

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE PUTS PAPERMAKERS IN ACTION

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*AWARDS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, AND IN-DEPTH TECHNICAL SESSIONS COMBINED TO
PROVIDE A SUCCESSFUL AND INTERESTING CONFERENCE.*

THE 1996 PAPERMAKERS CONFERENCE, HELD MARCH 24-27, 1996, at the Philadelphia Marriott, in Philadelphia, PA, was well attended by mill employees, paper company officials, and suppliers alike. The papermakers enjoyed their last conference until October 1997, when they will convene with TAPPI's Engineering Division for a joint symposium at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN.

The conference kicked off Sunday, March 24, with a poster session combined with the Papermaker's Pub. The session was well attended, with about 150 members and guests. A newcomers' reception followed in the general hospitality suite. Division officers and TAPPI staff greeted first-time conference attendees at the reception. George D. "Skip" Laubach of Nalco Chemical Co. served as poster session chairman.

AWARDS

Monday morning opened the conference with the awards presentations. David Peakes, of Woodward Clyde Consultants, represented TAPPI's president for the awards ceremony. Peakes and outgoing Conference Chairman Ellen Warner bestowed the awards. L. Diane Murdock of JWI Group served as current conference chairman, and James A. Clay of Shanska E&C served as technical program chairman.

Joseph Wilson Jr., vice president of pulp and paper chemicals for SSC Industries in East Point, GA, received the 1996 Division Leadership and Service Award. Wilson has served as secretary, vice chairman, and chairman of the Paper and Board Manufacture Division since his involvement with TAPPI began in 1977. Wilson has also served as chairman of the two Chemical Processing Aids short courses and was key in developing the TAPPI Introduction to Wet End Chemistry short course. Wilson



Joseph Wilson Jr. (left) received the 1996 Paper and Board Manufacture Division Leadership and Service Award from TAPPI President's Representative David Peakes (center) and Division Chairman Ellen Warner (right).

serves as committee chairman of the Technical Operations Council (TOC) and is a member of the Board Goals and Planning Committee and the Board Annual Meeting and Exhibit Committee. In addition, Wilson served as program chairman for the TAPPI 96 annual meeting.

Victor E. Hansen, technical consultant with Atlanta Wire Works, Inc., received the Paper and Board Manufacture Division Technical Award for 1996. Hansen is considered one of the world's foremost authorities on the wet-end operations of paper machines. His research on drainage procedures for paper machines resulted in an improved arrangement of wire tables that revolutionized the industry. Hansen, a TAPPI member since 1967, was named a TAPPI Fellow in 1984.

In addition to the 1996 awards, Terry L. Bliss, a graduate student at the Institute of Paper Science Technology in Atlanta, GA, was awarded the 1995 TAPPI Paper and



Terry L. Bliss (left) was presented with the 1995 Division Leadership and Service Award by **Ellen Warner (background)** and **David Peakes (foreground)**.



David Peakes (right) awarded outgoing Division Chairman **Ellen Warner** with a plaque for her service as chairman of the Paper and Board Manufacture Division from 1994–1996.

Board Manufacture Division Leadership and Service Award. Bliss, a former director of R&D for Black Clawson, has written numerous papers and served as editor of a number of TAPPI PRESS publications.

Also during the awards ceremony, John A. Charles and Lock Lim Chan received special recognition certificates from the division. Ellen B. Warner received a plaque honoring her as outgoing division chairman. Four committee chairmen received Outgoing Committee Chairman Certificates of Appreciation: Thomas E. Rodencal (Papermakers), Gerald M. Dykstra (Papermaking Additives), Rex A. Robertson (Stock Preparation), and Don Pierce (Paper Permanence).

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Following the awards ceremony, a keynote panel of experts on paper industry communication was introduced. The focus of the panel was how the paper industry should be communicating its environmental stance to the general public. Representatives from PIMA, APW, TAPPI, and other paper industry associations and groups all explained their efforts to relay information to the public. The panel focused on the image crisis that the paper industry has suffered over the past few years over environmental problems such as dioxins and the spotted owl controversy.

TECHNICAL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The technical program began on Sunday evening with a poster session featuring 17 presentations from equipment and material suppliers, universities, and research institutes. These talks covered a wide range of subjects from bleaching systems through microbiological control, novel retention systems, and models to instruments for measuring flocculation, formation, and defects. The ses-



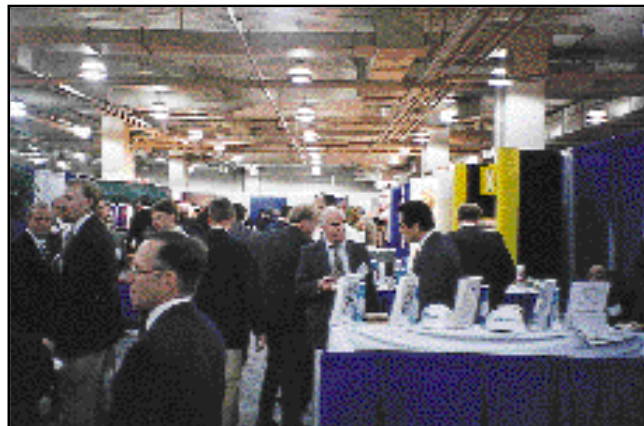
The keynote panel presented a variety of efforts in communicating the paper industry's environmental efforts to the public. Speaking is **Glenn Ostle**, vice president of marketing and communications for Valmet, who represented the Paper Industry Management Association (PIMA).

sion was characterized by spirited discussions between the poster attendants and conference attendees, a situation aided by having combined the session with the Papermakers Pub.

