

# NEWSPRENT

A PRENT CORPORATION PUBLICATION

FALL 2017



## Prent Corporation Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

November 2017 marks the 50th year since Prent Corporation opened for business. Jack Pregont founded Prent in 1967 with his earnings from thermoforming cake decorations at his parents' bakery. Jack started Prent in an old silo factory in Janesville, Wisconsin, and grew the company to unparalleled success.

In 1985, Joe Pregont became president when his father Jack retired and, today, his three children Rachel, Joe, and Michael are actively involved in Prent Corporation and sister company GOEX Corporation—the industry leader in extruding resins into quality custom rigid sheets and roll stock products.

Prent is now the leading global manufacturer of thermoformed packaging for the medical, electronics and consumer products industries. We are grateful to all of our customers who made this, our golden anniversary, possible.



## Inside this Issue

Celebrating A Year of Change

Enhancing QA Initiatives

Gearing up for Medical  
Technology Ireland Trade Show

Farewell to Chong Hai Fang

Stars of Excellence Program

Meet Your Prent Representative:  
Yesenia Rosas

Prent Prepares College  
Students for Success

GOEX Corporation Highlight

In honor of our 50th anniversary, we are introducing a new format for our NEWSPRENT newsletter. Each issue, we will bring you news from Prent's facilities around the globe, as well as pertinent industry information. We hope you enjoy our publication.



NEWSPRENT is published and distributed through Prent Corporation's Corporate Headquarters, located at 2225 Kennedy Road, Janesville, WI 53545. If you would like to be put on our mailing list, please call (608) 754-0276.

[www.prent.com](http://www.prent.com)

# PRENT

## Perspective

A MESSAGE FROM  
**JOSEPH PREGONT**  
PRENT CORPORATION  
PRESIDENT AND CEO



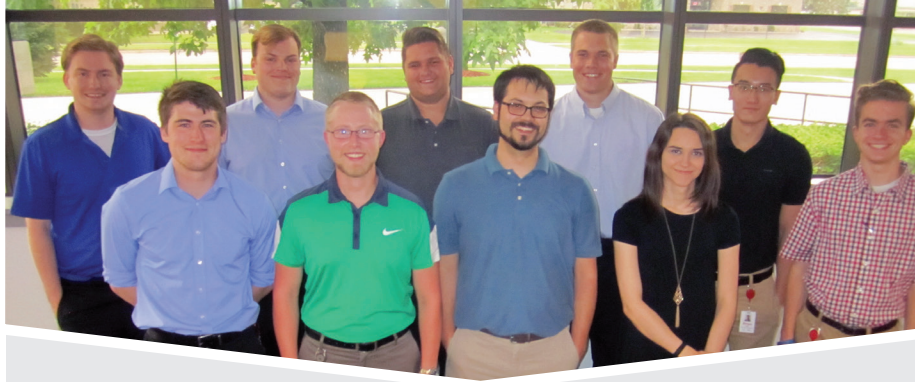
This year marks the 50th year since Jack and Carol Pregont founded Prent in 1967. It may sound crazy, but 50 years has flown by! Jack defined our corporate culture early on. He always put our employees first and made decisions with our team in mind. Prent's moral and ethical standards were developed long before my role as President began.

It is amazing to think about the making of Prent and the many thousands who had a hand in building the company into a world leader in custom thermoforming. Our footprint now reaches out to all global industrial markets. Our customer list is made up of the world's very best companies. I am proud of this and excited to see it continue to grow.

We continue to improve our processes globally. We built a company based on people, LEAN initiatives, continuous improvement and statistical process control. Through our team's customer-focused support, we've become a worldwide industry leader. Our efforts to develop a "one common system" concept has helped us realize our strategic goals globally. We now have virtually identical clean rooms with Prent designed and engineered machinery in every Prent facility around the world. Our production tooling operations have significantly grown—we are currently designing and building over 500 new products a year! And, our CAD/CAM abilities are the finest available.

