



However, Prent had little choice but to delay some of our customers' orders during this time, according to Kuan. "We maintained communication with our customers to prioritize orders, understand their situations, and provide the best possible solutions to mitigate the impact on their businesses," he said. "We are pleased to report that our customers were satisfied overall with our ability to navigate all of the challenges we faced."



## Prent China Stays Operational Through Zero-COVID Lockdown in Shanghai

On April 1, Shanghai, China announced a city-wide lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19 after confirmed cases started increasing rapidly. For over two months, activity in China's financial hub—home to 25 million people—came to a standstill. Prent China was among the few companies that obtained the government's approval for arranged, closed-door production with an initial workforce of 100 employees.

"In accordance with Shanghai's lockdown requirement, Prent made preparations to resume production at the end of April with a total of over 300 workers living in our factories for closed-door production," says Prent Shanghai General Manager KH Kuan. "When the government lifted the lockdown the first week of June, most industries resumed business and Prent's operations recovered fully with production running at our normal level."

### Prent Faced Challenges Head On During the Lockdown

Like many businesses, Prent faced a variety of challenges during the lockdown, including accommodating hundreds of staff onsite, maintaining production, navigating shipping and logistics, and communicating with employees and customers, to name a few.

A key challenge of the Zero-COVID lockdown was the strict restrictions on the movement in Shanghai, Kuan said. "Our employees were not allowed to travel on the road which lead to a loss of productivity initially," he said.

Prent proactively arranged for staff to stay onsite before the full lockdown. Initially, 100 employees were approved to live at Prent's two factories to support production. Prent increased its workforce to 300 by applying to the government for additional staff to support production. Eventually, Prent was able to keep 83% of its workforce onsite 24/7, and production never ceased.

"The lockdown lasted two months, which was longer than anyone anticipated," he said. This negatively impacted both logistics and the supply chain. Goods and materials (raw material, PPE, disinfectants, etc.) could not be transported. Vehicles weren't allowed on the roads without a special government permit. "We communicated with our customers to arrange for their trucks to pick up finished goods from our factories to meet shipment requirements," Kuan said.



(continued inside)

## Prent China Stays Operational Through Lockdown

*(continued from front page)*

Fortunately, Prent's Shanghai facility is strategically located near its customer base, so 99% of the product produced there is consumed in the region. With some creative ingenuity, Prent managed part delivery to its customers via longer routes. To achieve "just-in-time" (JIT) delivery, Prent prepared four to six weeks of inventory to meet its customers' needs. Before the lockdown, Prent shipped parts to its JIT hubs outside Shanghai. The first month of lockdown, Prent scheduled only urgent orders with its limited workers onsite. With an increased staff the second month of lockdown, Prent fulfilled new orders and recovered a portion of its backlogged orders.

Prent also had to arrange for a tremendous amount of provisions to accommodate the 300 employees working and living onsite 24/7. To ensure employees had comfortable accommodations, Prent prepared:

- Airbeds, mattresses, and bedding for sleeping
- Daily toiletries and necessities, such as towels, soap, toothpaste, etc.
- Washing machines, air conditioners, and portable showers
- Catered boxed meals that were delivered to the facilities, along with milk, eggs, fruit, and other snacks
- COVID-19 protection: Prent prepared enough PPE (disinfectant, masks, disposal protective suits, etc.) for all employees living and working onsite. Employees took a COVID antigen test every morning before their shifts, and submitted results via a mobile app. In addition, a third party conducted PCR testing onsite once a week. Prent implemented strict access policies to control the risk of infection for visitors and goods. Prent also arranged for a thorough, daily disinfection to ensure a safe working environment, and has contingency plans in place to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 transmission.

"We wanted to ensure that we were one step ahead in our preparations so we can do things right the first time, every time," Kuan said.

"The strong teamwork and commitment of our employees, our fast response with creativity, and the "never give up" attitude shown by our employees all successfully helped Prent navigate the challenges during this lockdown. We all came out of it stronger," Kuan said.



*Prent added capacity for living space.*



*Catered meals fed 300 employees.*



*Prent China employees hard at work.*



*Prent created makeshift sleeping quarters.*

## Prent Janesville Adds New Grinder



Prent Janesville has continually improved the safety of its grinding equipment over the last several years. "We focused on reducing the effort needed to keep the grinders fed and interactions with the machine at more of a distance," says VP of Engineering Greg Lofgren. "We have also focused on increasing throughput to keep up with the demands of increased business."

Prent tried adding conveyors to feed grinders with larger feed sections, but had a hard time working with some of the items left over from the process (e.g., skeleton rolls of plastic, rejected parts, and raw materials). "We concluded we would have more success with a different type of system, so we reviewed standard machines with higher capacity. We didn't find enough of a benefit from those systems, so we decided a custom assembly of more standard equipment would be a better fit for Prent," Lofgren said.

