

**STUDENTS, UNIVERSITY,  
INDUSTRY, + DONORS**

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**SPRING 2026**



# The Dandy Scroll

# Paper Days 2026

**Paper Days 2026 was one for the books! We broke records again with over 350 people attending this year's festivities.**

## Student Panel

Our impressive student panel recapped two different trips that our students were able to take thanks to the generosity of our corporate and individual donors as well as various UMaine organizations. The panel was moderated by **Julie Gannon, '97 CHE, Regional Vice President of Operations for Smurfit WestRock**. Chemical Engineering Students Logan Beaupre '27, Alison Cameron '28, Hudson Depriest '28, Sydney Gray '28, Anna Eugene '26, Cole Guimond '26, Jackson Haskell '28, Nick Lenfest '26, Jacob Levesque '26,



Keira Ryan '28, Phil Vissering '26, Will Young '28 joined Electrical Engineering Student Georgi Borg '27, Mechanical Engineering Student Keller Whitney '27 and Mechanical Engineering Technology Student Luke Davidson '29.

These students took the audience with them on their journeys to Finland, Denmark and Sweden on the TREE (Travel and Research Expedition: Europe) Trip in May 2025 as well as to Mexico for the TREM (Travel and Research Expedition: Mexico) Trip in January 2026. The students compared and contrasted what they saw and learned in each region with those they have seen in the United States. The most common takeaways for the students included sustainability as a focus, advanced technology, direct correlation between their classroom learnings and what they saw in the field, and appreciation for the full lifecycle of paper products.



## Northeast PIMA/TAPPI Breakout sessions

NE PIMA/TAPPI again coordinated speakers for **Hot Topics for Young Professionals** with a focus on Early Career Development for Young Professionals. Led by **Casie Case, Early Talent Program Manager at Packaging Corporation of America**, the audience was split into six groups and participated in 15-minute rotating roundtable discussions with Casie and other UMaine Alums. Table topics and alums were:

1. Starting a Family While Working in Industry, **Katherine Bell, R&D Engineer, Huhtamaki**
2. Advocating for Yourself and Negotiating the Best Job Offer, **Casie Case, PCA**
3. Personal Financial Planning, **Patrick Laliberte, Area Technical Manager, PCA**
4. Retaining Young Talent, **John Patterson, Manufacturing Director, GPI**
5. Building Professional Relationships, **Brian Lambert, Sr. Corporate Account Manager, Nalco**
6. Building a Strong Technical Foundation, **Jess Vigneault, Operations Manager, TimberHP**



## Luncheon Speaker

This year's luncheon topic was Demystifying AI, hosted by **Dr. Raymond Pettit, Chief Data Science & AI Officer, Neuro-AI Design**.

The audience was then split into six groups and participated in 15-minute rotating roundtable discussions facilitated by industry leaders:

**Ethics:** Eric Dawson, Plant Manager, Irving Tissue

**Sustainability:** Bakul Wadgaonkar, Director of Sustainability, Sappi

**Safety:** Leslie Petrie, Retired International Paper, TAPPISAFE Ambassador

**Leadership:** Julie Gannon, Regional VP Mill Operations, Smurfit WestRock

**Networking:** Steve Jose, VP Corporate Accounts North America, Solenis

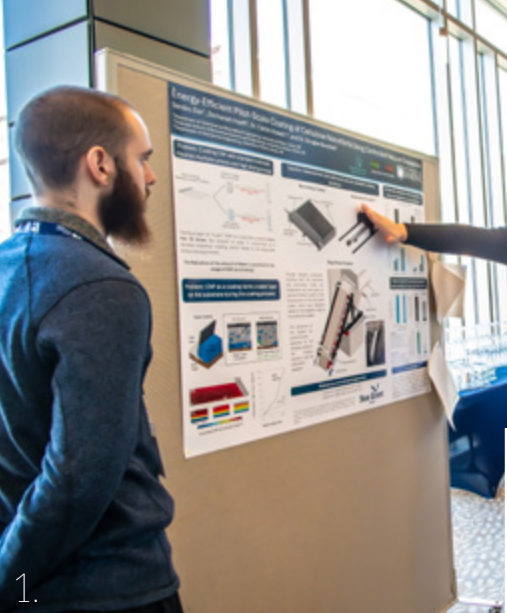
**Practical AI Applications:**  
**Dr. Raymond Pettit, Chief Data Science & AI Officer, Neuro-AI Design**

## Keynote Address

**Kirk Ross, Vice President of Manufacturing at Sappi**, was our keynote speaker at the Honors Banquet. Kirk led the students through the keys to successfully navigating their careers, citing his own journey as a UMaine Chemical Engineering student, UMPPF Scholarship Recipient, co-op engineer, and then through multiple paper companies in technical, operations, and leadership roles. He encouraged them to be bold, to use their education to guide them, but to let their work ethic and powerful interactions with people define them.