Our focus on growing our businesses—Prent, GOEX and whatever the future holds—centers around maintaining our family-focused and family-owned culture, which allows us greater flexibility when investing in our companies' successes. We now have the third generation working in our business, which ensures our future.

I know Jack would be proud of what his dream business model has become, all the while keeping his core values in Prent's people and the business of thermoforming. We are excited to begin our second 50 years! I thank our entire worldwide Prent family and friends for their contributions and continued support.



## Prent Prepares College Students for Success

Prent's long-standing Information Technology (IT) internship and Packaging and Engineering co-op programs have turned many eager college students, willing to gain real-world experience and lifelong skills, into full-time employees at Prent and even at a few of the companies we serve.

A survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) found that half of all surveyed employers preferred graduates with previous internship or co-op program experience.

Many employers look to their own interns and co-op students as the best potential candidates for a full-time positions because they already know something about a corporation's culture. Prent's programs offer college students the opportunity to try a field of employment before committing to it as a career.

"We regularly see great success in our internship and co-op programs by hiring those participating students as openings arise," says Chief Information Officer Steve Zimmerman. "It's a 'Try before you buy' approach that is a win-win. Students gain valuable experience while learning important skills and whether they want to work in the industry. And, we get an opportunity to evaluate whether they are a good fit for our corporation and our customers."

Jason St. Marie, a Blackhawk Technical College student and IT intern at Prent, agrees. "The experience has definitely broadened my horizons because my class time is so limited," he says. "At school, we've learned about some of the network, software and hardware issues that the IT department works on at Prent, but there is so much more I've learned while working here that limited class time just doesn't allow for."

NACE figures the average conversion rate from intern to full-time hire is 51.3%. Prent currently has nine employees on staff who were previously in an internship or co-op program, including four positions in IT (one .Net Developer, two Programmer Analysts, and one Network Administrator), and five positions in Product Development (two Product Development Directors, two Package Designers, and one Product Development Engineer).

For more information, please call Human Resources Coordinator Kora Bentz at (608) 373-7150.

*Prent's intern and co-op employees pictured above: Back row from left to right: Seth Rembold, Sam Aasen, Luke Pilgrim, Trent Zielsdorf, Xinyu Fan, Lars Hay. Front row from left to right: Elliot Markwardt, Devan DuFrane, Jason St. Marie, and Samantha Lutz*

# PRENT

## Profiles



### 2017 Prent China Honors their Employees of the Year

*Pictured above, left to right: BJ Nielsen, Prent Eurasia CEO/President; Xiaochang Zhang, Technician; Yan Liu, MA; Wendy Lu, Assistant Design Engineer; and Kuan Kean Hooi, Prent China General Manager*

## A FOND FAREWELL TO OUR RETIREES

### Chong Hai Fang » Malaysia QA Manager

**10/16/2000 – 3/30/2017** Chong plans to spend time with family and assisting his favorite charities.

### Maureen McEllen » Janesville Lead Quality Associate

**3/17/06 – 4/3/17** Maureen looks forward to spending a lot of time with her grandchildren, as well as a return trip to Ireland.

### Chris Pastore » Janesville Quality Engineer

**11/8/99 – 8/3/17** Chris is looking forward to playing golf and finding other opportunities to keep busy.

### Marvin Burn » Janesville Inspector/Packer

**3/15/13 – 8/4/17** Marvin will continue his involvement with the American Legion and Rotary Botanical Gardens. He is looking forward to spending more time with his wife and dogs.

