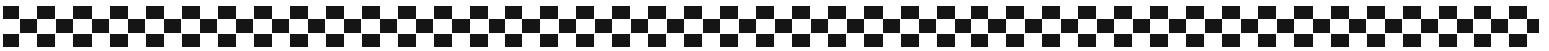




TAPPI
FELLOWS
FELLOWSHIP NEWS



What is a TAPPI Fellow?

The distinguished title of TAPPI Fellow is conferred upon a select group of members in recognition of meritorious service to the Association and the industry. TAPPI is grateful to these members for their years of outstanding service and contributions to the industry and the Association. The TAPPI Fellow designation is also conferred upon recipients of the Gunnar Nicholson Gold Medal Award and those who have served on TAPPI's board of directors upon completion of their term. Fellowship News is published annually to help Fellows stay in touch. You can also view past newsletters on TAPPI's website at www.tappi.org/fellows.

A Global Fellowship

TAPPI Fellows represent some of the finest papermakers around the world, in countries including:



Australia



Italy



Sweden



Brazil



Japan



Switzerland



Canada



New Zealand



United Kingdom



Finland



Norway



United States



Germany



Panama

In this Issue

3 TAPPI Fellows

11 Award Winners

16 Award Overview and
Nomination Form

Each year, the Association may elect members as TAPPI Fellows in recognition of meritorious service to the Association and the industry. The title Fellow is also conferred upon TAPPI Board chairs, vice chairs, and directors at the end of their terms of office, and upon Gunnar Nicholson Gold Medal Awardees and Herman L. Joachim Distinguished Service Recipients. The new TAPPI Fellows will be honored at the TAPPI Fellows luncheon, Sunday, May 1, 2022, at 12pm in the Charlotte Westin Hotel.

2022 TAPPI Fellows Class



Garnet Bremner

Garnet Bremner received his degree in chemical engineering from McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada in 1993, and received his Master's in business from Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, Illinois) in 2016. During his time at

McMaster, Garnet attended courses taught by Dr. Robert Pelton (TAPPI Fellow 2005).

Following his graduation, Garnet worked initially for BASF, located in Rexdale, Ontario, in their coatings and colorants division. In this role he supported coating and dye trials primarily in Canada but also in the U.S. as needed. A little over a year later, Garnet joined Atlantic Packaging, where he worked as a process engineer, shift supervisor, and recycle plant superintendent at Atlantic Packaging's Whitby newsprint and tissue facility.

In 2001, Garnet accepted a U.S. based position with Myllykoski Corporation of Finland and he and his wife, Tania, relocated to Chicago, Illinois where Garnet facilitated the recycle mill component of a site wide mill upgrade of what became known as Madison Paper Company, in Alsip, Illinois. He stayed on after the project was completed, as pulping manager, and was later promoted to technical director and finally mill manager. Madison

Paper had 180 employees and produced LWC#5 paper as well as C1S and C2S grades using a base sheet high in recycle content which was then supplemented with Kraft for strength, then coated on the machine.

Garnet accepted a position as with Nalco in 2007 as industry technical consultant. He works primarily supporting Nalco's customers in the board and packaging segment in strength, retention, microbio, and contaminant control. In 2021 Nalco awarded Garnet the North American MVP Award for his work on various technology pipeline projects, customer training and, most significantly, facilitating Nalco's paper sales and marketing training program from a classroom based platform to a virtual platform using WebEx and TEAMS applications.

Garnet has been active in TAPPI for all 21 years that he's lived in the United States. Beginning at the committee level, he started his volunteerism in the Fiber Recycling Committee before joining the Pulp Manufacturing Division, where he moved up to become the Pulp Manufacturing Division Chair, which facilitates the annual PEERS conference. In 2017, TAPPI awarded Garnet the Joseph K. Perkins Award for Service and Leadership and in 2018 he was elected to TAPPI's board of directors.

During their 21 years of living in the United States, Garnet, Tania, their daughter Nicole (now 20) and son Christopher (now 17) have resided in Palos Heights, Illinois.