**L to R:** Luncheon Speaker Dr. Raymond Pettit of Neuro-AI Design; Student Panel Moderator Julie Gannon of Smurfit WestRock; TREM Trip participants with Dalegip Sponsors; Tappi YP Breakout Leader Casie Case of Packaging Corporation of America; NE PIMA/TAPPI Breakout leader on Sustainability Bakul Wadgaonkar of Sappi; Honors Banquet Keynote Speaker Kirk Ross of Sappi





**At left:** **1.** UMPPF Students attend UMaine Research Poster Session; **2.** Katherine Bell, R&D Engineer, Huhtamaki; **3.** Maci Belanger, '27 MEE, and Matt Nevells, VP of Product Management, Andritz; **4.** James Beaupre, Director of Industrial Cooperation, UMaine; **5.** Morning breakout session lead by Jessica Vigneault, TimberHP; **6.** Sydney Gray, '28 CHE wins networking challenge; **7.** Nicolette Ploof, Dan Ludden, Pieter Van Zyl and Scott Varney of Voith/BTG join new full-time hires and co-op students at the banquet dinner; **8.** Allison Cameron, '28 CHE, participates in TREM/TREE breakfast panel; **9.** Sophia Allcroft, '27 MEE; **10.** Graduate student poster session; **11.** Leslie Petrie, TAPPISAFE; Casie Case, PCA; Maddie Chaput, '28 CHE; **12.** Kirk Ross, Sappi speaks during breakout sessions; **13.** Amelia Bate, '28 CHE and Jordan Doughty, '28 CHE with Bill Igoe, Anellotech, Inc. (retired) and Dana Dolloff, IP/Rayonier (retired); **14.** Patrick Laliberte, PCA leads Financial Planning breakout; **15.** Hot Topics for Young Professionals breakout session participants; **16.** McKenna Goulette, '22 CHE, Jen Ireland, '93 CHE, Nick Lenfest, '26 CHE, and Carrie Enos, '99 CHE; **17.** Mark Kowlzan, Chairman & CEO, PCA; **18.** Ken Fox, V.P. Human Resources, Monadnock Paper; **19.** Giovanna Guidoboni, MCEC Dean & Interim Vice President for Research, UMaine



# UMPPF RECOGNIZES HARPER + JOHNSON WITH THE 2026 Teacher of the Year Award



**UMPPF recognizes two teachers annually with Teacher of the Year awards for their excellence in inspiring and challenging their students.** Each year, current scholarship recipients are asked to nominate a past teacher who made a difference in their lives, submitting a one-page narrative describing their appreciation for the that teacher's support and pedagogical approach. The Teacher of the Year award is an expression of the high esteem in which the teachers are held by this Foundation, and by former students who have been motivated to succeed in their studies as a result of their teachers' devotion.

**Above:** Ben Willey, '29 EET; **Middle:** Terry Harper, Presque Isle Tech Center Instructor; **Right:** Tony Ouellette, Sappi and Scholarship Committee Chair; Danielle Johnson, Hampden Academy Science Teacher; Grace Daigle, '28 ELE; Kaden Pattershall, '27 ELE; Nick Johnston, '29 EET; Grace Longanecker, '28 ELE; Ella Baldwin, '26 CHE; Andrew Lyons, '27 MEE

## TERRY HARPER

Terry Harper was nominated by first-year Electrical Engineering Technology student Ben Willey. Mr. Harper was his Engineering Technology Instructor at the Presque Isle High School Tech Center who introduced him to the Pulp and Paper Foundation, which led him to attend Consider Engineering and apply for the UMPPF scholarship. Ben wrote that Mr. Harper “helped nurture and establish the building blocks of my academic achievements and aspirations of becoming an engineer.”

Ben noted that it wasn't just Mr. Harper's STEM education that had an impact. He wrote that Mr. Harper “is unique in his ability to inspire students to become better people.” Mr. Harper is no stranger to the UMPPF, as Ben notes “he is a consistent source of candidates for the UMaine Pulp and Paper Foundation as there have been many students who have graduated from his Engineering Technologies class and gone on to receive Pulp and Paper Scholarships and engineering degrees.” Thank you, Terry!



## Student **Recognitions** and **Awards**



### **DANIELLE JOHNSON**

Sophomore Electrical Engineering Student Grace Daigle nominated AP computer science and physics teacher and cross-country coach Danielle Johnson of Hampden Academy. In her recommendation letter, Grace wrote that she left Mrs. Johnson's class with "not only passing [AP] scores, but direction and a dream." Before Mrs. Johnson's influence she "never would have believed I could be good at something that involves any kind of math."

Mrs. Johnson continued to encourage Grace when she mentioned her interest in the UMPPF scholarship and attending the University of Maine. She wrote "Mrs. Johnson, an alum of the Spatial Engineering program at UMaine, was thrilled, and told me more about the unique networking opportunities that the program offered. Her persuasion is what led me to apply." She said that given her background as a female engineer herself, Mrs. Johnson "instilled the idea in all of her female students and athletes that we can do whatever we may want to do, with her leading by example." Thank you, Danielle!

Congratulations to **Georgi Borg, '27 ELE**, who was awarded a scholarship from TAPPI's Couch Pit University for students at universities or colleges which support a degree program leading toward a career in the pulp and paper industry. During the summer following her first year at UMaine, she interned at Electrical Consultants, Inc in Cumberland, Maine. Last summer she interned with Packaging Corporation of America's Filer, MI mill, where she will return this summer for another rotation.