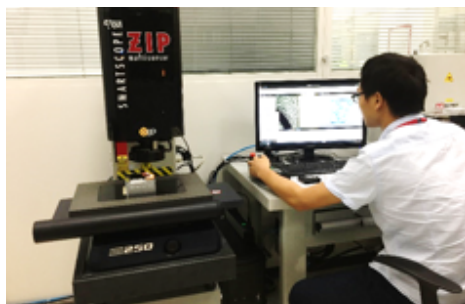
### Jackie Jass » Janesville QA Inspector/Auditor

**5/17/02 – 8/31/17** Jackie hopes to simply take it one day at a time now that she is retired.



### Prent Puerto Rico Staff and Facility Survive Hurricane Maria

We are pleased to report our Yauco, Puerto Rico staff and facility survived Hurricane Maria's 160 mph winds and 30 inches of rain that engulfed the island on September 20. Prent's Corporate Headquarters organized its own relief effort that included several shipments of food, canned goods, water purification tablets collapsible water buckets, gasoline generators, gas cans and power cords in the company's jet shortly after Maria came through. Weeks earlier, Prent Puerto Rico, together with local non-profit organizations, initiated a collection of non-perishable food, personal hygiene items and clothing for refugees in the Caribbean hit by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.



### Prent China Enhances Quality Assurance Initiatives

**Micro-Vu** As per global standardization practice, Prent China's QA team invested in a Micro-Vu Optical Measurement Machine to replace manual measurement for medical trays.

*Pictured at left, Fred Pan, Prent China Senior QA Engineer, operates OGP250 for profile measurement for an insulator.*

**Optical Measuring Machine (OMM)** Prent China purchased an Optical Measuring Machine for small component measurement to improve the accuracy and efficiency in part measurement.



### Safety is Our #1 Priority

This summer, Janesville employees at Prent's corporate headquarters were awarded with a luau-themed cookout for having no lost-time accidents in all safety units in May.

*Pictured left to right: Ron Steurer, Heather Warne, and Briane Loveland*

## Polypropylene is Back on the Market

In the 1990s and early 2000s, Prent's sister company GOEX produced a large quantity and variety of white and clarified Polypropylene products. It was used mainly in thermoformed packaging applications, was inexpensive, and was easy to form and cut. Over time, GOEX's Polypropylene business converted to other polymers which created less of a demand for it in standard products.

Today, Polypropylene polymerization technologies have expanded to offer more applications than ever before. As a result, the returned interest in Polypropylene has been significant in both forming, packaging, and graphic arts applications. It has made a strong comeback into GOEX's portfolio of plastic sheet options.

A variety of newer grades, blends and fillers have become suitable material for many different products

and markets. Polypropylene is most commonly used in food packaging, particularly in preform containers, but its usage is expanding into other applications traditionally serviced by other polymers.

Many other factors lead to Polypropylene becoming a popular material again. It is durable and temperature-stable, and the density of yield is advantageous to virtually all other print and thermoformed materials. This can result in a cost savings for some uses. And, one of Polypropylene's most attractive qualities is that it is readily recyclable.

### Make GOEX your Polypropylene sheet supplier

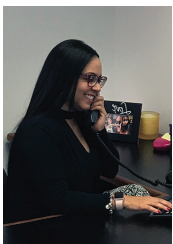
Making GOEX your extruded Polypropylene sheet supplier is beneficial for a number of reasons. GOEX offers various grades, depending on your application. Having a solid reputation and established relationships with resin producers also allows GOEX access to industry resources that contour a resin grade or formulation to best support your application and serve your needs. For more information about GOEX and its services, please visit [www.goex.com](http://www.goex.com).

## Prent Donates Vehicle to Janesville Police K9 Unit

Prent Corporation donated a specially equipped Ford SUV to the Janesville Police Department K9 Unit this past year. The \$27,000 vehicle is specially designed to transport trained department dogs on police calls. Each year, officers deploy their K9s for service that has a high degree of risk for the officers. The K9s are trained and certified annually in obedience, building searches, area searches for evidence, tracking of suspects or lost people, and criminal apprehension. The K9 Unit also helps keep local schools drug free by conducting drug sniffs all over Rock County. Throughout the year, the teams are sought out by community organizations, businesses, and schools to educate the public about their abilities and the work they do, as well as drug education.