T. Scott Frasca

After graduating from Marietta College with a dual degree in biology and business administration in 1983, Scott entered the pulp and paper industry in 1985 as a technical sales representative for Buckman. Over the following years he

has had roles in technical sales and service along with sales management with industry leading companies Buckman, Quadra Chemicals, Rohm and Haas, OMNOVA Solutions, Aries Chemicals and currently MiniFIBERS, focused on papermaking and wetlaid nonwovens. He has extensive experience in functional specialty chemicals, coatings, binders and short cut fibers for the industry.

Scott has been active at both the local and national levels of TAPPI since 1986. On the national level, Scott has chaired the former Microbiology and Microbial Technology committee and currently chairs both the Local Sections Officers Team and the Runnability Planning committee. At the local level, he has chaired local sections in both Pennsylvania and New York and is currently serving on the executive committees of Empire State TAPPI/PIMA and Northeast PIMA/TAPPI. Scott was the recipient of the Paul W. Magnabosco Outstanding Local Section Member Award in 2010.

Scott lives in Maine with his wife Lynn and two sons, enjoying outdoor activities in all four seasons including trail running, mountain and fat tire biking, alpine skiing and relaxing by the water.



Lucian Lucia

Lucian Lucia received his BS, MS and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Florida and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Rochester. He has served as a professor in the departments of forest biomaterials, chemistry and

fiber and polymer science at North Carolina State University since 2021. His research and teaching target green chemistry of fibers, bio-based materials, and natural polymers. Current projects of interest include investigating the chemistry of transforming industrial hemp to a variety of bioproducts, especially fibers and oils. He recently completed an intensive five year effort to characterize the chemistry and materials balances of hardwood pulp lignin and polysaccharides.

An active member of TAPPI for 25 years, Lucia has served in a variety of committee, local section, and educational roles and is a member of the *TAPPI Journal* editorial board. He has authored or co-authored 12 peer-reviewed papers in *TAPPI Journal*. Additionally, he has presented or co-authored 35 papers at national and international TAPPI conferences. In 2021 he was a joint recipient, with Brian Brogdon, of the David Wetherhorn Award for the best paper sponsored by the Alkaline Pulping and Bleaching committee at the 2020 PEERS conference. Lucia has written extensively for other peer-reviewed publications, authored and edited books, and holds nine patents. He is active in a number of professional societies as well as his church and local community.



Kim Nelson

Kim Nelson, chief technology officer for Nanocellulose at GranBio USA, has more than 15 years of experience in the pulp, paper and biorefinery sectors, including process and product development, scale-up, commercialization, manufacturing, environmental

health and safety and regulations. She holds 19 patents and over 50 patents pending in biorefinery processes and nanocellulose. She

holds a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and an M.S. in pulp and paper science and engineering from the Institute of Paper Science and Technology.

After participating in TAPPI's Student Conference in 2001, Nelson joined TAPPI as a student member. Since that time, she has served on five committees within the Nanotechnology and Women in Industry Divisions. A member of the TAPPI board of directors, Kim was initially slated to retire from the board in 2022, but was elected for an additional term to be completed by March 2023.



Timothy F. Patterson

Tim Patterson received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Lowell (now U Mass – Lowell) in 1982. He then worked for McDonnell Douglas as a NASA contractor on the space shuttle program. He returned to academia and received an M.S.

in mechanical engineering from Northeastern University in 1985. While at Northeastern he held a co-op position at the U.S. Army Natick R&D Center working to develop new airdrop capabilities. After graduation he took a position with Northrop in California working in the area of guidance and control for unmanned aircraft. He once again returned to academia to pursue a Ph.D. at the Georgia Institute of Technology. In 1991, he completed a degree in engineering science and mechanics.