**Jackson Haskell, '28 CHE**, was awarded a scholarship from TAPPI's Paper and Board Division worth \$3,000. During the summer after his first year at UMaine, he interned with Packaging Corporation of America's DeRidder, LA mill. He will begin his first of two co-op terms at PCA's Riverville, VA mill this summer.

**Christopher Gick, '27 MEE**, and **Aaron Sproul, '28 ELE**, won \$500 scholarships raffled off by Northeast PIMA/TAPPI at Paper Days. They are pictured with **Addie Nadeau, '96 CIE**, of Northeast PIMA/TAPPI and the UMPPF Executive Committee. Lastly, **Sebastian Williams, '29 CHE**, won the TAPPI Flatscreen TV Raffle.



**Left:** Lawton Roberts, President & CEO, TAPPI, and Georgi Borg, '27 ELE; **Middle:** Jackson Haskell, '28 CHE; **Right:** Addie Nadeau, '96 and McKenna Goulette, '22 with raffle winners Chris Gick, '27 MEE, Aaron Sproul, '28 ELE, and Sebastian Williams, '29 CHE

# 2026 Genco Award

PRESENTED TO **DR. GIOVANNA GUIDOBONI**

**The Joseph M. Genco Award was created by the UMaine Pulp & Paper Foundation to recognize a University of Maine employee who has demonstrated exemplary support of the Pulp and Paper Industry** through either outstanding research that has the potential to significantly improve the industry, and/or through innovative student recruitment to help provide the next generation of engineers to our industry, and/or through innovative teaching that inspires current engineering students.



**Above, L to R:** Dr. Giovanna Guidoboni, Dean of the Maine College of Engineering and Computing and Interim Vice President for Research at UMaine and the University of Maine at Machias; Giovanna is pictured with her son, Giuseppe Aulisa, UMPPF scholarship recipient and '29 MEE. **At Right, L to R:** 2026 Honor Award Winner Mark Kowlzan is pictured with his daughter, Alexandra, and his wife, Sue; Mark watches the Honor Award Presentation.

**Dr. Giovanna Guidoboni** holds a Master's in Engineering of Materials and a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Ferrara in Italy.

Before joining the University of Maine in 2023, she served on the faculties of the University of Houston (TX), Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IN), the Université de Strasbourg (France), and the University of Missouri (MO).

Her research focuses on mathematical modeling and data science applied to engineering and life sciences. She collaborates with colleagues nationally and internationally. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the European Commission. She is also a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Dr. Guidoboni is co-founder of an international, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal for which she serves as co-Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor. She is also the founder of a consulting company that provides modeling and computational solutions for complex problems in engineering and life sciences. She believes in interdisciplinary collaboration and breaking down silos, and she is constantly pushing for every organization she is part of to think outside the box.

She is currently serving as the Interim Vice President for Research at UMaine and the University of Maine at Machias AND as the Dean of the Maine College of Engineering and Computing. In those capacities, she is fully aligned with our mission to grow undergraduate engineering enrollment and is focused on both recruiting new students and improving the college experience for current students.

We are incredibly grateful to Dr. Guidoboni for her support of our students and our program and could not be more pleased to award her the Joseph M. Genco Award.

# A Legacy of Leadership

HONORING **MARK KOWLZAN**



*Scan to read the full article  
and watch the video!*

## Creating Opportunities That Change Careers

**His impact extends far beyond introductions. Mr. Kowlzan builds pathways.**

"He asked me what I was going to do next in my career, and when I told him, he stopped me and said, 'You don't want to do that. You should come work for us.' Everything he promised turned out to be true."  
— Barb Hamilton

## A Leader Who Invests in People

"He enables people to do their best work. He calls himself the 'chief enabler,' and that's exactly what he does."  
— Curt Treadwell

His support has also transformed the Foundation itself. "His support has allowed us to double our student body. We are now supporting more than 160 students each year."  
— Carrie Enos, UMPPF President

## A Lasting Legacy

Today, that impact is reflected in the more than 70 UMaine students who have gone on to careers at PCA, and in a Foundation that continues to expand its reach.

**Thank you, Mr. Kowlzan.**

**At this year's Paper Days, we presented our Honor Award to Mr. Kowlzan, Chairman and CEO of Packaging Corporation of America.** It's a recognition reflecting not only a distinguished career, but a lasting impact on students, the University of Maine, and the broader pulp and paper industry.

## A First Impression That Lasts

**For many students, their first interaction with Mr. Kowlzan sets the tone for everything that follows.**

"I was a nervous freshman at Paper Days, and I saw him standing there. I thought, this is my opportunity to go meet a CEO. I introduced myself, and he was so down-to-earth. It gave me a confidence boost I carried forward."  
— Patrick Laliberte

"When I met him, he shook my hand and made me feel like I was really part of the journey I was about to go on."  
— Joshua Igwe, current student



# Scholarship Presentations

**AT PAPER DAYS 2026**

**Six funds reached the \$10,000 mark and were introduced as Named Scholarships, and ten funds reached the \$50,000 mark and were introduced as USA Scholars Funds at Paper Days 2026**

