



**Paper Technology  
Foundation**

# Paper Trail

## Summer 2026

### Foundation Updates from Kalamazoo!

Another year has gone by and we are well on our way to achieving our 5-year plan through 2030. Our objective continues to be to grow and improve WMU's Paper Engineering Program through our valued partnership between industry and the University. For over 60 years, this partnership has proven to be a model for attracting talent and developing tomorrow's leaders.

Highlights:

- Enrollment of 125, with 20 graduating this past year
- 36 engaged member companies
- 8 new endowments established in the past 2 years

While we track several metrics to ensure we are acting as good stewards of this foundation, perhaps the most meaningful measure of our success is the growth and enthusiasm of our students. It has been almost four years since I moved back to Kalamazoo and began serving on PTF, so this spring marked the first group of graduating seniors I have known since their freshman year. The growth we see in these students is truly amazing. With the education, experience, and mentorship they have received, they are entering the workforce well prepared.

This growth is only possible through the support of many individuals and companies who give their time and financial resources. That support is appreciated not only by those of us who serve, but also by the students themselves. They are inspired by the support and examples of leadership they have received and look forward to giving back in the future.

Thank you to all who support this foundation. You have a profound impact on our students, our industry, and this community.

*Tom David, PTF President*

### Looking Ahead

**September 19**

WMU Paper  
Alumni Dinner

**October 10**

WMU  
Paper Tailgate

**April 13**

WMU  
Giving Day

**September 25**

4th Annual Ts'ai  
Lun Golf Outing

**January 15**

Student Summit  
Luncheon

**April 20**

WMU Paper  
Gathering

**We asked, you  
showed up!**

**Over \$50K  
Raised!**



On Giving Day, you gifted an incredible dollar amount in scholarship support, demonstrating the strength and generosity of our community. Each gift made an impact, helping to showcase a strong and unified presence between our industry partnerships and the WMU paper program.

Because of you, more students will have the opportunity to pursue their education and become the next generation of WMU paper engineers. You can still make a difference, **give today!**

The PTF fundraising committee is working to increase student support through named scholarships. If you would like to learn more about naming a scholarship and tax-efficient ways to do so, please contact **Julie Loncharte**.

# Recruitment Success

WMU Paper Engineering continues to expand its recruitment and outreach efforts across Michigan and beyond. While enrollment remains below long-term goals, this year's initiatives created meaningful momentum and introduced more students to careers in the paper industry.

The program engaged students through 18 high school visits, 11 campus experiences, STEM outreach events, WMU-hosted events, and partnerships with organizations such as Scouting America, the Michigan Science Teacher Association, and the Michigan Council for Women in Technology. These increased outreach efforts, combined with more personalized recruitment experiences, are helping to build awareness of the diverse and rewarding opportunities within the industry.

We are grateful to our alumni and industry partners for their continued support in inspiring the next generation of paper engineers.

**Cindy Gleaton**, *PTF Recruiter*

Connect  
with us!



## Spring 2026 Graduates

It is always a highlight when we get to recognize our outstanding graduates and their placements.

**Kofi Barima** — Nalco: International Falls, MN

**Samuel Bet** — Sappi: Somerset, ME

**Aidan Bowie** — Open to placement!

**Caleb Breining** — Smurfit Westrock: West Point, VA

**Morgan Herremans** — WK Kellogg Co:  
Battle Creek, MI

**Jackson Kinney** — Solenis: Waco, TX

**Aimee Lambert** — Kimberly-Clark: Owensboro, KY

**Noah Lawson** — UFP Industries: Grand Rapids, MI

**Mira Marino** — Pixelle: Spring Grove, PA

**Sydney Moranko** — Kimberly-Clark: Neenah, WI

**Rachel Musser** — Clearwater Paper: Lewiston, ID

**Brady Nason** — GrayMatter: Kalamazoo, MI

**Taylor Nixon** — GrayMatter: Kalamazoo, MI

**Ashley Randall** — Smurfit Westrock: Hopewell, VA

**Katy Zaborowski** — Solenis: Lynchburg, VA

**Nayab Tufail** — Open to placement!

# Ts'ai Lun Update

It has been another exciting and memorable year for Ts'ai Lun! This semester, we continued to grow our Paper Engineering mentorship program by forming mentor groups that helped students build stronger connections with one another. Throughout the semester, these groups competed in fun challenges to earn points, all leading up to our highly anticipated Mentor Group Olympics — one of the year's highlights and a wonderful way to bring everyone together.

We also had the opportunity to attend the Student Summit in Birmingham, Alabama. A total of 48 students made the long bus trip from Michigan, creating an unforgettable

experience filled with networking, professional development, and plenty of memories along the way.

Our social events brought students together in creative and engaging ways.



“Galentine’s Day” featured pottery painting, crafts, and a cozy pajama theme, while our “Dudentine’s Day” event included games, pizza, and time to relax with friends. One of our favorite traditions also returned, the Ts'ai Lun Formal, hosted in partnership with AIChE. This provided a fantastic evening celebrating our students and community.



This year would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our leadership team: Caleb, Paige, Kendra, Christian, Scott, Shelby, Sydney, and Colton. Thank you all for making Ts'ai Lun such a welcoming, supportive, and enjoyable organization for everyone involved.

**Kate Gyurich,**  
*Ts'ai Lun President*



## Student Summit Recap:

In January of 2026, forty-eight WMU Paper Engineering students attended TAPPI Student Summit in Birmingham, AL. The Student Summit provided a dynamic opportunity to connect with and inspire future paper engineers, offering students hands-on experiences, industry insights, and meaningful interactions with faculty and the conference continues to play a key role in building interest and awareness of careers within the paper industry.



Recap of Student Summit through the lens of Carter Swanson. Scan the QR code to watch a short video.