Tim's career in the paper industry began in 1993 at the Institute of Paper Science and Technology (IPST). From 1993 to 1999, he

worked as a research engineer. In 1999, he became a faculty member at IPST. He remained at IPST after the integration with Georgia Tech, becoming a faculty member in mechanical engineering as well as in paper science and engineering. During his time at IPST, Tim worked on a range of projects including steambox fundamentals, impulse drying, infrared drying, microwave drying, ultrasonic fiber separation, pulsed air drying, creep and accelerated creep, non-contact stiffness measurement, enhanced press dewatering, through air drying, and vacuum dewatering. In late 2008, he accepted a position with the then Hercules at the Wilmington Delaware Research Center. Tim currently serves as a research fellow at Solenis where he has worked on projects related to creping adhesive development, creping mechanics, softness evaluation, tissue/towel properties, process monitoring. He has also worked on the development of new sensors and remote monitoring and control of those sensors.

Outside of work Tim enjoys bicycle riding, travelling and brewing beer.



Seshadri Ramkumar

Dr. Ramkumar, known by his friends and colleagues as Ram, received his bachelor's and master's in technology from Anna University in India. He obtained his Ph.D. in 1998 from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom.

Ram has worked at Texas Tech University since 1999 and is currently a professor of technical textiles in the Department of Environmental Toxicology. His research focuses on developing value-added materials using nonwoven and nanotechnology. He also supervises the Nonwoven and Advanced Materials Laboratory at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health at TTU.

Ram currently holds three U.S. patents and has over 20 invention disclosures. His invention FiberTect nonwoven decontamination wipe and sustainable oil absorbents have been commercialized. His invention on soft body armor is available for licensing. Dr. Ramkumar has authored more than 150 articles as indexed by SCOPUS.

Ram has been an active TAPPI member since 2005. He was secretary, vice chair, and chair of the Nonwovens, Engineers and Technologists (NET) Division and chair of the NET Symposiums. He has also served on the PaperCon steering committee as well as various other TAPPI committees. He has received Honorary Fellowship from world's largest textile-based professional association, Textile Association (India) and Fellowship from the oldest chartered association in the textile field, The Textile institute (United Kingdom).



Gregg Reed

Gregg Reed, Ph.D., is currently technical support leader for paper and board at Imerys in their Sandersville, GA technology center. He joined Imerys in 2012 as technical manager and has co-authored two patent applications and one technical

article published in *TAPPI Journal* titled “Pigmented Aqueous Barrier Coatings.” His current role as technical support leader for paper and board includes development and support of new and existing mineral and specialty coating products.

Gregg received a B.S. in science and environmental change from the University of Wisconsin in Green Bay. He received an M.S. in paper chemistry from the Institute of Paper Chemistry (IPC), where his research project topic was “Nucleophilicity of hydrosulfide ion under pulping conditions.” In 1988, Gregg completed his Ph.D. in paper chemistry at IPC with a thesis on “Nucleophilicity of hydroxide, hydrosulfide, and anthrahydroquinone ions toward saturated and unsaturated carbon centers at high temperatures.” His advisor for both degrees was Dr. Don Dimmel. They were co-authors of two papers published in the *Journal of Organic Chemistry* that were based on this Ph.D. research.

After completing his Ph.D., Gregg joined National Starch & Chemical Company as a project supervisor in Bridgewater, NJ,

where he investigated starch derivatives for improved linerboard performance, including development of relationships between linerboard failure and cyclic humidity and temperature conditions. While in New Jersey, he became active in the Metro TAPPI Local Section, and served as president.

In 1992, Gregg began working as a senior development chemist at Georgia-Pacific Chemicals LLC in Decatur, GA. During his 20 years there, he was promoted to scientist and technology manager for specialty coating products and rosin size products, as well as group leader for specialty coating products. While at GP Chemicals, he co-authored one patent “Wet strength treated paper and paperboard.”

Gregg became a member of the technical program committee in TAPPI’s Coating & Graphic Arts Division in 2008. He rotated through the officer chairs in the Coating & Graphic Arts Division from 2013 to 2018. He is a member of the TAPPICon Runnability Fun Run committee and has been one of the course photographers since 2014.