## **Named Scholarship Funds reaching the \$10,000 mark:**

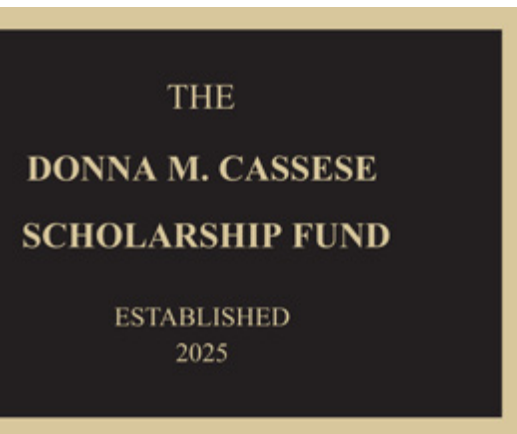
### **The Donna M. Cassese Scholarship Fund:**

Donna M. Cassese was the recipient of a Pulp & Paper Foundation scholarship while a student working toward her Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management in 1977. She was the first person in her family to graduate from both high school and college. Donna worked in the pulp and paper industry for more than 40 years in many aspects of the industry, including forestry, human resources, the supply chain, manufacturing, sales, government relations, and management. She retired from her position as Managing Director of the Sappi North America Paper Mill in Westbrook, Maine. Donna's work with Sappi North America took her across the world from South America to Europe to China, and her career in the pulp and paper

industry proved to be a wonderful and fulfilling experience. She is deeply grateful for the many opportunities that came her way through the UMaine Pulp and Paper Foundation.

### **The Chartier Family Scholarship Fund**

was presented by Sage Duguay and Justin Chartier, both 2017 Chemical Engineering graduates who met at Consider Engineering as high school juniors and pursued chemical engineering degrees at the University of Maine due to the financial support and the professional opportunities that are made possible through the UMPPF. While attending the University of Maine, Justin and Sage were active members of UMPPF and TAPPI/PIMA among other campus organizations and activities. Sage served as a student member of UMPPF's executive committee, was the treasurer for TAPPI/PIMA, and served as the president of the TREE Trip for the 2017 expedition to Sweden. After graduating in 2017, Justin and Sage moved to Washington state to work at Packaging Corporation of America. Justin is now a production engineer in coating and additives with Sappi Somerset, and Sage transitioned to consulting for the pulp and paper



industry with Fisher International/ResourceWise and has served in business intelligence, product development, and strategic consulting capacities. They are forever grateful for the financial assistance while pursuing their education at UMaine and the ongoing personal and professional support that they still receive today more than a decade later. They married in 2019 and have two children. Justin and Sage look forward to continuing to be involved with the UMPFF and provide support for future generations of students to have access to the same opportunities that have been so critical to their personal and professional accomplishments.

**The Richard and Della Cormier scholarship fund** was established by their daughter Beth Cormier, UMaine '86. In her words: "Richard (Dick) Cormier and Della (Cyr) Cormier grew up in Aroostook County Maine, in Fort Fairfield and Van Buren respectively. They married and settled in Van Buren raising four children, all of whom attended the University of Maine during the 1979 – 1986 period. Dick Cormier was an educator, moving from the classroom to Van Buren high school principal until his retirement

in 1986. Della was a working mom with a variety of roles including legal assistant, town planning and school administration. Having been a product of that strong, small town up-bringing, I graduated from the University of Maine with an Engineering Physics degree in 1986. I began my career with the SD Warren Company (now Sappi) in research and development, moving into roles in manufacturing, marketing and sustainability. I retired in 2024 from Sappi as Vice President – Research, Development and Sustainability. Although I was not a graduate of the UMaine Pulp and Paper Foundation, it has played a significant role in my career. Networking with industry professionals, building leadership skills across committee meetings and engaging with students each year has been indispensable. In addition, I am fortunate to serve as a UMPFF board member, recently ending my term as board chair in 2025. It is my great pleasure to provide this named scholarship, both to honor my parents and provide support to future students in pursuit of a career in the forest products industry. As an abundant, renewable resource, a working forest and those that care for it have a bright future building a more sustainable economy."

**The Irving & Helen Hodgkin Scholarship Fund:** When presenting the scholarship at Paper Days Irving said, "I am Irving Hodgkin, a 1963 graduate of UMaine's CHE & 5th year Pulp & Paper Certificate programs. I was most grateful to receive a Pulp & Paper Foundation scholarship in my junior and senior years as well as the larger Ciba award during my 5th year! Tonight, in appreciation, I am presenting the Irving and Helen Hodgkin Scholarship to the UMaine Pulp and Paper Foundation in memory of my beloved wife, Helen, of 62 years, and in honor of my son, Dana, a 1986 graduate in Electrical Engineering and current President of Progress Engineering, and my granddaughter, Grace, who will graduate next month, majoring in Biology and PreMed. She has recently been accepted into Tufts Medical School's Maine Track MD program. I am very proud to say this makes three generations of Hodgkin graduates from UMaine!"

**Above, L to R:** '17 CHE's Justin Chartier & Sage Duguay; Beth Cormier, '86 ENG PHY; Irv Hodgkin, '63 CHE; Grace Hodgkin, '26 BIO & PreMed; Dana Hodgkin, '86 ELE. All are joined by UMPFF Fundraising Chair Heather DuBois, '96 CHE.