The new grinder's custom design allows an operator to load an entire tub of material into the machine, which picks it up and dumps it into the first stage for shredding into large pieces. It then lowers the empty tub to be removed to make room for another full one. The first stage output drops into the second stage machine for grinding into pieces small enough to be extruded again. The system has two positions for packaging the ground material to keep up with the output more efficiently, he explained.

"We've had the grinder for three months and have seen really good results," he said. "The new system delivers several times the amount more safely than what we used to produce. We continue to improve safety and functionality, and have ordered another system. Prent will remodel its Janesville grinding room to stay ahead of the demand and grow to meet customers' needs."

# PRENT

## Profiles

### GET TO KNOW YOUR PRENT REPRESENTATIVE

**Richard Zhou**  
Prent Shanghai  
Operations Director



Richard Zhou joined Prent Shanghai as Production Manager in 2006. He was promoted to Operations Manager in 2012 and, subsequently, promoted to Operations Director in 2019. Zhou now oversees manufacturing for two Prent plants to ensure seamless, daily operations and achieve all objectives.

Zhou was born and raised in Shanghai where he earned a bachelor's degree in engineering, and a master of business administration degree. His first job was as a mechanical engineer in Shanghai. He then worked at a British company in Shanghai for over 10 years as a printing manager, a production manager, and a technical manager. In 2006, Zhou moved to Canada for seven months to work at a plastic packaging company. A change in that company's investment strategy prompted him to move back to China where he found an opportunity to join the Prent Shanghai team.

Zhou says Prent has a great team with many talents, energy, and a strong team spirit. "The Shanghai team is like

a big family that helps and supports each other. We have great leadership in BJ Nielsen and KH Kuan who provide guidance and support. We also have many good colleagues/friends in Prent Malaysia and Prent Janesville who provide suggestions and technical advice."

Zhou looks forward to Friday afternoons as the weekends are his favorite time to relax and enjoy reading books, drinking Chinese tea, listening to music, and exercising at the gym. He also enjoys spending time traveling and visiting favorite restaurants with his wife and son on holidays. Something you may not know is that Zhou recently learned how to practice meditation, which helps lower any stress before he falls asleep.



### Prent Denmark

On May 17-18, Prent Denmark exhibited at PharmaPack, a European hub for the pharma packaging and drug delivery device industry, that is held annually in Paris with 5,000 attendees and over 300 exhibitors. Designer Rashid Atai (pictured at left), and UK/Ireland Account Manager Jakob Friss (at right), helped attendees with their custom thermoforming needs. Many of Prent's strategic business partners came by the Prent Denmark booth and new customers introduced exciting projects.



### Prent Malaysia Hosts Healthy Lifestyle Campaign

To promote a healthy lifestyle, all Prent Malaysia employees received a bag containing local fruit in May, including guava and dragon fruit, and leadership posted guides with simple exercises that can be performed in the office. And, for the Muslim's celebration of Hari Raya on May 2, Prent Malaysia distributed a traditional layered cake called Kek Lapis to all employees to enjoy.



### Prent Puerto Rico Honors Its Moms

On May 5, Prent Puerto Rico hosted a traditional Mother's Day luncheon/dinner for employees on all three shifts. Prent Puerto Rico staff and leadership felt it was important to take a moment to honor all of the hard-working mothers, especially in today's challenging world.

### GOEX Adds New Extrusion Line and Expands Capabilities

GOEX is installing a new extrusion line and expanding its capabilities at its headquarters in Janesville, WI. The line offers the latest extrusion technology and keeps GOEX at the forefront of production proficiencies. While broadening GOEX's existing material offerings, the new line is geared toward polyester and copolyester materials used in medical and food packaging applications. This allows GOEX to expand its portfolio of virgin and recycled options with materials like APET, rPET, PETG, and rPETG. Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)-based materials are one of the most popular choices for packaging in the world today. Often chosen for its high clarity, ease-of processing and durability, PET is widely used in thermoforming applications. Identified as a #1 in the recycling stream, PET is the most universally recycled plastic in the world. Not only does its #1 code allow for collection in curbside and community recycling programs, it brings the most value to reclaimers who prepare PET scrap for resale and reuse.

# Prent Corporation Gives Scholarships to Four University of Wisconsin-Stout Students

For over 20 years, Prent's annual packaging scholarships have positively impacted students pursuing a packaging degree at UW-Stout in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

This year's recipients—Zachary Hullander, Madeline Klotzbach, Makenna Lowell, and Jacob Peterson—were chosen based on their academic performance, letters of recommendation, professional and extracurricular activities, community involvement, and financial need.

