

## GREETINGS

### *Paper Broncos*

As this arrives to you my hope is that I did not jinx us in commenting how nice it is to have had such a mild winter and (if you believe Punxsutawney Phil) the expectation of an early Spring! In December 2019 I got remarried and the subtle first Michigan winter gets a thumbs up from my wife, however her two kids would really like some snow to try out the new sleds that Santa brought them!

The fall semester went by quickly and the spring semester is busy with full time offers being accepted and summer internship and co-ops being secured as well. We have tremendous support of our member companies and industry in placing our students into roles that will challenge them, educate them, and provide a platform for them to show their value to their hiring employer! Many of the projects that our internship and co-op students lead and participate in continue to provide tens of thousands of dollars in savings and value. They are truly integrated into the plant operations at all levels.

The PTF staff and officers of the Executive Board are currently working through an update of our Strategic Plan which will continue to focus our efforts on growing the paper engineering program enrollment, increasing foundation membership, and growing our giving to fund the Endowed Professorship campaign and to increase the foundation general endowment to ensure our ability to fund scholarships for years to come!

It's a great day to be a Paper Engineering Bronco!

Tim '94

## WMU ALUMNI EXCELLENCE

### *Academy Award*



The Western Michigan University Paper Technology Foundation would like to express our sincere congratulations to Steve Myers ('91 alum) for receiving the 2019 WMU Alumni Excellence Academy Award from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences! The selection criteria and processes are difficult, and our alumni who receive this prestigious award show excellence and accomplishment in both their professional endeavors and supporting Western Michigan University and our great students! Steve has a continued passion for our program and industry and currently serves as President-Elect of the Paper Technology Foundation. Congratulations and well-done Steve!

## 42 WMU PAPER *Students*



Converged on Atlanta, GA from January 17-20, 2020 to attend the Tappi Student Summit.



In all there were 160 students from 12 universities in attendance. Summit 2020 started with Career Round Tables where students learned from industry professionals about various topics like what managers are looking for and navigating through multiple job offers. That afternoon the welcome kicked off and the Keynote Speaker, Judith Honesty, from VitalSmarts gave a presentation titled, Like a REAL Boss; Building Your Influence with Crucial Conversations. Her presentation was engaging and energizing as she tackled the struggles of having tough conversations. Following, the students participated in the exciting TAPPI Trivia game. The last event for the evening was split into two sessions, the Networking Fair and the Young Professional Panel. It was exciting to see many of our students coming in and out of sessions to go interview with potential employers.

Monday was filled with an executive panel, the engineering competition, and breakout sessions. For the competition, students were given a handful of supplies to create a bridge that could hold a cup of rocks. The students had one hour to complete this challenge and the room was buzzing with excitement and collaboration. The students truly gained a wide-range of knowledge and continued to network throughout the conference. It was incredible to see our WMU Paper students taking advantage of an amazing opportunity to further themselves academically and professionally.

To wrap up the Summit on Monday, the students toured the Valmet Performance Center and the Greif Sweetwater Mill. The Valmet tour gave students an idea of the various technological services provided to paper mills including the use of Virtual Reality and real-time on-line tech support. At Greif, students were able to tour the paper mill and see part of the paper-making process, coating applications, and various testing procedures.

# Paper Trail

## 2020 SPRING NEWSLETTER

pg. 3

**TAPPI PaperCon 2020**  
VISION ... INTO THE FUTURE  
APRIL 26-29, 2020 • ATLANTA, GA  
**Grow Your Career at PaperCon**  
▶ Expand your knowledge  
▶ Network with experts  
▶ Build new industry contacts  
**REGISTER NOW • PAPERCON.ORG**

## SAVE *The Dates*

The University Reception (formerly known as Alumni Soiree) at PaperCon will be held on **Sunday, April 26**. This revamped event will include a TAPPI Trivia Game, food and drinks. WMU will be hosting a table, so please help us crush the competition (NC State? Miami OH?) by joining the fun.

## PILOT PLANT *Update*

The Paper Pilot Plant is off to a great start in 2020. The new paper machine and dual fourdrinier have been utilized regularly and already have weeks booked out into May! The coater has seen a nice uptick in business and the crew has done an excellent job of rising to the challenge of new customers and their expectations. The recycling plant remains busy thanks to the continued sustainability efforts of major brands and manufacturers, as well as our connection to GreenBlue and the How2Recycle label.

There are currently six paper engineering students working in the pilot plants while taking classes. Our last batch of students were able to build on their experience here and move into internship and full time opportunities. It is always a pleasure to share in the excitement of one of these great young people taking the next step in their career! We do have several students still available for internship this coming summer if you are interested in an underclassmen.

We are planning two professional short course this coming summer:

**WMU Paper and Paperboard Coating Course — July 28-30**

**1/2 WMU Fiber Recycling Course—Aug. 11-13**

These courses serve the important role of getting people onto our campus to get familiar and comfortable with our equipment and services. They also bring in subject matter experts in from across the country (as speakers) to play an important role in the knowledge transfer our industry needs. Please consider attending or sending someone from your company to one of these great offerings.

Lon '99

### COATING COURSE

**JULY 28-30**

(T-W: 8 A.M.-5 P.M.  
TH: 8 A.M.-NOON)

- Coated paper and paperboard grades
- Coated paper applications/markets
- Barrier coatings
- Formulations to meet desired end-use requirements
- Raw materials used including pigments, binders, and additives
- Coating rheology
- Nanoparticles and use in coatings
- Coating equipment and processes
- Drying, calendering and finishing
- Speakers include industry experts from each area

**EARLY BIRD**  
**\$1,200**  
(BEFORE OR ON JUNE 13)

**\$1,450**  
THEREAFTER

### WMU FIBER RECYCLING COURSE

**AUG. 11-13**

(T-W: 8 A.M.-5 P.M.  
TH: 8 A.M.-NOON)

- Recyclability protocols and product labeling
- Recycled fiber global markets update
- Sustainability—brand owner perspective
- Regulations and market drivers
- Collection and MRF operations
- Paper mill operations
- Hands on fiber recycling/paper-making option
- Speakers include: industry experts, and WMU faculty

**EARLY BIRD**  
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**\$1,450**  
THEREAFTER

*info @*  
**WMUPILOTPLANT.COM**