He and his wife, Julie, live in Gray, GA. They have three children, Christopher, Jordan, and Melissa, and four grandchildren. In his personal time, Gregg enjoys travel and photography. He and Julie love hockey and have been season ticket holders for the Macon Mayhem in the Southern Professional Hockey League since the inaugural season in 2015. They are also life-long Cubs and Packers fans.



Guenter Schubert

Guenter Schubert grew up in the Palatinate region in the South-West of Germany and studied chemistry at Johannes-Gutenberg-University in Mainz. He received a diploma in chemistry in 1983 and a doctor in natural sciences in 1988.

In 1989 he started at Leichtmetall-Forschungsinstitut of VAW, Vereinigte Aluminium Werke, establishing and operating a lacquer and polymer extrusion lab for flexible packaging along with projects in the field of extrusion coating and laminating. From 2002 he continued working for Hydro Aluminium, in the same field of foil converting and coatings on aluminium, also other than foil. From 2021 to the present, he has worked for Speira GmbH, the re-owned former Rolled Products business of Hydro, still on the same topics.

Between 2005 and 2018, Guenter served as a lecturer in the field of flexible packaging in the Schweizerisches Verpackungsinstitut SVI and the International Packaging Institute IPI Schaffhausen (CH). He has supported and/or

supervised master theses of IPI and also bachelor, diploma and doctor theses of students from different universities in Europe.

Guenter has been a member of TAPPI since 1997 and since 2000 has been engaged in TAPPI PLACE conferences as a frequent speaker, moderator and committee member. He received The Rohm and Haas Prize in 2012. He is author of the newly established chapter Aluminium Foil of the TAPPI extrusion coating manual. Between 2000 and 2022 he contributed about 40 papers, presentations and posters to TAPPI PLACE and IFPED conferences.

From 2009 to 2019, he was Technical Program Chair of six biennial TAPPI European PLACE Conferences. Currently he is TAPPI European PLACE Committee chairman, busy again in preparing the European PLACE conference 2022 in Bratislava.

Guenter is an instructor and examiner of the German sports badge "Deutsches Sportabzeichen" (athletics, cycling, and swimming). He himself has successfully passed it for more than 45 years, since he was 18. He loves revamping and riding vintage Italian steel frame street bicycles.



Doug Singbeil

Doug Singbeil was born in Edmonton, Alberta, and lived in many towns across Western Canada growing up. His family finally settled in Port Alberni, BC where his father worked as a welder in the local mill, giving Doug his first exposure

to the paper industry. He also started working in the Alberni mill over summers while earning a BSc in chemistry and an MSc in metallurgy from the University of British Columbia. His jobs there covered the gamut from the yard crew to the technical department. His connection to the industry was cemented when his Master's thesis supervisor offered him a paper industry-related topic that puzzled him: why do kraft mills not experience stress corrosion cracking of carbon steel in equipment containing kraft liquor? It turned out that they do. Their first paper on the topic was published in a TAPPI-sponsored conference in 1981 and, some months later, the continuous digester at Pine Hill, AL blew up as a consequence of this phenomenon. His thesis work led directly to an offer of a job from the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada (Paprican). For several years thereafter Doug's research on cracking of continuous digesters continued at Paprican under the auspices of a TAPPI-led research program. His interests moved on to recovery boilers, investigating corrosion of wall tubes and near-drum thinning of generating bank tubes. Subsequently, he began to explore causes and solutions to cracking of composite tubes in collaboration with ORNL and the US DOE. Other topics of research included corrosion of superheaters in biomass boilers and materials selection for forest-based biorefineries. Within Paprican, or FPInnovations

as it is now known, Doug led groups responsible for research on corrosion and material engineering, thermochemical processes and bioenergy before moving on to serve as research manager for process engineering and finally as industrial sector leader for bioproducts. As a manager, his research interests broadened to include forest-based biorefineries. He contributed to the Canadian-sponsored BioPathways project from 2010-2012 and served five years as a member of the board of directors for BioFuelNet, a Canadian university-based network of excellence. Doug's connections to TAPPI began as a member of the Corrosion and Materials Engineering Committee. Eventually he joined the Engineering Division Steering Committee and served in a number of roles, culminating as Division Chair in 2012/2013. Over the years he has authored or co-authored more than 50 papers in conferences and journals. Several of these received best paper awards from TAPPI and TAPPI-sponsored conferences. In 2018, Doug was honored to receive the Engineering Division Leadership & Service Award. He was appointed a Fellow of NACE International in 2009.

