

# uwsp news release

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

University Relations and Communications, 715-346-3046, Fax 715-346-2042, [www.uwsp.edu/news](http://www.uwsp.edu/news)

**March 20, 2006**

## **UWSP's Ring named chair of paper science department at UWSP**

Gerry Ring has been named chair of the paper science department at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP). A faculty member in the UWSP College of Natural Resources since 1986, Ring became a full professor in 1997, and has served as interim chair of the department since the retirement of his predecessor, Larry Graham, in 2003.

"Gerry has been progressive, energetic, and creative," said Christine Thomas, dean of college. "I have enjoyed working with him these past two years and anticipate a bright future for the Paper Science program under his leadership."

In addition to his longtime commitment to undergraduate teaching, Ring has developed strong ties to the industry. In 2005 he was elected to the national board of directors of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI), the world's largest professional association serving the paper, pulp and converting industries. In 2003 he was named to TAPPI's operating committee.

Ring will oversee a program that utilizes the only paper machine designed specifically for teaching purposes in the United States. The unique laboratory facility is a significant enhancement to the learning experience for UWSP paper science undergraduates, and contributes to the department's high job placement for graduates (nearly 100%). Geographically, 50% of the UWSP paper science alumni work in Wisconsin while the other half work in locations across the country. Several graduates of the program are now in senior management positions within the industry.

He was named a Wisconsin Teaching Fellow in 1992 and has been listed three times in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. Author of the award-winning "Paper Quest" videotapes on various paper properties, he also has been awarded three patents on super absorbent technology. In 2003 he wrote the "forward" and was the lead editor for "Colloid Chemistry of Papermaking Materials," an in-depth study of the aspects of colloid chemistry that are key components in papermaking.

In addition to being a board member of TAPPI, Ring also is a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Paper Industry Management Association. He spent five years with Kimberly-Clark prior to joining the faculty. He holds a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Albany, and master's and Ph.D. degrees from the Institute of Paper Chemistry, Appleton.