

FIFTH ANNUAL RECYCLING SYMPOSIUM REFLECTS STRENGTH OF INDUSTRY

MATTHEW J. COLEMAN

THE SYMPOSIUM OFFERED A POWERFUL TECHNICAL PROGRAM AND EXHIBIT.

This year's Recycling Symposium, held April 14-16 in Chicago, IL, had a distinctive program and focus. The research track is growing stronger each year, reflecting the increasing sophistication of the recycling processes as well as the greater acceptance of recycled fiber as a permanent feedstock for the industry.

Keynote speaker Mahendra Doshi, executive editor of *Progress in Paper Recycling*, discussed "Realities of Recycling" during the opening session, which also included the presentation of the 1996 Wayne Carr Memorial Award to Shawn Berg of the University of Maine for "Toner detachment during repulping of laser-printed office copy paper."

The key paper presentation at the conference, in the opinion of those asked, was by Charles Moss, titled "The contaminant removal curve: theory vs. reality (see *TAPPI JOURNAL* April 1997, p. 69). This represented Moss' work to date on refining the exact curves for contaminant removal, as well as getting closer to a true predictive model based on empirical data. The paper drew many comments and, regardless of individuals beliefs regarding its validity, represented a move toward more exacting measurement of a key part of the recycling process.

The program was strong in technical content, with an increase in mill-based presentations, which represent the fruition of several years of development or application

work. The chairman and technical program chairman have been working toward a balanced program, and it is clearly moving in that direction. The papers can be read in their entirety in the *1997 Recycling Symposium Proceedings* (available from TAPPI PRESS), but a few are highlighted here. In particular, Kohji Masamizu's presentation on the development of deinking agents, his fourth presentation on this subject, was carefully researched. His information represents the culmination of years of work in this field. There were several presentations on enzyme deinking, including applications. Reflect-



Richard Spangenberg, symposium chairman (left), and Wayne Gross, TAPPI Executive Director, present Shawn Berg of the University of Maine with the 1996 Wayne Carr Memorial Award.

ing back on the first Recycling Symposium, the only reference to enzyme deinking was that it was a new process that held potential but was not used outside the laboratory. These papers showed how far that area of deinking has come in only five years.

Contaminants and deinking dominated the process portions of the presentations, which is typical. In the grade-specific papers, the increase in interest in mixed office waste (MOW) was seen in the number and variety of papers on various aspects of the topic.

CONFERENCE REPORT



The Student Poster Session offered a chance for one-on-one interaction between presenters and conference attendees.



The Recycling Exhibit allowed attendees to mingle and talk shop with exhibitors.

The exhibit was excellent, with the vendors well prepared to inform the attendees. The exhibit is a critical part of the program, as it gives the attendee the opportunity to visit companies that specialize in products and services that are directly applicable to the technical presentations of the symposium.

Also included in the program was a Student Poster Session. This was well attended and provided the opportunity to meet with the future engineers and scientists.

The 1998 Recycling Symposium and Exhibit will be held March 8-12 at the New Orleans Marriot in New Orleans, LA. For information, contact the Technical Services Department at TAPPI at +1 770 209-7267 or the Meetings Department at +1 770 209-7209. **TJ**

Coleman is director of publications at TAPPI.