Doug and his wife will have been married for 40 years on May 1, 2022 and he is a proud grandfather of a 14-month old girl. He and his wife have three grown children (a boy and two girls), none of whom chose to follow him into the forest industry. His family's passion has been travel and they have travelled and camped across the globe, including most countries in Western Europe, several in South America and New Zealand. They have also camped extensively through the U.S. and Canada, as well as visiting Cuba, Barbados and St Lucia in the Caribbean. In addition to travel he enjoys camping, photography and woodworking.



Douglas F. Sweet

Doug Sweet is from St. Petersburg, FL and graduated from the University of South Florida in 1977 as a mechanical engineer. Following graduation he was a maintenance manager at a Procter & Gamble tissue mill, then shifted to design

and sales of paper machine vacuum systems with Clark & Vicario, which was later purchased by the Nash Engineering Company. Doug's 45 year career in the pulp and paper industry has included visiting almost 350 paper mills in 11

countries and observing over 800 paper machines. He received two U.S. patents for papermaking equipment, has published many articles in U.S. and Canadian trade journals, and is a frequent speaker at paper industry conferences. Since 2001, Doug has been an independent consultant specializing in paper machine vacuum system optimization and energy reduction projects and has completed over 250 vacuum system audits. He was Co-Chair of Alabama's Legislative Subcommittee on Energy Efficiency and Conservation, from 2011 - 2018. Doug received TAPPI's Technical Awards from the Engineering Division and Paper and Board Division.

Peter Hart, Ph.D., Director-Research and Innovation, WestRock, Named Recipient of TAPPI's 2022 Gunnar Nicholson Gold Medal Award

Highest TAPPI honor recognizes lifelong scientific achievements



Peter currently works as Director: Research and Innovation for WestRock. He has been employed with WestRock for 29 years in various research, production and engineering positions of increasing responsibility. Peter worked in production at both the Wickliffe, KY, and Evadale, TX, mills and spent five years living

in Brazil halftime as part of a major mill expansion project which included a new paper machine and a serial #1 patented pulping line which he helped develop.

Peter was born and raised in northern New Hampshire and graduated from Colebrook Academy. From there he attended the University of Maine for a double major Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering and pulp and paper technology which he obtained with highest honors and distinction. While there he spent two terms in a co-op program for Boise Cascade in Rumford, ME and a summer working for Container Corporation of America in Philadelphia, PA. Peter also obtained a Master's of Science in chemical engineering from the University of Maine. After receiving the Master's, Peter worked for the University of Maine and assisted with the relocation of the pilot paper machine to Jenness Hall and on various soft money projects. He moved to Atlanta, GA, to get a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. His dissertation was on the formation and release of AOX during kraft pulp bleaching.

Upon completion of his Ph.D., Peter joined Westvaco (later MeadWestvaco, MWV, and WestRock) as a research chemical

engineer and worked on various optimization, cost reduction, and cluster rule compliance projects. He also worked on batch digester over-pressurization issues and fundamental understanding projects along with several material and energy balance models of various mills. From there he moved into production with different positions including pulp mill superintendent, process engineering manager, and technical assistant to the mill manager. Peter rejoined R&D in 2002 working on multiple mill improvement efforts. In this role, he collaborated with multiple vendors, universities, outside research consortia, and government agencies. He became an individual contributor for several years until he was chosen to help lead the corporate R&D structure for the company.

