

MILE HIGH TECHNOLOGY THEME FOR SECOND TAPPI PCE&I CONFERENCE

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SPURRED ON BY AN UPSWING IN THE paper industry, the rate of change in technology continues to increase. How long can it last? How do you work with it and not against it? Networking, technology updates, tutorials, panel discussions, solutions to practical problems, committee meetings, professional development, and competition awareness were the most frequently expressed reasons for attending the 1996 TAPPI Process Control, Electrical and Information (PCE&I) Conference. The goal of most attendees was to gain knowledge to combat the technology onslaught.

Denver welcomed the over 175 attendees to a meeting full of information. There were over 25 technical presentations, 22 committee and subcommittee meetings, a panel discussion, a tutorial, plus an opening session and executive forum.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Networking was the most common reason given for attending the conference, and networking opportunities abounded. Attendees had a choice of 22 committee, subcommittee, and interest groups. The division and committee officers made a point of greeting people in the registration area and inviting them to attend the meetings offering to explain more about each group's area of expertise.

Also offered was the Newcomers Breakfast and Orientation. All newcomers were invited to eat breakfast and mingle; presentations were given by Thomas F. Murphy, ConneXt, Inc., division vice chairman, and various others about the opportunities that the conference offered.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO RIDE THE WAVE OF TODAY'S VASTLY CHANGING TECHNOLOGY?

Another networking highlight was the conference reception. Attendees enjoyed talking with each other and sharing some of the special food brought by H. J. "Skip" Grasser, Consolidated Papers, Inc. Grasser shipped many cartons of bratwurst and cheese curds specially packaged in Wisconsin for freshness upon delivery to Denver. There he worked with the hotel cooks to make sure everything (bratwurst, boiled in beer) was prepared just right. No sign of leftovers afterwards!

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Second only to networking as reasons given for attending the conference is the technical program including the executive forum, roundtable and tutorial. Conference Technical Program Chairman, Glenn S. Gregg, Orion CEM Inc., organized presentations from around the world and on many topics. Gregg was assisted by Glenn H. Baines, Fisher Rosemount Systems, process control technical program chairman; Thomas Cortes, Jefferson Smurfit Corp., electrical engineering technical program chairman; and James P. Fortenberry, consultant, millwide control and information technical program chairman.

The executive forum/opening session was presented by four industry executives. Hank Wachter, Allen Bradley Co., Inc., was the forum chairman with participants Scott C. Donnelly, General Electric Co.; William Jordan, The Foxboro Co.; and Odo Struger, Allen Bradley Co., Inc., rounding out the forum. The forum presented the future of papermaking technology and what the executives expected to see. Expected are more specialization, more of a push toward just-in-time development, more market distinction, and more regulation, to name a few. The executives each presented individual expertise on the



Receiving their outgoing subcommittee chairman certificates of special recognition were (L to R): Donald B. Deyo, Weyerhaeuser Co.; Felix J. Nepveux, CRS Sirrine Engineers Inc.; Willard M. Reed, MacMillan Bloedel Packaging Inc.; and Keith R. Masters, Honeywell Inc.

matter, then entertained questions. Many questions were presented about the state of the industry and what can be done to ride the wave of rapidly changing technology.

Building on the changing technology theme, topics that appeared during the sessions included: a roundtable on another new era—project issues, sessions on power system issues, environmental compliance and the role of control and information systems, upgrading machine drives, digital field communications, programmable logic controller applications, improving results through integrated information and control management, and a tutorial on variable-speed drives—the basics for process control engineers.

Copies of the *1996 TAPPI Process Control, Electrical & Information Conference Proceedings* can be obtained from TAPPI PRESS for US\$ 90 (US\$ 60 for TAPPI members), plus shipping and handling. The order number is 01055596. Offered for the first time this year are the conference proceedings on disk available from TAPPI PRESS for US\$ 60 (US\$ 40 for TAPPI members). An Internet browser is the search tool for the Internet markup language-based disk. A Netscape browser is available from TAPPI PRESS for US\$ 35 for both members and nonmembers. For more information, contact TAPPI's toll-free Service Line at +1 800 332-8686 (U.S.), +1 800 446-9431 (Canada), or +1 770 446-1400.

AWARD WINNERS

In the opening ceremony Process Control, Electrical & Information Division Chairman Thomas A. Phelps, Bowater, Inc., greeted the attendees and Process Control, Electrical & Information Division Awards Chairman Ronald O. Meihof, Eurotherm Drives Inc., introduced the award winners.

Gerald I. Kheboian, Kheboian & Associates, was presented with the 1996 PCE&I Division Technical Award. This is the inaugural award for the two-year-old division of TAPPI. Kheboian has made many contributions to the industry leading the way in defining the technical applications of engineering principles in many processes and developing training programs to implement them. During his acceptance speech, Kheboian said that he "learned to do his job by working with mentors." He placed a very high value on learning from others, and he thanked many of the mentors he'd had by name. For more information on Kheboian, please see the April 1996 issue of *TAPPI JOURNAL*, p. 257.

Outgoing committee chairmen receiving certificates of appreciation were: Hank Wachter, Allen Bradley Co., Inc., Process Control Committee, and James P. Fortenberry, Georgia-Pacific Corp., Millwide Control and Information Committee.

Certificates of special recognition were presented to: Donald B. Deyo, Weyerhaeuser Co., outgoing Motors, Controls and Drives Subcommittee chairman; Felix J. Nepveux, CRS Sirrine Engineers Inc., outgoing Generation and Distribution Subcommittee chairman; Willard M. Reed, MacMillan Bloedel Packaging Inc., outgoing Field Instrumentation Subcommittee chairman; and Keith R. Masters, Honeywell Inc., outgoing Paper Machine Sensors Subcommittee chairman; and during the conference by the TAPPI Board of Directors, President's Representative M. Bruce Lyne. Nancy J. Sell was awarded a posthumous certificate of special recognition for her work as the Process Control Publications chairman.



Opening session/executive forum



Newcomers reception



(L to R) TAPPI Board of Directors President's Representative M. Bruce Lyne, International Paper Co., with 1996 Process Control, Electrical and Information Division Technical Award winner Gerald I. Kheboian, Kheboian & Associates



(L to R) TAPPI Board of Directors President's Representative M. Bruce Lyne, International Paper Co., presents certificate of appreciation to outgoing Process Control Committee Chairman Hank Wachter, Allen Bradley Co., Inc.

NEXT CONFERENCE

The next TAPPI PCE&I/ISA PUPID Conference will be held March 10-13, 1997, at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center/Sheraton Hotel in Birmingham, AL. Thomas O. Trueb, chief engineer, Dean Oliver & Associates, is the technical program chairman. The program will focus on "technology impacting the bottom line" in the areas of process control, process design, millwide control, infor-

mation systems, systems integration, electrical engineering, and quality control. For more information about the 1997 TAPPI PCE&I/ISA PUPID Conference, contact TAPPI's Technical Services Department at +1 770 209-7246. **TJ**

Bennett is editorial director of TAPPI JOURNAL.