



MONICA SHAW | EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

mshaw@tappi.org

Changing of the guard: Dr. Arthur Ragauskas assumes *TAPPI Journal* editor-in-chief role

TAPPI is pleased to announce that Dr. Arthur J. Ragauskas has assumed the editor-in-chief role for *TAPPI Journal*. Ragauskas, who is a professor at University of Tennessee (UT) in Knoxville, TN, has been a member of the *TAPPI Journal* Editorial Board since 2011 and is a TAPPI Fellow, as well as recipient of the TAPPI Gunnar Nicholson Gold Medal Award, among his many accomplishments. As a member of the Editorial Board, Ragauskas has curated eight special issues on a range of topics, including nanocellulose, lignocellulose, lignin valorization, and the forest biorefinery.

In 2014, after 15 years at the Institute of Paper Science and Technology (IPST) in Atlanta, GA, Ragauskas assumed the Governor's Chair for Biorefining based in UT's Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, with a complementary appointment in the UT Institute of Agriculture's Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries. He serves in the Energy and Environmental Sciences Directorate, Biosciences Division, at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). Ragauskas was also the first Fulbright Chair in Alternative Energy, and his activities at Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, were focused on the forest biorefinery and new biofuel conversion technologies for lignocellulosics.

Ragauskas's scientific efforts and teaching have impacted the research and careers of countless students and professionals, ensuring the continuity and growth of our industry. Currently, he manages a research group of graduate students, postdoctoral research fellows, a research scientist, and visiting scientists. His research program is directed at understanding and exploiting innovative sustainable bioresources. We are incredibly honored and excited to have Ragauskas share his wealth of industry knowledge and understanding of scientific publishing with *TAPPI Journal*. During his tenure as editor-in-chief, Dr. Soledad Peresin, director of the Wood Utilization +

Design Institute at Clemson University and member of the TAPPI Board of Directors, will continue as Associate Editor of the Journal.

Also, it is with deep gratitude that TAPPI acknowledges the many contributions Dr. Douglas Coffin of Miami University has made to *TAPPI Journal*. When he joined the Editorial Board in 2018, Coffin probably didn't realize he would spend six years in a leadership role, in addition to sharing his expertise in paper physics and corrugated pack-

Ragauskas's teaching has impacted the research and careers of countless students, ensuring the continuity and growth of our industry. We are incredibly honored and excited to have Ragauskas share his wealth of industry knowledge and understanding of scientific publishing with *TAPPI Journal*.

aging topics. However, he has gone above and beyond with his willingness to lead, providing guidance in many important areas, such as becoming Open Access, as well as day-to-day questions that arise. He has also shared his vast knowledge on scientific publishing and contributed greatly to marketing efforts with his willingness to provide commentary, perspective, and even screen time in videos outlining the benefits of publishing in *TAPPI Journal*. It is also important to note that, after his term as editor-in-chief was over in 2023, Coffin stepped back in to continue as editor-in-chief when Dr. Peter Hart passed away in May 2024, continuing until December 2025 and ensuring that the Journal's momentum and efforts were preserved.

The following sections include some departing words from Coffin, along with some thoughts from Ragauskas about the importance of *TAPPI Journal*.

Perspective from outgoing Editor-in-Chief Dr. Douglas Coffin

It has been a profound honor to serve TAPPI over the past eight years as a member of the *TAPPI Journal* Editorial Board. As I step down as editor-in-chief in 2026, I find myself reflecting on a journey that began when I first joined the Editorial Board in August 2018. While I am concluding my tenure in this leadership role, I will continue on the Editorial Board and hopefully increase my contributions as an author.



I think the most significant changes at *TAPPI Journal* during the past four years have been our pivot toward a more accessible future.

I think the most significant changes at *TAPPI Journal* during the past four years have been our pivot toward a more accessible future. By fully embracing an Open Access model without page charges for authors, we have dismantled barriers to knowledge. These changes ensure that the critical research conducted in our labs and mills reaches the widest possible audience, reinforcing *TAPPI Journal's* position as a prime technical resource for our industry.

I remain deeply impressed by the sheer effort that members of the Editorial Board invest in every issue. Their commitment to a rigorous and fair peer-review process ensures we maintain the highest technical quality. This success is also a direct result of the tireless work of the TAPPI staff. In particular, the contributions of Monica Shaw, Jana Jensen, and Shayne Nicholas have been critical to the Journal's success. Their professional dedication to maintaining and improving the Journal's infrastructure and marketing is the engine that makes our publication possible.

