

1994 Process and Product Quality Conference held in Savannah

JOHN W. WALKINSHAW

Professor, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, and Process and Product Quality Technical Editor, *Tappi Journal*

The 1994 Process and Product Quality Division Conference was held at the Hyatt Regency Savannah, Savannah, GA, Oct. 17–20. The weather was with the conference attendees, who arrived as the flood waters were receding from the heavy rains and high tides of the previous week. In all 200 participants, including 170 conference registrants, were involved with the activities of the Division.

Awards

The conference started with awards being presented to Helen R. Schuierer and William K. Wilson. Schuierer received the 1994 TAPPI Process and Product Quality Division Leadership and Service Award for her continued commitment to the development of testing methods and the promotion of quality control methods in manufacturing processes. She has been active in TAPPI since becoming a member in 1973 and has held chairwoman positions in both the Metropolitan Local Section and in the P&PQ Division. She is also the first woman elected to the TAPPI Board of Directors.

The 1994 TAPPI Process and Product Quality Division Technical Award and Richard S. Hunter Prize was awarded to William K. Wilson. The award was presented for Wilson's life-long efforts in the development of TAPPI Test Methods involving paper permanence. He has been a TAPPI member since 1953 and has served as chairman of the Chemical Properties Committee. He was instrumental in the development of Test Methods for pH, alkaline reserve, and moist and dry procedures for the accelerated aging of paper materials.

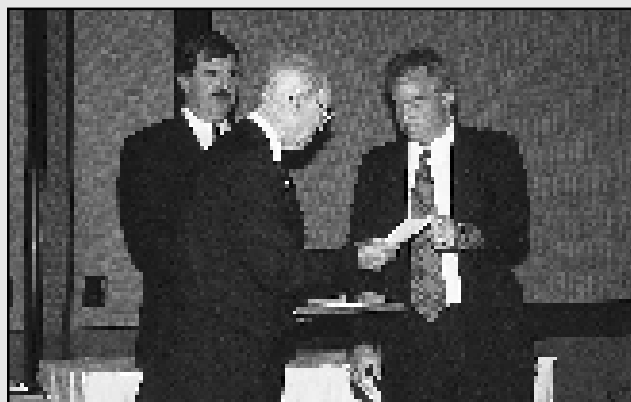
Keynote address

Following the awards ceremony was the keynote address "Proactive vs. Reactive' International Environmental Management: What's in Store for the Pulp and Paper Industry" given by Michael H. Levy, director, energy and materials policy, at the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA). Levy stated that the ISO TC 207 committee and the resulting ISO 14000 certification program is a "sleeping giant." This voluntary certification procedure is to set parameters for

Helen Schuierer, left, is presented with the 1994 Process and Product Quality Division Leadership and Service Award by Keith Bentley, center, and John W. Walkinshaw, right, Division chairman.



William K. Wilson, left, receives the Richard S. Hunter Prize from Dan Hendrickson, right, technical sales representative, Hunter Associates Lab, Inc.



registration to environmental emission and product life cycle requirements. The present view is that some countries will set environmental policy based on the requirements of ISO 14000. However, the U.S. position is to try to focus the work of TC 207 to develop the tools and systems for environmental

Conference Report

William K. Wilson, left, receives the 1994 Process and Product Quality Division Technical Award from Keith Bentley, right, TAPPI director.



management, not the development of regulations that will control manufacturing and product requirements.

To stress importance of participation, Levy cited that there are about 30 countries involved in TC 207, with 16 countries from Europe. A strong voice is needed in the process if we are to continue to impact the direction seen desirable in the United States.

Technical program

An ongoing effort by the Division's Steering Committee is to provide members with a balanced program for the yearly conference. If the conference attendance and the comments received are true indicators, the Division is on track. Congratulations are in order to Sue Jakubsen of the Herty Foundation for excellent program balance and content and to the session chairmen for the professionalism in content and session speakers. Technical sessions this year ranged from topics on practical methods for managing quality to environmental quality management to technology, evaluation, and management of input quality.

Supplier showcase: new technology

With timed precision, Session Chairman Lucille D. Hahn of Champion International Corp. managed 14 supplier presentations. Last year, as well as this year, this session received high marks from the conference participants. This forum provides the suppliers an opportunity, in a commercial format, to cover their latest additions to their product line or their newest service innovation. The presentations were followed by lunch in the exhibit area where the conference registrants were given a chance to view some of the new instruments or talk to company representatives about specific services or software applications. Many registrants expressed

1994 TAPPI Process and Product Quality Trade Fair



that they feel "laboratory bound" and they find these activities a way of catching up on changing technologies in our portion of the industry.

Joint activities with Southeast TAPPI Local Section

The last day of the conference was held in conjunction with the Fall Meeting of the Southeast TAPPI Local Section. That evening, the two groups held a dinner where Michael J. Kocurek, director of Herty Foundation in Savannah, GA, spoke on the history and development of the Foundation. The tour of Herty on Friday permitted a look at the equipment and operations of the Foundation. The slides presented by Dr. Kocurek the preceding evening did not do the scale of operations justice. The facilities were fantastic, and attendees were most impressed by the Foundation's new high-speed paper machine. The commitment to quality showed throughout their laboratory.

Plans for the 1995 International Conference in Montreal

Plan now to attend the Process and Product Quality Division International Conference, Oct. 23–26, 1995, at the Airport Hilton, Montreal, PQ, Canada. The Steering Committee has outlined a great meeting plan which will include sessions on quality issues, test method development in the international community, ISO TC 6 and TC 207 activities, as well as supplier showcase and exhibit. If you would like to submit a paper for consideration for this conference, please send your abstract to Gary Thurman, Research Center, Union Camp Corp., Princeton, NJ 08543-3301. 