**The Roland & Barbara Ouellette Family Scholarship Fund** The Ouellette family has established the Roland and Barbara Ouellette Scholarship Fund in honor of their parents and their impact on our family and the community. The impact the industry has had on the Ouellette family is significant. Roland had multiple family members spend their careers at the Andro mill built in the 1960's papermaking was often being discussed and argued over regularly. The mills brought an influx of opportunity to the area and at least one of the mills in Jay was operating while they were alive. Three of Roland and Barbara's children spent most of their careers in the industry and several grandchildren have also been part of the industry.

Roland and Barbara were extremely active in the community, while instilling strong educational values and a love of athletics in all of their children. Along with several other community leaders, Roland organized and started the Area Youth Sports (AYS) in the late 1960's and the organization is still active today. Roland himself coached baseball, football, and basketball through the years, ran the area summer recreation program for two decades as a volunteer, and managed all the youth game



concessions during the early years of AYS. Barbara balanced raising the family, assisting Roland with life in a wheelchair, and working part-time or volunteering in local blood drives through her mid-70's. Together they left a lasting imprint on the community, touched the lives of numerous young people, and raised a family all connected by the University of Maine and the Maine Paper Industry. This scholarship recognizes how the industry and the University have impacted our family and is a fitting way to honor our parents in the most positive way. The impact the University of Maine Pulp and Paper Foundation has had on generations of young people is immense. This scholarship is a small thank you to help with the future of the industry.

**The Bob & Brenda Roy Scholarship Fund:** The Bob & Brenda Roy Scholarship was established as their commitment to the value of education. Bob & Brenda were raised in the small paper mill town of Livermore Falls and both attended the University of Maine. Brenda graduated in 1973 with a BS in Education and Bob graduated in 1974 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. Bob's career took him to twenty-five states and thirteen countries. His career started when he was recruited by Kamy Inc, a leading innovator of pulping systems and

equipment, in upstate New York. In 2002, Bob founded RMR Mechanical with two business associates. RMR provides boiler retrofits and maintenance services. Bob sold RMR and retired in 2023. He is also a private pilot and often flew his plane to RMR jobsites and meetings. UMaine holds a special place in Bob & Brenda's hearts. They are grateful for the guidance and financial support they received from the Pulp & Paper Foundation and pleased to support future engineers as they pursue their education.

## USA Scholarship Funds reaching the \$50,000 mark:

**The Paul & Evelyn Aiken Scholarship Fund** was established in 1986 by Donald P. Aiken in memory of his parents, Evelyn and Paul Aiken. Mr. Aiken was a 1966 graduate of the University of Maine with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering, a Fifth Year Certificate in Pulp and Paper Mill Management, and a Master of Science in Pulp and Paper Technology.

**The Donna M. Cassese Scholarship Fund** was established by Donna M. Cassese '77 Forestry and became both a Named Scholarship and USA Scholars Fund in 2025.

**Neil G. Clarke Scholarship Fund** was created by family and friends in his honor in 1995. Neil was a 1955 CHE graduate and UMPPF scholarship recipient. He served as a member of the Scholarship Committee for more than 20 years and he was also active with the Summer Institute Committee serving as its chairman in 1987.

**The Cusick Family Scholarship Fund** was created by UMPPF Scholarship Recipient Chris Cusick '73 CHE in honor of his family, including George, Joanne, Jean, Michael, and Patrick and their spouses and children in 2022.



**The Glomb Family Scholarship Fund** was established by John, Suzanne, John Jr., and Jessica Glomb in 1995. Dr. Glomb was the 1994 Honor Award recipient, and chair of the Foundation's Curriculum Committee from 1986 until 1999 when it was combined with the Foundation's Research Committee to become the University Relations Committee of which he was the chair.

**The Curtis M. Hutchins (I) Scholarship Fund** was created by family and friends in his honor in 1995. Curtis was president of St. Croix Paper Company and later director of Scott Paper Company. He was also active in forest-land management through his family's business, the Dead River Company, and was the 1980 Honor Award recipient.

**The Otto Joachim/Richard Laftman Scholarship Fund** was established by Dr. Herman L. Joachim in 1986 to memorialize his father, Otto, and the person who hired him for his first job in the United States at Bogalusa Paper Company, Richard Laftman.

**The Irving S. Kosloff Scholarship Fund** was established by friends and associates to honor his memory in 1995. He founded Roosevelt Paper Company in 1932, and it remains a family business. His son Ted is Chairman and grandson David is President.



**The William H. Palm Scholarship Fund** was established by William in 1993. Mr. Palm was also the 1979 UMPPF Honor Award Recipient, served as Membership Committee chair, President and Chairman of the UMPPF, and the Chair of the Fundraising Committee to equip the Jenness Hall Pilot Plant (PDC) which was completed in 1989.

**The Matik North America Scholarship Fund** was established in 1986, according to Matik-North America's Louis J. Boos, then President of the Engineered Systems Group, "to show our appreciation for our business success in serving the paper producing and converting industries. The University of Maine has an excellent reputation in our industry for graduating hardworking and effective engineers. We at Matik intend through this gift to encourage the University and its students as well as to help promote the continued prosperity of our industry."

**Above, L to R:** Tony Ouellette, '84 CHE; Charles & Kelli Hutchins; UMPPF Scholarship recipient Luke Davidson, '29 MET and Dennis Carney of Roosevelt Paper. All are joined by UMPPF Fundraising Chair Heather DuBois, '96 CHE.