Peter has published more than 100 peer reviewed technical articles and edited and co-wrote three textbooks for TAPPI. He has been a TAPPI member since 1981 and served in leadership roles at both the University of Maine and Georgia Tech. He has been in the leadership ranks of both Southeastern and Gulf Coast Local Sections and completed the chairs in the Alkaline Pulping and Bleaching Committee and in the Pulp Manufacturing Division. Peter has served two terms as editor in chief for *TAPPI Journal* (TJ) and one term as assistant editor. He has served on the TJ editorial board for about 20 years. Peter has also served on the TAPPI board of directors.

Peter currently lives in Atlanta, GA, with two rescue dogs. He enjoys fine food and wine. He also likes to fish and work in his garden. One specific long-term goal, finally achieved two years ago, was to have something in bloom every month of the year.

John A. Neun Named Recipient of 2022 Herman L. Joachim Distinguished Service Award

Renowned honor recognizes ongoing Association contributions



John Neun is an engineer who spent a substantial part of his career with Albany International and Kadant. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and is a licensed professional engineer in

New York State. He has surveyed and analyzed hundreds of paper and tissue machines in the U.S. and around the world to find means of improving their efficiency. His research and development leadership has resulted in a number of products and technologies to achieve that goal. He has worked in the paper industry since 1979, first as a research engineer with Albany Felt Company, then enjoyed a long tenure at Kadant - AES, where he was a product manager and design and development manager. His first boss at Albany Felt, Ed DeCrosta, was an officer of the TAPPI Engineering Division and introduced John to TAPPI in 1981. TAPPI has been an important part of his life ever since. As the paper industry evolved over the last 40 years,

so did TAPPI. John has been proud to play a part in that journey, acting as an officer and ultimately chairman of the Water Removal Committee, the Papermaker's Committee, and the Paper and Board Division, helping those groups reform themselves to thrive in the new, modern world. John has written and presented many papers and lectured in TAPPI courses for decades. He has played some role in every annual conference since 1990.

John holds six U.S. patents and has published many technical papers (mostly for TAPPI, but also for ASME, SME, and the U.S. National Bureau of Standards). John is a TAPPI Fellow and has received the Leadership and Service Awards from both the TAPPI Engineering Division and Paper and Board Division, and the TAPPI Engineering Division Technical Award.

John has been married to Paula Vielkind for most of their lives, and they have two grown sons and two granddaughters, of whom they are immensely proud. John is an avid bicyclist and enjoys refining his metalworking skills. He is past chairman of Capital Region Robotics, a founding US FIRST team, and is a long-time judge at the VEX Robotics world championship and FIRST Robotics events.

Will Kress, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Green Bay Packaging Inc. (GBP), Receives TAPPI/PIMA 2022 Executive of the Year Award

Highest honor recognizes management excellence and outstanding industry contributions



William ("Will") Kress is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Green Bay Packaging Inc. (GBP), a family-owned company founded by his grandfather, George Kress, in 1933.

Green Bay Packaging is a vertically integrated manufacturing company consisting of corrugated

container plants, a folding carton facility, recycled and virgin linerboard mills, pressure-sensitive label roll stock plants, specialty converting operations, timberlands, and a sawmill facility. GBP's footprint expands across 37 locations in 16 states.

Kress joined GBP as a sales trainee in 1979 after college. He held several leadership roles before becoming President in 1995. Kress was named CEO in 2001 and later elected

Chairman in 2019. Kress has spent his entire career at GBP and continues to build on the vision of innovation, environmental sustainability, and quality set forth by his grandfather and father, James Kress.

Green Bay Packaging has only had three leaders in its 90-year history, and the company continues to grow and expand with the same pioneering spirit today, with Kress as the third generation to lead the company. Under Kress' leadership, the company recently built the first new state-of-the-art paper mill in Wisconsin in over 35 years and continues to build and expand many of its manufacturing locations throughout the U.S.

Kress currently serves on the boards of Green Bay Packaging and the Green Bay Packers and advisory boards for Associated Bank and Junior Achievement. In 2016, Kress was selected as the recipient of the prestigious Rotary Club of Green Bay's Free Enterprise Award.