Prent connected with the UW-Stout students to learn more about how these scholarships are impacting their education and career aspirations, and this is what they shared:



Prent's scholarship will help **Zachary Hullander** work less and focus more on his grades. "Knowing that I got such an amazing

scholarship was both exciting and a relief. It motivates me to be the best student I can be and to learn as much as I can," he said. Hullander plans on graduating from UW-Stout in the fall of 2023.

In a personal note, **Madeline Klotzbach** let Prent know that the scholarship not only financially supports her studies, but also recognizes her efforts to date and motivates her to continue her pursuits.

Klotzbach noted her personal goals as a packaging student align with Prent's mission of providing innovative, economic, and effective thermoformed packaging solutions.



**Makenna Lowell** feels that Prent has invested in her future. She plans to apply the scholarship funds to this fall's tuition, which, she says, will be extremely helpful in providing more time to focus on her studies. She plans to graduate in the spring of 2025. After graduation, she wants to work at a company that makes consumer goods with a focus on sustainability, which is her minor.

Lowel highly recommends students apply for the Prent scholarship as it is a great financial opportunity and a chance to discover a company that works in an area that might pique their interest.



**Jacob Peterson** plans to use his scholarship to pay for classes this fall so he won't have to take out a student loan. "I'm incredibly grateful for Prent's generosity. The scholarship has emboldened me to keep pushing myself to learn more about packaging advancements," he said. "It's clear that Prent is dedicated to investing in young professionals who want to further their career in packaging and make advancements

in the field."

Peterson is currently working in an eight-month co-op and plans to graduate in 2025. After graduation, he is interested in working in the consumer or medical industry.

"Prent has given me a great gift. I can't thank them enough. I would encourage other packaging students to apply for scholarships through UW-Stout. They make it incredibly easy for students to get linked with great companies like Prent," Peterson said.

As for any freshmen entering the UW-Stout packaging program, these students offered this advice:

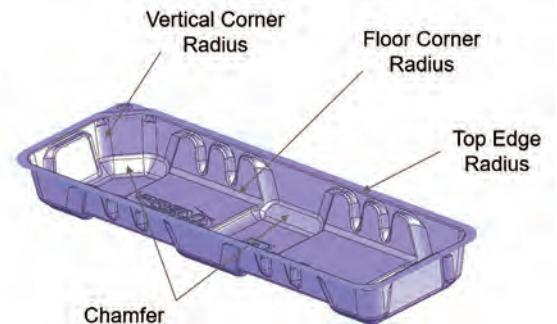
"Keep pushing yourself and don't get discouraged with some of the 100- and 200-level classes," Peterson says. "The [higher-level] classes become more enjoyable and more interactive with other students."

Lowel says it's important to find the program at a school that is the best fit for your interest(s). "I would go to every career fair offered and talk to employers [in attendance] because there are so many different facets to packaging and some might pique your interest more than others."

Hullander recommends looking into many career paths. "There are so many different avenues in packaging to explore and learn about. Find your passion in packaging and go for it!"

## Let's Get Technical: Chamfers and Radii

Did you know chamfers and radii are used in every Prent design? They can soften sharp edges and create transitions between two perpendicular faces. They are important to every design because they improve material flow and distribution, reduce the propensity for stress cracks, provide for a better part release, and reduce flow lines. Prent takes pride in using these to clean up a design and make it easier to manufacture, says VP of Product Development Chris Bladl. "Prent designers understand the equal importance of the function of a package and its manufacturability, making a better part to form in the end, which is a great benefit to our customers."



*Including chamfers and radii in all Prent designs ensures a more robust manufacturing process, a better product, and greater customer satisfaction.*

## Prent Janesville Partners with Local Educators to Promote Workforce Development

In an effort to sustain and retain a viable workforce, and promote workforce development in the community, Prent Janesville is partnering with local educators in a variety of ways, including an externship program, a high school mentorship program, a robot camp for middle school students, and a technical college accelerated industrial maintenance (AIM) certificate program.

Most recently, Prent participated in the **Rock Externship Program** by hosting Milton High School Business Teacher Nic Manogue in June. Goals of the program include increasing exposure to local businesses; strengthening relationships to generate enhanced career-based learning experiences; facilitating stakeholder information exchanges and curriculum development and delivery ideas; and cultivating local talent development. According to Senior VP of Corporate Services Rachel Andres, externship participants get immersed in Prent's culture and operations. "They gain exposure to Prent's manufacturing, maintenance, product development, quality assurance, human resources, and engineering areas," Andres said. "This program is a great opportunity for Prent to create a long-term relationship with local high school educators," Andres said.

Prent is also working with the **Craig High School Elevate Program**, which is designed for qualified juniors and seniors to have an immersive work experience with businesses that goes beyond typical job shadowing. "We are in the beginning stages of project charters for this program. We plan to have our employees be mentors and include a Prent project for students every semester," Andres said.

