PaperCon 2017 was a rewarding experience for everyone involved! WMU had a large turnout at the alumni soiree; it was great to hear the stories of where everyone’s careers have taken them. It was also an excellent chance for some of our current students to network with industry professionals.

James Atkinson and Jennifer Johnson celebrating 10 years of PaperCon!

Evan Ericson, Troy Taormina, and Alex Fleck speak to Steve Morse ’92 at the alumni soiree

WMU Paper Engineering alums had a great time reconnecting!

Evan Ericson and Alex Fleck had a caricature drawn during the event!

Kyle Neal ’11, Lon Pschigoda ’99, and Kyle Manninen at the alumni soiree
We were able to bring four students to Papercon despite that it was finals week. These students attended all of the young professional events which included a young professional networking reception, the keynote speech “Uber yourself before you get Kodaked”, a young professional luncheon, a paper scavenger hunt which involved networking with all of the companies on the show floor, a talk entitled “What does TAPPI renew, rethink, reinvent mean to a young professional?”, the alumni soiree, and the young professional annual meeting and breakfast. In addition, students were able to choose technical track presentations and enjoyed learning more about tissue especially.

Current student Jon Fitch was awarded the Recycled Paperboard Technical Association scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to outstanding students who are interested in the recycled paperboard industry.

Abigail Cortright also received the RPTA research scholarship award for 2017. Abigail is a first year student in our program. Additionally, Andrew Kathan was awarded the TAPPI Paper and Board division scholarship.

WMU was also well represented in other areas. Rachel Ma, PhD candidate, presented her research on Hemicellulose-based Barrier Coating for Packaging at the poster session. James Atkinson, PhD candidate, gave a presentation entitled “Pulping and Screening of Printed Electronics – A Material Balance Approach to Examine Metals Partitioning in Paper Recycling and Papermaking System” as part of the Stock Prep Optimization session. Mike Farrell, PTF Officer, was given a certificate of recognition for his Papercon 2017 contributions. John Bergin ’66, PTF Managing Director, celebrated his 50 year TAPPI membership anniversary.

We are already planning for PaperCon 2018 in Charlotte, North Carolina on April 14. We look forward to seeing you there!
Thank you to our membership organizations and industry partners who have offered our students intern and co-op placements. Placement is critical to our retention efforts! A summary of placement is below:

Placements:
- 11 Co-Ops (3 current, 8 fall)
- 31 Internships
- 4 Permanent Placements

Totals:
- 46 Placements
- 70% of Total Student Enrollment
- 77% of Available Students Placed

Additionally, wages are trending higher for summer placements as summarized below. Nearly all placements include housing support.

### SUMMER 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th>No Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sophomores</td>
<td>$19.16/hour (high offer of $20/hour)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniors</td>
<td>$21.75/hour (high offer of $23/hour)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>$21.89/hour (high offer of $24.50/hour)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NEW FACULTY

Two new assistant professors will be joining the Chemical and Paper Engineering Program effective the fall 2018 semester. The first professor comes from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Ph.D. in Biological Systems Engineering as well as Ph.D. in Polymer Chemistry and Physics Science from Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China. His research interest is in green chemicals, renewable energy, sustainable material and nanomaterials from renewable resources. His future research will be in the same field focused on conductive inks, biofuels, bio products and sustainable polymers.

The second professor has a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from University of Kentucky with a Postdoctoral Fellow, Chemical Engineering from Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois. His research interest is material synthesis, functional materials, energy storage and conversion technologies and characterizations for materials and batteries.

We are pleased to announce Dr. Anthony Lyons from IMERYS as a new Adjunct Faculty as well as the renewal of Adjunct Faculty of Dr. John Roper, Fellow in Dow Coatings Materials Research Department and Mr. Charles Klass from Klass Associates, Inc.