



PEERS 2016 honors technical achievements

More than 400 industry professionals attended the [2016 TAPPI Pulping, Engineering, Environmental, Recycling and Sustainability \(PEERS\) Conference](#) this September 25-28 in Jacksonville, FL, USA. Combined with the co-located International Bioenergy & Bioproducts Conference (IBBC), the International Mechanical Pulping Conference (IMPC), and the 11th Research Forum on Recycling, the event provided a diverse technical program, as well as a multitude of opportunities for networking, hands-on learning and industry discussion.

With more than 400 attendees also on hand for the keynote address, it was standing room only to hear Paul G. Boynton, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Rayonier Advanced Materials. The PEERS technical program, organized by a committee headed by Margaret Grog of Weyerhaeuser, included more than 145 presentations that were arranged in topical program tracks.

Yearly technical awards were presented at a dinner on September 24. Awards for best conference papers are determined by the respective TAPPI committees in the May timeframe of the following year, so the best paper awards were for those presented at the 2015 PEERS event. Many of the award-winning papers from 2015 were subsequently selected, peer reviewed, and published in *TAPPI Journal (TJ)*, as were all of the papers appearing in this issue of *TJ*. The following is a sampling of papers and technical achievements honored this year.

Overall Best Conference Paper

The 2015 PEERS Conference High Impact Paper winner was awarded to Liming Zhao for his paper “Effects of added materials on black liquor combustion.” It was co-authored by Danielly Cortes and Hongi Tran. Liming’s paper was also selected as the Energy, Recovery and Recast Best Paper from the 2015 PEERS Conference. A peer-reviewed version was published in *TAPPI J.* 15(7): 478(2016).

Corrosion & Materials Engineering Best Paper

The winner of the Joseph Wolf Founders-Stowe Woodward Award and Best Corrosion & Materials Engineering Paper was W.B.A. Sandy Sharp for his presentation titled “Evalua-



TJ Editorial Board Members Brian N. Brogdon (left; who was also vice chair of the 2016 PEERS Technical Program Committee) and Peter W. Hart (center) received best conference paper awards at the 2016 PEERS event. They are shown here with TAPPI President and CEO Larry N. Montague.

tion of near-drum thinning data in recovery boiler generating bank tubes” at the 2015 PEERS conference. A peer-reviewed version was published in *TAPPI J.* 15(7): 491(2016).

Alkaline Pulping & Bleaching Best Paper

The 2015 David Wetherhorn Award for Alkaline Pulping & Bleaching Best Paper was presented to Brian N. Brogdon, Future Bridge Consulting LLC, for his paper “Development and use of an improved steady-state model for chlorine dioxide brightening that considers extraction washer carryover.” A peer-reviewed version was published in *TAPPI J.* 15(3): 178(2016).

Fiber Raw Materials Supply Best Paper

The winner of the 2015 William S. Fuller Best Technical Paper Award and Bublitz Prize for Fiber Raw Materials Supply was Peter W. Hart, WestRock, for his paper “Development of a eucalyptus plantation program in the southeastern United States and higher elevations of southern Brazil — A status update.” The paper was co-authored by John Johnson and Ricardo Palm. A peer-reviewed version was published in *TAPPI J.* 15(3): 148(2016).

Fiber Recycling Best Paper

The 2015 Wayne Carr Memorial Best Paper Award from the Fiber Recycling Committee was presented to Fernando Luiz Neves for his paper titled "Aseptic carton packages: Recycling review." The paper was co-authored by Edy Malcon Merendino, Marcel Piva, and Ricardo Honorato.

Engineering Division Technical Award

The 2016 TAPPI Engineering Division Technical Award and Beloit Prize winner was J. David McDonald. A 38-year veteran of the pulp and paper industry, he is currently president of JDMcD Consulting Inc. He previously worked with FPIInnovations as vice president, University Programs and Strategic Partnerships; with Paprican as vice president, Research and Education; and with Abitibi-Price as a research associate/mathematician. He is a Fellow of both TAPPI and PAPTAC and has received many awards, including PAPTAC's highest technical award, the John Bates Gold Medal.

Pulp Manufacturing Division Technical Award

The 2016 Pulp Manufacturing Division Technical Award and Johan C.F.C. Richter Prize were given to Jorge L. Colodette. A 30-year pulp and paper industry veteran,

Colodette received his Ph.D. from the State University of New York (SUNY) and is currently a full professor at the Federal University of Viçosa in Brazil. He has registered 18 patents worldwide, published 38 book chapters and 237 peer-reviewed papers, and has presented numerous talks at various conferences worldwide. Colodette is a Fellow of TAPPI and the International Academy of Wood Science.

Environmental Division Technical Award

The 2016 Environmental Technical Award and Roy E. Weston Prize were given to Michael E. Franklin. Franklin retired in 2013 after more than 25 years in the industry.

In addition to these and other award winners, students from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (first place) and the University of Georgia's College of Engineering (second place) were honored for their submissions to the 2016 IBBC student poster session and competition.

Stay tuned for some of the outstanding content from 2016 PEERS in upcoming issues of *TJ*. The 2017 PEERS/IBBC Conference will be held next November in Norfolk, VA, USA. There have already been record booth and sponsorship bookings for this event. **TJ**



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