"The K9 Unit continues to be a valuable asset to the police department and the community. The department greatly appreciates Prent's support of this program," says Chief David Moore.

*Pictured at right: Officer Jason Bier and K9 Grand*



## Meet Your Prent Representative: Yesenia Rosas, Prent Puerto Rico

Yesenia was recently promoted to Production Control Manager of Prent Puerto Rico and is accountable for all supply chain management aspects in the plant, including materials management, distribution and logistics. Yesenia has a Bachelor's degree in Microbiology, an MBA in Global Operations, and a productive tenure of eight years at Prent Puerto Rico. Yesenia considers herself a free-spirited person. In her free time, she likes to travel, read, cook, practice yoga, and spend time with her loved ones.



**Prent Denmark Exhibits at Ireland Trade Show**

On September 27 and 28, Prent Denmark hosted a booth at the 2017 Medical Technology Ireland Expo, located at the Galway Racecourse. The event offered cutting-edge design, innovation and manufacturing, and the opportunity to meet over 200 international leading companies showcasing the latest in medical device technology.

“We were very excited to participate in our first exhibition on Irish soil,” says Frank Henriksen, who is responsible for Prent’s sales activities in Ireland. “This was another key market for Prent to intensify our efforts in servicing our growing customer base.”

For more information about this year’s expo, visit [medicaltechnologyireland.com](http://medicaltechnologyireland.com).

**Prent Makes Risk Assessment and Business Continuity a Priority**

Business continuity and risk assessment are always a high priority at Prent Corporation. Prent’s systematic process of identifying potential hazards reduces adverse effects in all of our products around the globe.

“We have strategically created redundancy in our file exchange and the way we maintain all hardware, software, and equipment at each of our facilities,” says Vice President of Product Development Don Handrow. “Prent provides a robust quality system and processes that mitigate risk on every production run.”

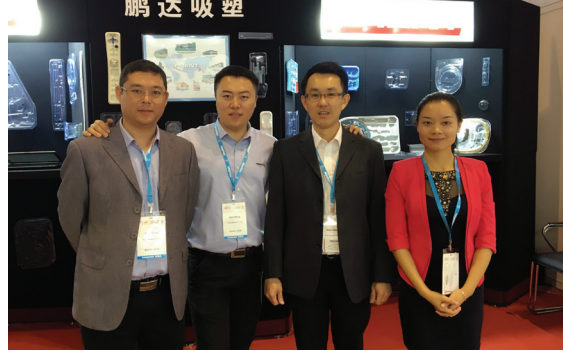
“Prent’s mission is to provide customers with the highest quality part the first time, every time,” Handrow said.

As part of our business continuity strategy, Prent performs internal audits and welcomes our customers to perform external audits on their products, which ensures our systems are up to date and the potential for failure is very minimal.

“It is of critical importance for us to identify any risk or problematic areas and take precautionary steps to heighten awareness and resolve any gaps so our products are delivered on time,” says Vice President of North American Sales Tom Schaffner.

Prent has created a business continuity culture, and we’ve taken this a step further to ensure that we can systemically and quickly react if any of our global operations experience a setback.

“With our organic, global expansion that utilizes matched thermoforming equipment, processes, and procedures in each and every one of our manufacturing facilities, Prent has created the ability for continuity of supply that is unrivaled,” Schaffner said.



**Prent China Exhibits at CMEF**

On May 15-18, Prent China showcased its expertise and knowledge as a global thermoforming solution provider in the 2017 China International Medical Equipment Fair (CMEF), which attracted huge interest from customers worldwide.

CMEF, the largest fair of medical devices, related products and services in the Asia-Pacific region, hosted its 38th annual show this year. The medical fair hosted more than 4,200 exhibitors and 120,000 visitors.

During the four-day show, the Prent China team welcomed visitors from all over the globe to its booth.