Kress earned a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from the business school at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Micki Meggison of Sappi North America and Michael von Grumbkow of BTG Group Named Recipient of TAPPI’s Paul W. Magnabosco Outstanding Local Section Award for 2022

Achievement award recognizes remarkable leadership and service



Micki Meggison’s long affiliation with TAPPI began when she joined the TAPPI/PIMA Student Chapter as a freshman at the University of Maine and served as chapter vice president in her senior year. Upon graduating as a chemical engineer in 1986, she started her career at the SD Warren mill in Westbrook, Maine, where she had worked as

a co-op during college. She joined TAPPI as a professional member in 1990 and served on the ME/NH TAPPI executive committee for several years. In 1999, Phil Baker of Engelhard recruited Micki to the executive committee of Northeast PIMA. She served “in the chairs” from 2000 to 2008, then was elected treasurer during the merger of Northeast PIMA with ME/NH TAPPI. When TAPPI acquired PIMA in 2007, she joined the PIMA Executive Council, serving until 2012. Micki was awarded the PIMA Del Boutin Division Service Award in 2011 and featured in TAPPI’s Member Spotlight in February 2015. She has co-organized the Northeast PIMA/TAPPI Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament each year since 2012.

Micki has worked at the Westbrook mill her entire adult life, through Sappi’s purchase of SD Warren Company in 1994, the recovery from a 1,000 year flood in 1996 (the water was 10 feet deep in the digester house!), the closure of the pulp mill in 1999, the transition from graphics and specialties to release paper in

2003, and the restructuring to coating and converting operations in 2020. She has held a variety of positions in engineering and operations: technical engineer, first line supervisor, process control and E&I engineer, pulping asset manager, coating operations manager, manufacturing operations manager, technical director, and now continuous improvement Black Belt.

As a member of Sappi’s Sustainability Council from 2010 to 2022, she collaborated with colleagues to develop and execute strategic goals and objectives for “People, Planet and Prosperity” in Sappi’s North America mills. She was the first “Engineer-in-Residence” at the University of Southern Maine and served on USM’s Engineering Advisory Board from 2012 through 2021. Since 2008 she’s volunteered on the board of trustees of the Cornelia Warren Community Association, a foundation established by Samuel Dennis Warren’s daughter that funds “brick and mortar” recreational and community facilities for citizens, especially girls and women, in the city of Westbrook.

Outside of work, Micki served on the board of directors of the Women’s Maine State Golf Association from 2012 to 2018, co-led the merger of the WMSGA with the Maine State Golf Association in 2018, then served on the MSGA board of directors through 2021. She will retire from Sappi North America in June 2022 with 36 years of service and, more importantly, many wonderful relationships and lasting memories from a rewarding career in the pulp and paper industry. She and her husband Bill will reside in Florida and spend summers “upta camp” in Maine so that they can indulge their golf passion year-round.



Michael von Grumbkow is working for BTG Instruments and is part of its global solutions team for paper and board. Michael graduated from the University of Braunschweig in Germany with diplomas in mechanical and process engineering. He has been in the paper industry for over

28 years, initially with Voith Paper in numerous positions, covering R&D, application engineering, project management, and sales. In his current position with BTG, he is developing and supporting multi-component solutions to improve the efficiency and product quality in paper mills globally.

Michael and his wife, his daughter and son, as well as two dogs recently relocated from Neenah, Wisconsin to the city of Linz in Austria.

TAPPI Selects Outstanding Young Professionals for 2022



Kirk Carlson

During his time at Clearwater Paper's Lewiston, Idaho mill, Kirk delivered solutions to improve energy efficiency, increase production, and reduce chemical usage costs. His efforts resulted in over \$170,000 in utility energy rebates and over \$340,000 in combined cost savings for the mill. Kirk has been a TAPPI member since 2019 and that membership has played a key role in broadening his knowledge of papermaking. He holds a Six-Sigma Green Belt and a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the University of Minnesota.



