



INSTRUCTOR BIOS



Michael J. Kocurek. Ph.D.
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Mike Kocurek received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in paper science and engineering from the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Environmental Science and Forestry and from Syracuse University. He served as professor and department head in the paper science and engineering program at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point as well as at North Carolina State University. Additionally, Dr. Kocurek was director of the

Herty Foundation, an authority agency of the State of Georgia.

An educator for 55 years, Dr. Kocurek's experience includes teaching both students and industry professionals. Among his accomplishments are conducting TAPPI's oldest short course, Introduction to Pulp and Paper (IPP), now in its 49th year. He has also served as an instructor for Pulping and Bleaching; Paper/Board/Tissue Manufacturing; and Paper Properties. He has led customized company classrooms at over 65 companies and organizations for industry professionals, as well as technical training of thousands of mill operators for 47 years (over 200+ courses / sessions at over 150+ pulp and paper mills). Dr. Kocurek is the editor of 11 books, including the widely recognized *Pulp and Paper Manufacture* series covering the entire field of pulp and paper. He has authored / co-authored 25 video publications, including the *Introduction to Pulp and Paper* series which also covers the entire field of pulp and paper.

His honors include TAPPI Fellow, TAPPI Distinguished Service Award; TAPPI Paper and Board Division Technical Achievement Award; Emeritus Professor North Carolina State University; and induction into the Paper Industry International Hall of Fame, an honor bestowed to recognize people who have made preeminent contributions to the global paper industry.



Thomas Holm

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Tom Holm is semi-retired, serving as a freelance consultant to the pulp and paper industry. His last job before “retiring” was with Buckman International as a global subject matter expert in pulping and related processes. During his six year tenure he worked with sales associates and their customers in 19 countries. He is the author of a series of global webinars discussing various facets of the pulp industry, from pitch control to bleaching enzymes. He has authored several papers and made presentations for World Pulp and Paper, TAPPI, Pulp and Paper Canada, ABTCP and CIADICYP. He has taught introduction to pulping courses for customers and sales associates alike on four continents and visited countless mills. This is his second year as an instructor for TAPPI’s Introduction to Pulp and Paper short course.

Prior to joining Buckman, Tom worked for the Hawesville, KY mill owned by Willamette, Weyerhaeuser and eventually Domtar (now Paper Excellence). After working as an intern at Hawesville in 1982, and two summers at the Red River Mill in Campti, LA, he remained with the company after receiving his Bachelor of Science in paper science and engineering in 1985 from the University of Wisconsin-Steven Point. He held various positions at the Hawesville site including a four year stint as the technical manager of the Kentucky medium mill until its closure, when he returned to the pulp mill. He also managed the corporate PSM audit team and served as the first chairperson of the Domtar corporate fiberline managers’ roundtable. He was involved in four fiberline startups as well as one recovery boiler start up.

A TAPPI member for 40 years, Tom resides in Tell City, IN. In addition to consulting, he is currently the vice chairman of the board of directors for the Perry County Port Authority and Hoosier Southern Railroad.



Charles Klass

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Charles (Chuck) Klass received his B.S. degree in pulp and paper technology from Western Michigan University and his MBA from Pace University. He worked in technical and operating positions with several paper companies and in marketing and technical service for paper chemicals, machine clothing and paper mill machinery. With over 60 years of experience, he has been a consultant to the paper industry, specializing in recycling, coating, operations/quality improvement and development of value-added papers and paperboard. Clients include producers of coated paper and paperboard worldwide and suppliers to the paper industry. He also teaches courses in paper machine operations improvement, sizing, coating and marketing for TAPPI, universities and suppliers to the industry.