PAUL & EVELYN AIKEN  
USA SCHOLARS FUND

DONNA M. CASSESE  
USA SCHOLARS FUND

NEIL G. CLARKE  
USA SCHOLARS FUND

CUSICK FAMILY  
USA SCHOLARS FUND

THE GLOMB FAMILY  
USA SCHOLARS FUND

DR. OTTO JOACHIM  
RICHARD H. LAFTMAN  
USA SCHOLARS FUND

WILLIAM H. PALM  
USA SCHOLARS FUND

MATIK NORTH AMERICA  
USA SCHOLARS FUND



# TAPPI Research Expedition Mexico

## Introduction

Over winter break, **the UMaine TAPPI Student Chapter** participated in an international experience for engineering students called TREM (TAPPI Research Expedition Mexico). This trip took 12 students on an unforgettable 6-day journey through Mexico!

The trip began on January 10th, taking us through a diverse lineup of visits, including chemical suppliers, converting plants, railway yards, and paper mills.

**For many of the attending students, it was their first time out of the country. This experience provided a diverse look into Mexican culture and its significant role in the paper industry.**

This incredible experience wouldn't have been possible without generous sponsorship from **GRUPO DALEGIP**, who planned, coordinated, and financed the entire trip except for our airfare. In addition to this, they provided valuable insight into Mexican culture and a cradle-to-grave perspective on the paper industry that helped our students gain knowledge that will be remembered as we continue our academic and professional journeys. A massive thank you to **Manuel**

**Rivadeneira, John Wolanski, John Debboli, María Sánchez, and Jovanna Ramírez** for working with us to make this trip possible.

In addition to this contribution, donations from the **Northeast TAPPI-PIMA Foundation, Maine College of Engineering and Computing (MCEC), University of Maine Student Government, Inc. (UMSG), the UMaine Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering (CHB), and The University of Maine Pulp & Paper Foundation (UMPPF)** all made this trip an attainable success. Finally, a big thank you to **Carrie Enos** and **Dr. Thomas Schwartz** for serving as our faculty advisors throughout the journey! We are incredibly grateful for your contributions and belief in hands-on student experiences!

## Days 1 and 2 – Travel

Our TREM trip opened with a group flight into Mexico City and a drive to Querétaro City to spend the evening. On the second day of the TREM trip, we enjoyed a free day in San Miguel de Allende, where we met our tour guide for a walk through the city. This allowed us to learn about the city's rich history, the architecture of its significant buildings, religious practices, and much more. We visited many of the homes and streets dedicated to significant figures of the Mexican War of Independence, highlighting the weight of their political and religious influence

on the city. Many of us also visited a Mexican street market, where we had Mexican treats and bought souvenirs for back home. At the end of this visit, we also ran into multiple mariachi bands and enjoyed the festive performances.

Upon returning to Querétaro City, the group enjoyed dinner at Manuel Rivadeneyra's favorite restaurant. We all enjoyed trying unique Mexican food and beverages.



## Day 3 – Mexican Manufacturing Facility Visits Begin

First was a visit to **PCM Corrugated** in Querétaro at their converting facility. During this visit, we were able to tour the process of turning linerboard and medium into corrugated containers. We were able to see how corrugators are utilized in the production of finished medium, as well as how the layers of linerboard and medium are combined and glued together in the machine. We were also given a presentation on the science behind producing a container, including many of the control metrics associated with operating such a facility in engineering troubleshooting applications.

Later that day, we toured **Omya**, a leading producer of calcium carbonate products for many industries, including the supply of paper machine brightening and filler agents for the pulp and paper sector. During the tour, we were able to hear about the mining and blasting process that goes into selecting the limestone for producing these products, as well as the crushing and finishing process for sending these products out.

That evening, we traveled to and enjoyed dinner in San Juan del Rio.

## Day 4

We began the day with a tour to **Ecofibras Ponderosa** in San Juan del Rio. First up was a look at their recycling facility, where we learned how papers are sorted and recycled for use in papermaking in Mexico. One critical difference between Mexico and the United States is the absence of virgin fiber production in many of these facilities, placing a heavy emphasis on recycling processes in the country. We also learned how manual this process really is, involving hand sorting the paper waste provided to the facility.



After touring the recycling plant, we moved to Ponderosa's paper mill, where we took a deep dive into its production of coated paperboard products. First, we learned about primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment of wastewater used in the process, including removal of sediment, biological, and chemical treatments. We also learned how recent policy changes in Mexico are directly impacting this process, inspiring future capital installations to better shape their process. Afterward we went to the paper machine, where we saw many components that make the machine unique, including the use of IR drying, Valmet's Opti-dryer, and three different types of coating technology: curtain, blade, and rod application.

After Ponderosa, we moved to **Grupo Industrial del Parque, S.A.** and **GRUPO DALEGIP** facilities, where we were able to see a multitude of reactors for producing chemical products used in paints, paper manufacturing, and many other industries. We learned about the scheduling, control, and logistical management of these products, giving us a unique perspective on chemical additives used in the industry. After this, we toured the Ultrafibras de México nonwovens facility, where we observed the process behind the manufacture of nonwoven fabrics. From bales of polyester fibers to the formulation of a uniformly distributed sheet, we saw the production of household products utilizing an entirely dry process, using types of equipment many of us have not seen before.

