufacture two-ply board, a unique capability for Western’s pilot plants. This adaptability will serve to be a powerful development tool for the expanding board industry in the US. The base fourdrinier will be the NIST donated machine which has been held in readiness for several years. Utilizing this equipment will provide upgrades to the forming, press, dryer, and size press areas of the machine. In about one year, the forming section will be upgraded with an I table from IBS to enhance board quality and formation.

A key upgrade to the pilot plant paper machine will be a POMix stock processor system. This is a compact, patented mixing solution that replaces conventional large mixing chests and machine chests while providing a uniform feed to the paper machine. The POMix system uses an initial blending tube or mixing tank to pre-blend multiple fiber sources and additives prior to entering the high-shear mixing zone. In the main mixing tank, there is macro volumetric mixing combined with high-intensity micro level mixing in one or multiple stages to handle any experimental furnish complexity. This approach to stock processing eliminates the typical large tank volumes and is a “just-in-time” approach to feeding the paper machine. The compact POMix unit will insure that our clients will receive the most efficient and reliable transition from one condition to the next. The efficiency of this system is well suited to a pilot plant with frequent changes required to meet client’s developmental needs.

By having all the pilot plant equipment under one roof, it strengthens the educational program so the students do not have to transfer between campuses for their papermaking laboratories. It also strengthens and expands the pilot plant offerings to client companies and will improve the pilot plant staff efficiency. Overall, this move will enhance the positioning of WMU as a research University. It will be a world-class facility!

The College Dean and Department Chair have positively impacted the college vision, mission, and department curriculum. These improvements have been a constructive step for all, and outstanding for the students. New faculty members possess strong academic backgrounds and have knowledge in lignin, nanocellulose, polymer chemistry, paper engineering and chemical engineering. This is certainly a beneficial development for the PTF and our ability to align with the department and college.

For the 2018/19 academic year, twelve students will graduate from the program, all of which were presented with many offers resulting in all December graduates, and a majority of May graduates having already been placed.

STUDENT RECRUITMENT, ENROLLMENT, AND RETENTION

Incoming paper engineers for the fall of 2018 were 19 freshmen and 5 transfers. Despite being below our target of 30, this number is still above our minimum. The industry demand for graduates continues to hold fast for paper engineers, a driving force for recruitment endeavors. As such, we have a new PTF sponsored recruiter that started in August 2018: Anthony Perez. Anthony is taking a very proactive approach to recruiting, and we expect great success.

Fall 2017 recruiting efforts yielded 19 new students. The paper 1000 class was led by Dr. Li, and grasped the attention of a majority of those enrolled; achieving a retention of 79% for the first semester; a solid accomplishment!

Overall, total Paper Engineering enrollment for the fall of 2018 was 80 students! (77 per WMU Cognos reporting; 3 additional students are away on co-op and not enrolled in any courses.)
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
Awards for the 2018/2019 academic year are expected to continue at a record level of more than $300,000. Our incredibly bright students who strive for high GPAs earn a greater amount in scholarship dollars, resulting in a 5-year accumulated PTF award allocation amount totaling more than $1,200,000.

ENDOWMENTS
Endowment performance was $326,714 (this includes the administrative fee added back in to show true earnings) for 2017/2018. Total invested assets as of June 30, 2018 were $5,807,528 vs $5,785,952 on June 30, 2017.

Gifts and contributions during the year were $320,344 vs $257,860 the previous year. Total expenditures and distributions were $614,852. Total Assets as of June 30, 2018 were $6,348,598 vs $6,287,474 in 2017.

MEMBERSHIP
During the 2017/2018 year, we retained 25 Members. Verso, who dropped in 2016, has agreed to rejoin in 2018. Huhtamaki will be a target for membership in 2019.

Richard R. Hartman '77, President

John F. Bergin '66, Managing Director