

P25 - Paper Machine Process Engineering: Panel Discussion of Young Engineers (Young Professionals) Moderator - Philip Wells - Wells Enterprises (U of WA -1978)

Panelists:

Selina Streater - Domtar, Kingsport TN (NC A & T - 2002)

Chris Hock - Graphic Packaging, Pekin IN (MI Tech Univ. - 2005)

Maggie Gerhart - IP, Courtland AL (Western MI 2009)

Katy Lysaght - Procter and Gamble, Albany GA (Miami of OH 2009)

This panel consists of comparatively new-to-the-industry Process Engineers representing graduating classes from 2002-2008. Their job positions include shift supervisor in fine paper production, resident engineer in paperboard, technical service engineer in a multi-machine mill, and research engineer in tissue converting. Their broad range of experience will appeal to current students as well as veteran engineers and papermakers. Topics to be discussed will likely include: new talents and techniques young engineers bring to the industry; hindsight on their educational preparation for the real world; and rewards/frustrations of current projects. They will also offer suggestions for future graduates and discuss what TAPPI and the industry can do to attract fresh talent.

Our panelists include:

**Selina Streater - Selina Streater**

Selina is at Domtar in Kingsport, TN as a process engineer. She started off in 2003 in the Associate program as an Associate Engineer and was hired as a Process Engineer in 2005.

The Associate program allowed Selina to explore and work in different areas of the mill (since she had no paper experience before being hired). She started off in the Fiberline working with their PSM (process safety management) program. After her stint in the Fiberline, then rotated to the Utilities department and worked on several projects with the water plant. Her final stop in the Associate program was on the K-1 Paper Machine. Selina is still working as a Process Engineer on K-1 today. As a Process Engineer, Selina works daily on chemical trials, cost reduction, relief shift supervisor, scheduling, and training of machine employees. She really enjoys what she does and loves the excitement of what the day may bring.

Selina graduated in 2002 from North Carolina A&T in Greensboro, NC, with a degree in Chemical Engineering. She also received her MBA in 2008 from Strayer University.

**Chris Hock - Graphic Packaging, Pekin IN (MI Tech Univ. - 2005)**

**Maggie Gerhart** - Maggie is employed at International Paper in Courtland, Alabama as a technical services engineer. She started her career at Courtland as a process engineer in the powerhouse with an emphasis in caustic room and chemical recovery projects. Currently, she is supporting the reliability team as a reliability engineer. Maggie has enjoyed working to reduce chemical and energy consumption and to improve reliability and runnability at the mill.

Maggie graduated with a degree in paper engineering from Western Michigan University in December 2009. Maggie served as laboratory teaching assistant and tutor for introductory paper technology courses. Maggie was also a co-op for Packaging Corporation of America in Tomahawk, Wisconsin and a paper machine process engineer at International Paper in Courtland. She also worked in São Carlos, Brazil as a research assistant on a joint project with Universidade Federal São Carlos (UFSCAR) and Western Michigan University to reduce water contamination. As a result of this project, her research team won first place in an international engineering competition (ICAMES) in Istanbul, Turkey.

Maggie has been a TAPPI member since 2007 and was active in the Western Michigan University student chapter as the publicity director. She has attended PaperCon previously and the Student Summit as a student and young professional. Maggie was the recipient of TAPPI scholarships including the divisions of Non-Wovens, Paper and Board, and Corrugated. She was also honored with the Omega Rogers Jr. "Couch Pit" scholarship. Maggie is currently a member of the Young Professionals committee and is excited to strengthen this aspect of TAPPI at PaperCon.

**Katy Lysaght** - Katy graduated from Miami University (OH) in 2009 with degrees in Chemical Engineering and Paper Science and Engineering. While at Miami, Katy enjoyed class projects on Miami's pilot paper machine, including helping to design the stock prep/approach flow system. She completed two summer internships with both Pittsburgh Plate Glass and Procter and Gamble, working with packaging coatings and tissue converting, respectively.

Katy now works for Procter and Gamble in Albany, GA. She has been with the company for almost two years now, working in Research and Development, specifically process development in tissue converting. Her current project involves the scale-up from pilot to full scale and roll-out of a new tissue converting process. Katy enjoys the unique perspective of Research and Development in a manufacturing setting. She hopes to be more involved in papermaking in future roles.

Katy has been a member of TAPPI since 2006. While at Miami, she served as TAPPI President for the Student Chapter. She had the opportunity to attend 3 TAPPI Student Summits. She was also the recipient of the TAPPI Environmental Division Scholarship (2007) and the William L. Cullison Scholarship (2008). Katy is grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of PaperCon 2011 and looks forward to her continued involvement with TAPPI.