**Prent will see you at these Upcoming Trade Shows**

- » **MD&M Minneapolis**  
November 8-9, 2017  
Minneapolis, MN
- » **MD&M West 2018**  
February 6-8, 2018  
Anaheim, CA
- » **HealthPack 2018**  
March 6-8, 2018  
Kansas City, MO
- » **Medtec Europe**  
April 17-19, 2018  
Messe Stuttgart, Germany
- » **Medtec Japan**  
April 18-20, 2018  
Tokyo, Japan
- » **PackExpo 2018**  
October 14-17, 2018  
Chicago, IL

## Inside this Issue

Celebrating A Year of Change  
Inaugural Ireland Trade Show  
Stars of Excellence Program  
Preparing Students for Success



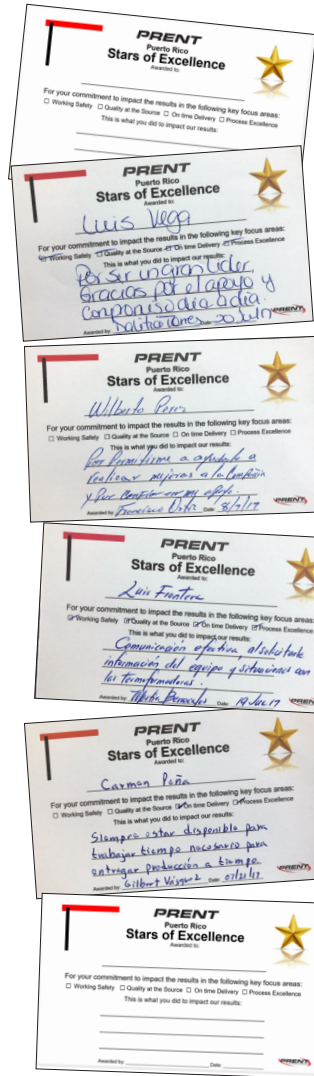
2225 Kennedy Road  
Janesville, WI 53545

## Prent Puerto Rico Initiates Stars of Excellence Program

Recognizing great work and great results has always been of value at Prent. That's why Prent Puerto Rico recently kicked off a spontaneous recognition program, to distinguish those engaged in delivering results. The program awards a Stars Of Excellence card to anyone positively impacting the results of the plant. Any Prent employee can recognize another employee when he/she sees a positive action taken. Recognition takes place briefly during the daily manufacturing meeting, and the card is then placed on our recognition wall for everyone to see and celebrate the team member's commitment.

**"It's great to recognize those who go the extra mile and achieve noteworthy results—and even greater when it is recognized across all levels of the organization," says Plant Manager Wilfredo Mercado.**

This program is already fostering employee engagement and generating accountability to deliver positive results facility-wide!



## EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

# PRENT

*Passion*

### 35 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Dawn Augenstein Janesville

### 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Jacob Keleny Janesville

Philip Luebke III Janesville

Andria Petzke Janesville

### 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Curtis Farr Arizona

Kurt Novy Arizona

Christina Parker Arizona

Kate Hansen Denmark

Antonio Castillo Janesville

Kelly Hanson Janesville

Derek Heisz Janesville

Courtney Lasch Janesville

Joshua Mayfield Janesville

Jacob McDaniel Janesville

Linda Miller Janesville

Cynthia Sowatzki Janesville

Peter Wilson Janesville

### RETIREMENTS

Chong Hai Fang Malaysia

Marvin Burns Janesville

Jackie Jass Janesville

Maureen McEllen Janesville

Chris Pastore Janesville

## Prent China Hosts Annual Party

Prent China organized a celebration on May 19 for all Prent employees. 2017 is a transitional and meaningful year for Prent China, so the party was aptly named "2017: A Change For The Better." Prent employees enjoyed shows throughout the evening. And, attendees enjoyed traditional Chinese dance, hip-hop singing, and scenes from the Broadway musical Cats, which were reenacted by Prent workers and technicians. At the event, Prent honored 63 employees with service awards for their loyalty and commitment to work and grow with the company.