## Day 5

We started the day touring **Scribe** in San Juan del Rio, a Mexican subdivision of the parent company **Bio Pappel SAB de CV**. Bio Pappel also oversees the manufacture of paper products for the other two branches, Titan and McKinley, which are prevalent in



Mexico and the United States, respectively. The facility we toured is a primary manufacturer of office printing papers, including both spiral and stitched notebooks. We were able to see firsthand the focus on manual processing, including cutting and forming these products, which is something most facilities don't have the capacity for on-site. We would like to thank everyone at Scribe who allowed us to come see this unique process!

After this visit, we toured a startup tissue company called Sanitate, where we were able to see the key elements that go into making a business successful, especially by delving into what makes small corporations distinct from large corporations. Although this company may produce on a smaller and more local scale, there is a constant emphasis on producing quality products. We discussed the complexities behind operating a tissue machine, including steam utilization in a Yankee dryer and how to properly balance this with convective heating with air as a heat transfer medium. We then witnessed the process for converting tissue into toiletry and kitchen-ready papers, including the means of imprinting unique designs onto the rolls ready for sale in the market.

We finished the day touring the **Elisia Education Hub** in Querétaro, which includes satellite campuses of Arkansas State University, Texas State University, and New York Technical Institute. There we saw the engineering and science programs offered by the school, including a renowned beer manufacturing course that teaches students to well... make beer. We also learned about their focus on sustainable education, including moving endangered plants on campus to ensure their longevity in the ecosystem, and saw regenerative biology research using Axolotls. Finally, we learned from a student about making the production of corn husks for tamales more sustainable by limiting exposure to sulfur emissions, making it safer for the families and communities that build their livelihoods around this practice.



## Day 6

We were given the unique chance to tour the Ferrovale Rail Yard in Mexico City thanks to **Canadian Pacific-Kansas City Southern (CPKC)**. Ferrovale is the largest rail yard in Mexico, located in Mexico City and handling trains from across Mexico, the United States, and Canada. In this facility, we explored the

importance of logistics in many industries, highlighting the affordability and environmental advantages of using rail shipments over long distances. Onsite, we observed the complexity behind tracking departures, arrivals, and security, as well as weighing different case studies on the management of rail storage and turnover time. We saw the operation of a hump yard, used for sorting train cars by destination to form new trains for transport. We also toured the intermodal yard, focusing on shifting transportation of containerized goods from train cars to trucks or ports for local or overseas transit, respectively. One key difference between Mexico and the United States is the presence of semi-trucks carrying two containers opposed to one, potentially offsetting the benefit of using rail, depending on the capacity of transport.

We finished off the day with another unique cultural experience: visiting the pyramids of Teotihuacan! During this, we learned about the history of the area and got to see the marvel that is the construction of these historical monuments. Moments such as these allow us all to appreciate the opportunity to experience other cultures, moving us forward as future leaders. Later that night, we went to dinner at La Gruta Teotihuacan, where we experienced a once-in-a-lifetime dinner in a cave! We opened with blue corn topped with grasshoppers (a true delicacy), and we all finished the night with a toast to the trip, reflecting on all that we learned and experienced.

One final time, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to all our hosts and **GRUPO DALEGIP** for your time, knowledge, and hospitality during this journey! We've all gained a unique perspective on the industry and Mexican culture that we will remember for a lifetime!

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026!

As sad as we are to see you go, we are even more proud of everything you accomplished here—and excited to see everything you will accomplish as you move forward. Your futures as the next great leaders in the pulp and paper industry are bright, and we can't wait to follow along on your journeys. Remember: No matter where your paths take you, you'll always be a part of the UMPFF family.



**Ella Baldwin, CHE, Hampden**

**Cooper Barrett, CHE, Oakland**

**Katherine Bartlett, Forestry, Eastport**

**Gage Boudreau, MEE, Benton**

**Lucas Carrier, CHE, Westbrook**

**Jacob Carroll, CIE, Owls Head**

**Eric Christopher, MET, Portland**

**Clark Condon, MEE, Garfield**

**Silvia Davids, CIE, Bangor**

**Abrial Davis, CHE, Arundel**

**Anna Eugene, CHE, South Portland**

**Samuel Flannery, MEE, Augusta**

**Cole Guimond, CHE, Fort Kent**

**Connor Hall, MEE, Albion**

**Gabriel Hall, CHE, Sargentville**

**Swaroop Handral, ELE, Brewer**

**Colin Harris, MEE, Gray**

**Alicia Havey, CHE, Surry**

**Kasey Howell, CHE, Garland**

**Kenzie Karpinski, CHE, Boonville, NY**

**Roland Ladd, MEE, Bangor**

**Nicholas Lenfest, CHE, Turner**

**Jacob Levesque, CHE, Orrington**

**Zoë North, CHE, Spokane, WA**

**Aidan Pardue, CHE, Cumberland**

**Collin Scobie, ELE, Hampden**

**Jaden Spaulding, EET, Madison**

**Jakob Varney, ELE, Augusta**

# Alumni News + Announcements

## 1980-1999

**Tony Ouellette, '84 CHE**, is now Director of Manufacturing Services at Sappi North America in Portland, ME.

**Scott McLaughlin, '92 CHE**, is now Corporate Account Manager at Nalco Water, an Ecolab Company in Jacksonville, FL.

**Blue Keim, '94 CHE**, is now Director of Customer Solutions at Sappi North America in Portland, ME.

**Chad Martin, '96 CHE**, has been promoted to President - North America PMC at AstenJohnson in Charleston, SC.

**Julie Gannon, '97 CHE**, is now Regional Vice President of Mill Operations at Smurfit Westrock in Richmond, VA.

**Matt Nevells, '99 MET**, is now Vice President of Product Management, North America Rolls and Service at ANDRITZ Pulp and Paper.