The keynote panel theme was "Telling Our Story," that story being the enviable track record of the pulp and paper industry in maintaining and protecting the environment while serving the needs of paper-product users. What set this forum apart from the many previous presentations on this subject was the fact that the panel was made up of representatives from several different constituencies, including paper mill management, paper workers' groups, trade organizations, suppliers, and TAPPI itself. While the points of view may have been disparate, the underlying belief was the same: The paper industry has been doing a good job of protecting and



Division Chairman Ellen Warner stands by her facsimile as Uncle Sam, advertising TAPPI's Operation Communication program.



The 1996 Papermakers Trade Fair was held Monday and Tuesday evenings and was well attended by conference participants.

nurturing natural resources but it needs to transmit this message to the general public, which still perceives our industry as a major despoiler of the environment.

Technical sessions

The first technical session, Papermakers Grade Discussion Groups, consisted of six open forums, with the entire group in each serving as an expert panel to answer questions concerning specific grades. In two later sessions, nine papers dealt with various aspects of the wet-end chemistry problems that arise as the proportion of recycled fiber in a mill's furnish increases and as water use and fiber loss are reduced through tighter closure of a mill's fiber system. In such systems, the effectiveness of conventional wet-end systems is compromised by the buildup of salts and organic trash in the white water; new materials and techniques are helping mills cope with these difficulties. Techniques of maintaining drainage, retention, and biocidal activity and of controlling pitch and stickies were described.

A four-paper session dealt with the special surface treatments and test procedures necessary for high-performance reprography papers, both xerographic and inkjet. The following session on recycled and mechanical pulps fibers covered a) the effect of kraft pulp properties on the performance of mechanical printing papers and b) pitch deposition phenomena in newsprint when kaolin pigments are used. Also covered were two new pigments: a kaolin-based cationic pigment and a new ground calcium carbonate, which is claimed to combine the best attributes of ground and precipitated calcium carbonates.

A notably international session on refining introduced a new control parameter from Germany, modified edge load, which is claimed to provide a 20% energy savings. Investigations into refining mechanisms by using apparent viscosity of the pulp and by examining the relative contributions of bonded area and fiber length were described in papers from France and Canada. The merits of separate and mixed refining were considered in a Finnish presentation, and a British paper described how to optimize refining in a fine paper mill. Finally, evaluation of a scanning laser microscope as an in-line means to measure fiber development was reported by American workers.

The panel on End Use Requirements from the Customer's Perspective was sparsely attended; this was unfortunate in view of the important insights expressed. Represented on the panel were the largest U.S. paper distributor, the second-largest North American printer, a large international specialty coating and rotogravure printing house, the oldest corrugator operation in Philadelphia, and the U.S. government. Comments from the panelists included "we don't like unannounced change" and "there aren't many secrets left in the paper industry." Just as in last year's panel, the industrial panelists agreed that ISO certification was of no real benefit to them. A change has been noted in the ultimate customers' demands for recycled paper; while it was always requested in 1990-1991 it is seldom asked for now, and some customers request no recycled fiber. John Bobolek of the Bureau of Engraving & Printing gave a fascinating and timely description of the development of the new US\$ 100 bills that were being introduced in Philadelphia.

during the week of the conference, but he declined to distribute samples.

In a well-structured session on formation, the influences of fiber properties, hydrodynamic forces, chemical factors, and mechanical configuration on formation were considered, and the techniques of measuring formation on-line and off-line were reviewed. Advances in internal sizing techniques were considered in a session that also looked at analysis of machine deposits and a new technique (time-of-flight secondary ion mass spectrometry) for probing the chemistry of surfaces including that of sized papers. Wet-end troubleshooting was the subject of a four-paper session; topics included the use of permanently installed video cameras for diagnosing runnability problems on a high-speed machine and items to look for in vacuum systems. A novel contribution in this session was a description of the "forming platform" concept, in which high dewatering capacities are possible on single-wire formers by eliminating the void space between adjacent dewatering modules.

New technologies

The new technology session covered a wide variety of topics ranging from fracture toughness measurements, through repulping techniques for wet-strength paper and stickies reduction, to the factors governing adhesion of wet paper to roll materials, including the new granite-roll alternatives. In addition, two papers were presented covering new technologies for paper manufacture, including dilution-profiling headboxes and shoe presses. Advances in retention and drainage technologies were

considered in a four-paper session. Three new drainage/retention systems and two cases of the use of enzymes to improve drainage were described. In addition, development of an environmentally friendly wet-strength agent with an extremely low organic chlorine content was reported.

Roundtable meetings

On the final morning, a "Meet the Experts" roundtable forum breakfast featured 15 tables at which different aspects of stock preparation and additives were considered by an expert host. This was arranged by the Stock Prep and Papermaking Additives Committees and the Delaware Valley Local Section in response to requests from participants at previous conferences for more opportunities for practical problem solving. Judging from the turnout, this was a great success. This gathering was followed by three more formal roundtable sessions covering recycling mills; problem-solving in refining, screening, and cleaning; and a panel discussion on the mechanics and chemistry of retention and drainage.

Another arrangement that worked out particularly well was the combination of the Trade Fair with the Conference Reception. This encouraged delegates to circulate throughout the exhibits while enjoying the hospitality of the exhibitors. **TJ**

Shearin was assistant editor for TAPPI JOURNAL. Luce is with International Paper's Papermaking Technology Group, Corporate Research Center, and is TAPPI JOURNAL's technical editor for papermaking.