I also want to express my gratitude to our authors. You are the heartbeat of this journal. Your innovative research and willingness to share findings are what keep the Journal relevant to the industry. By choosing *TAPPI Journal* as the home for your work, you drive our collective knowledge forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to have served as your editor-in-chief. I am very pleased that my friend, Dr. Art Ragauskas, is stepping into this role. He brings unparalleled technical expertise and a global reputation as one of the world's most highly cited researchers in his field. His

deep-rooted history with the association, including being a TAPPI Fellow and a recipient of the Gunnar Nicholson Gold Medal Award, ensures he possesses the vision and leadership needed to continue the Journal's growth as a premier in the industry. The leadership of *TAPPI Journal* is truly in good hands.

Insights from Incoming Editor-in-Chief Dr. Arthur Ragauskas

When I joined the Institute of Paper Science and Technology in Atlanta as a new assistant professor in late 1989, I had much to learn. During my early years, leaders from across the forest products industry played a pivotal role in shaping my professional development. They guided my research, shared their expertise, challenged me, and provided invaluable opportunities for my students and me to visit kraft, recycling, and mechanical pulp mills.



As our research programs matured at IPST, *TAPPI Journal* and TAPPI conferences became essential platforms for disseminating our findings, building partnerships, identifying new research opportunities, and expanding professional networks that ultimately benefited my students. Notably, my first academic publication appeared in *TAPPI Journal*: "Investigation of dimethyldioxirane as a bleaching reagent for kraft pulp," *TAPPI J.* 76(7): 87(1993).

I also recall that *TAPPI Journal* was among the first technical journals to transition entirely to an electronic format. At the time, I was good-naturedly "razed" by colleagues for embracing such a dramatic shift. Today, of course, electronic publication has become standard practice. With no publication charges and a fully Open Access model, *TAPPI Journal* reaches a global audience of researchers, practitioners, and employers. It features research spanning pulp, paper, packaging, tissue, nonwovens, converting, bioenergy, renewable materials, and other innovative cellulosic-based products and technologies.

***TAPPI Journal* remains a steadfast leading technical publication by offering timely and relevant research for the forest products and many related industries.**

Although much has changed over the past three decades since I joined the industry, *TAPPI Journal* remains a steadfast leading technical publication by offering timely and relevant research for the forest products and many related industries. It has continued its rigorous peer-review process, facilitated by a distinguished Editorial Board of experts from both academia and industry, to ensure that Journal remains a principal source of impactful basic and applied research, as well as reliable and valuable technical reviews.

As I assume the role of *TAPPI Journal* editor-in-chief, I wish to sincerely acknowledge Dr. Douglas Coffin, professor at Miami University, for his outstanding service in leadership roles with the Journal from 2020–2025, including four years as editor-in-chief. His leadership and dedication leave a strong foundation upon which we will continue to build. We remain committed to serving the forest products industry while actively pursuing new opportunities to expand the Journal's impact.

I warmly welcome manuscript submissions from traditional pulp and paper programs, emerging biorefining departments, and industry researchers alike. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, feedstocks, pulping and papermaking processes, recycling, sustainability, techno-economic

ABOUT THIS PAPER
Cite this article as:
Shaw, M., Coffin, D., and Ragauskas, A., *TAPPI J.* 25(1): 4(2026). <https://doi.org/10.32964/TJ25.1.4>
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32964/TJ25.1.4>
ISSN: 0734-1415
Publisher: TAPPI Press
Copyright: ©TAPPI Press 2025
[About this journal](#)

analysis, bioproducts, bioenergy, bio-derived materials, composite structures, and chemicals derived from woody biomass and other bioresources.

I also encourage readers to share their ideas through the prompt, “I wish *TAPPI Journal* would [idea, request, etc.]” by emailing me their request at aragausk@utk.edu.

In closing, I am truly honored to have been asked to serve as editor-in-chief of *TAPPI Journal*. I look forward to working with the Editorial Board and TAPPI team to build upon its strong history, as well as working together with our community to advance the forest products industry. **TJ**

EXPLORE THE FUTURE OF COATING TECHNOLOGIES



APRIL 26, 2026
COLUMBUS, OHIO



REGISTER TODAY!



A forum for researchers and coating technologists to present their findings concerning coating fundamentals and leading-edge developments related to paper surface treatment, printing operations and functional coatings.

*Co-located with TAPPICon**

tappiadvancedcoating.org