**Marty Richard, '99 EE**, is now Somerset Managing Director at Sappi North America in Skowhegan, ME.

## 2000-2009

**Steve Cook, '04 CHE**, is now Pulping and Furnishing Manager at Sappi North America in Skowhegan, ME.

## 2010-2019

**Devin Rose, '13 CHE**, is now Control Systems Engineer at Calumet in Great Falls, MT.

**Jessica Oriente, '18 CIE**, is now Assistant Project Manager at Landry French in Scarborough, ME.

## 2020+

**Grace Gilboe, '21 CHE**, is now ISO Manager/Product Quality at Sappi North America in Skowhegan, ME.

**Cameron Peavey, '21 CHE**, is now Fiber Operations Superintendent at Pixelle Specialty Solutions in Spring Grove, PA.

**McKenna Goulette, '22 CHE**, was awarded the Young Professionals Division Leadership and Service Award from TAPPI in Columbus, OH. This recognition highlights McKenna's dedication to supporting students, building industry connections, and helping shape the next generation of engineers in her work as UMPPF's Student Recruitment Specialist

**Jonathan Hicks, '23 CHE**, is now District Sales Manager at DuBois Chemicals, Inc. in CT.

**Alexis Pressey, '23 MET**, is now Reliability Superintendent at PCA in Riverville, VA.



**Connor Robertson, '23 CIE**, is now Assistant Project Manager at Wright-Ryan Construction, Inc. in Portland, ME.

**Connor Alley, '24 CHE**, is now Technical Account Manager at DuBois Chemicals, Inc. in Kittery, ME.

**Ryan Boles, '24 ELE**, is now Electrical Engineer EIT at Stantec in Portland, ME.

**Alexa Brennan, '24 CHE**, is now Research & Development Technologist at Sappi North America in Westbrook, ME.

### We love staying in touch with our UMPPF alumni.

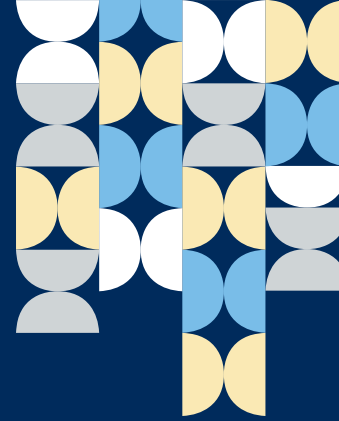
Have you started a new position? Received a promotion? Celebrated a life milestone? Send your announcements our way, and we'll share your good news with the rest of the UMPPF family! [info@UMainePPF.org](mailto:info@UMainePPF.org)



# Welcome, New Company Members



**At left: McKenna Goulette** receiving the TAPPI Young Professionals Division Leadership and Service Award, pictured with **Scott Frasca**, TAPPI Board Member and **Lawton Roberts**, TAPPI President & CEO; **Above and at right: Membership Committee Chair Scott Varney** awarded a certificate to **Dalegip America** for their sponsorship of the TAPPI Research Expedition to Mexico in January 2026. He also introduced a new company member, **White Mountain Paper Company**, with Technical Director **Mitchell Thayer**.



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comes next.



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[UMainePPF.org](https://UMainePPF.org)

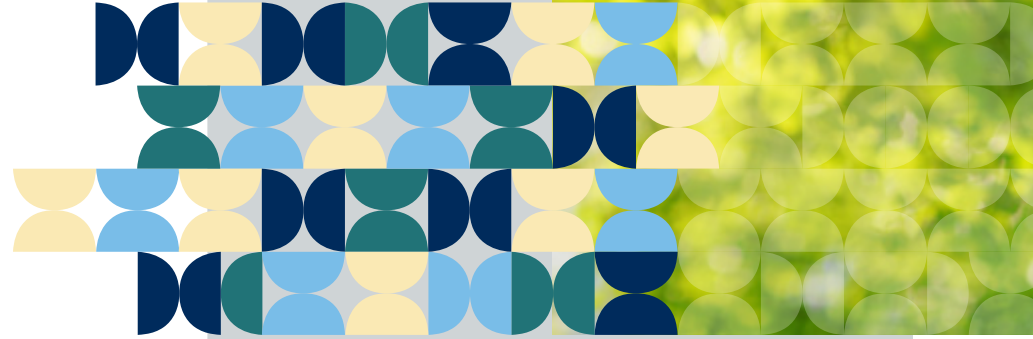




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**Clockwise:** Young birch leaves in spring; Jackson Haskell, '28 CHE; Kenzie Karpinski, '26 CHE; Jacob Levesque, '26 CHE; Nora Freeman, '28 CHE; the banquet room during opening remarks, Paper Days 2026.