

# IPC/IPST Alumni Association Update

By Mike Friese

The integration of IPST into Georgia Tech in 2003 created new opportunities, but also presented some challenges to the continuation of portions of the heritage that helped strengthen the students, faculty, and the Institute. In particular, it has been a struggle for the Alumni Association to understand our role and how we could continue to support the Institute.

The success of the IPST/Georgia Tech integration will ultimately depend on the ability of the Institute to continue to attract high quality students and faculty. This will not only require a world class educational program, but strong ties and programs with industry and alumni. This is just as important to the paper industry. Recent mergers, consolidations, and increased foreign competition have given the industry an image that can be hard to break through. There are visionaries today that are turning paper companies into growing enterprises. These companies have relied on a wealth of technical talent, in part due to the consolidations. The consolidations have caused some to move to other industries and the draw of retirement continues to drain the very best from the industry. There will be an ever increasing need to fill the needs of the industry. If the industry is to survive it must find a way to attract the very best technical talent.

In the past, the Alumni Association supported the endowment, provided for special student needs, and funded awards through annual drives and donations from Alumni. It also supported student and faculty functions such as the visiting Alumni Panel, the Alumnus in residence, the Alumni Directory, Alumni Receptions, student recruiting, the Student Bush Trip, and student travel to conferences, etc. Typically, these events were supported through Institute discretionary funds.

Today, the endowment, under the management of the Georgia Tech Foundation, is very clearly focused on student fellowships. State funds are used to support the faculty salaries and infrastructure and company membership provides support directed at research programs. There is no infrastructure and very little funds remaining to support student recruiting, faculty recruiting, student and alumni programs.

The Alumni Association has examined the opportunity to collaborate with the Georgia Tech Alumni Association (GTAA). There is a great deal of common ground, particularly in the area of student recruiting. However, due to its wide range of special interest groups it supports, the GTAA can not support restricted giving. The interests of IPC and IPST Alumni are clearly focused on supporting the students and programs of IPST at Georgia Tech.

In 2006, the Alumni Association board agreed to establish itself as an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3). This will allow the alumni to continue its heritage of supporting Institute students, faculty, and programs. It will also provide the Alumni with an independent voice on key issues. This is very similar to the approach other leading paper science schools have taken. This includes Paper Foundations that have been established at NC State, the University of Maine, and the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, University of Washington, and State University of New York. Georgia Tech has a “pulp and paper foundation” however it only supports the undergraduate program and is a fund within the Georgia Tech Foundation; not a separate 501 (c)(3) organization.

The Alumni Association changed its name to The Paper Institute Heritage Foundation to reflect its past history and continued mission. The Foundation's vision is build on the strengths of IPST at Georgia Tech to help establish itself as an international leader in education, research, and service relevant to the pulp and paper industry. We believe it is important long term to provide support for student recruiting, research, programs, internships, and placement that help prepare them for successful careers in the Pulp and Paper Industry. We also believe that to accomplish this it is critical to help support the faculty and staff of IPST at Georgia Tech. Our fund raising efforts will go to support the IPST endowment and special IPST programs.

### Current Board of Directors of the Foundation

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**Student Reps.:** Mr. William Hartley, IPST PhD Student  
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**Agent:** Mr. David Bell, TAPPI

### The Foundation Board's working calendar for 2007

Calendar - 2007	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alumni Panel	X											
Alumnus in Residence										X		
Alumni Directory						X						
Annual Giving Campaign												
Chair's Letter							X					
Chair Elect Letter									X			
Committee Meetings		X		X				X			X	
Committee Notes Issued			X		X				X			X
Quarterly News Letter	X			X			X			X		
Nominating Committee Selections				Start			Mail			X		
Distinguished Alumni Committee Report	X											
Alumni Receptions					Grad					PDC		
IPST Advisory Committee				X								
IPST Outstanding PhD, MS, and Faculty			Nom		X							
Educational Forum										PDC		