Jessica "Jessi" Spadaccino

Jessica "Jessi" Spadaccino is communications manager of Mica Corporation, a global supplier of water-based primers and coatings, which offer adhesion or other properties to paper, metal and plastic

surfaces in continuous web applications.

In her current role, Jessi is responsible for creating and executing Mica's global digital, content, events, and social strategy, as well as protecting and enhancing the business' brand and reputation.

Jessi took an entry-level position at Mica Corporation in 2012, after graduating summa cum laude from Pace University (NYC) with a Bachelor of Arts degree with major concentrations in communications, English, and psychology. Her communications skills and drive helped her get a promotion to internal sales where she worked to develop a suite of sales and marketing tools and platforms to help strengthen relationships with stakeholders and grow business.

After accepting her current role as communications manager in 2016, Jessi joined TAPPI. In 2018, Jessi was appointed as the TAPPI Young Professionals Division's director of communications. In 2020, she took a leadership

role in the TAPPI International Flexible Packaging and Extrusion Division's (IFPED) Digital Team. In these capacities, she was integral in developing new online hubs for members of the respective divisions to gain access to valuable resources, get involved, and learn how to best amplify the new connections they were creating. Her involvement and professional talent in communications helped create greater awareness for the Divisions and encouraged others to get actively involved as well. Jessi is currently a member of IFPED's marketing team, where she is continuously working to find new ways to reach and engage emerging leaders in packaging and converting spaces.

Jessi has also written technical articles and informed opinion pieces that have been published in publications such as *Paper, Film, Foil Converter* (PFFC) and *FlexPack Voice*. In 2021, Jessi coauthored a white paper on promoting adhesion in commercially compostable hot cups that was published in *Converting Quarterly*.

When she's not in the office, Jessi enjoys watching "The Office", listening to podcasts and audiobooks, taking on challenging home improvement projects she has no business taking on, making people laugh, and spending time with her daughter and dog.

Recognize Your Colleagues!

In just two simple steps, you can start the nomination process for one of TAPPI's prestigious awards.

1. Provide your name, the name of the person you want to nominate, and the name of the award.
2. Place this flyer back into the committee packet, provide it to your Division Manager, or leave it at TAPPI Central.

My name: _____

Person I wish to nominate: _____

Award: _____

Names may also be submitted via email to awards@tappi.org.

TAPPI PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS:

Gunnar Nicholson Gold Medal Award

This is the highest honor that TAPPI can bestow upon an individual. The Gold Medal is granted to those who have made preeminent scientific and engineering achievements of proven applied benefit to the world's pulp, paper, board, and forest product industries. The award is accompanied by a cash honorarium, which has been approximately \$60,000 - \$80,000 in recent years.

Herman L. Joachim Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes an individual that has exhibited exemplary leadership which has significantly contributed to the advancement of TAPPI. The award is accompanied by a cash honorarium, which has been approximately \$50,000 - \$70,000 in recent years.

Paul W. Magnabosco Outstanding Local Section Member Award

This award was established to recognize an individual whose outstanding leadership and exceptional service to one or more Local Sections has resulted in significant and demonstrable benefits to members. The award is accompanied by a \$2,500 cash honorarium.

TAPPI PIMA Executive of the Year Award

This award is presented to senior-level executives in the pulp, paper, or converting industries for excellence in management and outstanding contributions to the industry as a whole.

TAPPI Fellows

TAPPI Fellows are selected members chosen to recognize their meritorious service to TAPPI and the industry. The title Fellow is also conferred upon TAPPI Board chairs, vice chairs, and directors at the end of their terms of office, as well as Gunnar Nicholson Gold Medal Awardees and Herman L. Joachim Distinguished Service Recipients.

TAPPI Young Professional of the Year Award

The Young Professional of the Year Award recognizes young professionals employed in the global forest products, pulp, paper, tissue, packaging, and associated industries for their contributions in the following areas: leadership, community service, and problem-solving contributions to scientific or engineering projects. Eligible nominees are age 35 or younger, with no more than 10 years of industry experience, and have been a TAPPI member for a minimum of one year.