And, Prent is sponsoring an introductory **STEM summer camp** for middle school students hosted by Blackhawk Technical College (BTC) in June. Andres says the camp will focus on manufacturing, design, and automation. "Projects will include implementing Lean guidelines in the manufacture of a LEGO® fire hazard truck, part design using solid modeling software and 3-D printing, and the construction and programming of a 3-D printed robot," she said.

Prent's partnership with BTC also includes participation in its **AIM Certificate Program**. AIM is comprised of three, one-credit courses—Mechanics of Learning, Safety, and Troubleshooting Integrated Manufacturing Systems—which provide foundational skills for those seeking careers in industrial maintenance and technology. The four-week program includes four days at the BTC campus and one day of job shadowing at local employers. Prent's maintenance department will host 11 students in June. The program is coordinated through the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board.

Prent is also an active participant in the **Stateline Manufacturing Alliance**, which is a collaborative, supportive, engaged stakeholder group comprised of regional manufacturers, educators and community partners that is committed to addressing and supporting youth and adult talent pipeline development needs of manufacturers.

# PRENT

People

## EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

### 40-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Dawn Augenstein Janesville

### 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Asrul Hafeze Bin Juli Malaysia

Asmawati Binti Mohd Selamat Malaysia

Jacob Keleny Janesville

Chin Leong Lim Malaysia

Vivian Liu Shanghai

Philip Luebke Janesville

### 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Chad Dieter Janesville

Kate Hansen Denmark

Longcheng Luo Shanghai

Jacob McDaniel Janesville

Longlong Shao Shanghai

Lei Yang Shanghai

Ophelia Yang Shanghai

### 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Siti Noor Raadhiah Binti Kamal Malaysia

Nor Aqilah Binti Sagiran Malaysia

Robert Davis Janesville

Audra Davis Janesville

Molly Hicks Janesville

Zhongfang Liu Shanghai

Alma Longoria Flagstaff

Jennifer Mathews Janesville

Wilfredo Mercado Puerto Rico

Stephen Millard Janesville

Timothy Roeben Janesville

Kyoko Sato Janesville

Nickolas Sly Janesville

Beau Smith Janesville

Han Hwee Tan Malaysia

Sharon Vargas Costa Rica

Kenneth Williams Janesville

Krista Woody Janesville

Wenfang Xu Shanghai

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Janesville, WI 53545

## Prent Prepares to Honor UW-Stout Alumni and Staff

**Mark your calendars!** Prent is planning a celebratory event to honor University of Wisconsin-Stout Packaging Program alumni and staff on Thursday, September 22 at its Janesville, Wisconsin headquarters.

“The main objective of this event is to honor UW-Stout Alumni,” says VP of Product Development Don Handrow. “In addition, we plan to tie this to a ‘friends of the community’ event to attract potential new hires to Prent with an opportunity to tour our headquarters.”

Handrow says, event tours at both Prent and GOEX will be hosted by UW-Stout graduates, and a reception will follow at the Tallman Carriage House on the Rock County Historical Society campus downtown. More details to come!

## Visit Prent at any of these Upcoming Trade Shows

### PACK EXPO

Chicago, IL | October 23-26

### MD&M MINNEAPOLIS

Minneapolis, MN | November 2-3

### CMEF AUTUMN

Shanghai, China | August 21-24

### MEDTEC CHINA

Shanghai, China | August 31-September 2

### MEDICAL FAIR THAILAND

Bangkok, Thailand | September 13-15

### MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY IRELAND

Galway, Ireland | September 21-22

### COMPAMED

Düsseldorf, Germany | November 14-17

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## A FOND FAREWELL TO THESE PRENT RETIREES

### Denise Dewitt » Janesville Inspector/Packer

**10/31/83–4/14/2022** Denise plans to travel more frequently to North Carolina to spend time with her child and six-year-old grandson. She also plans to spend more time in her cabin in Minocqua, Wisconsin.

### Dawn Oren » Janesville Inspector/Packer

**6/9/1994–4/14/2022** Dawn wants to watch her two grandchildren more often and is planning to take a trip to California to visit her sister.

### Deb LaPlaca » Janesville Inspector/Packer

**6/20/2008–4/14/2022** Deb is moving to Indiana where she is building a new home that is closer in proximity to her children and grandchildren.

### James Sowa » Janesville Inspector/Packer

**4/12/2019–5/26/2022** James is moving to Florida to be closer to his daughter and has plans to join a golf league there.

## Prent Calls the[PACK]out™ Conference A Success

On May 10-12, Prent Janesville's VP of Product Development Don Handrow, VP of International Sales and Marketing Mark Talabac, and Senior VP of Sales Tom Schaffner attended the[PACK]out™ in Austin, Texas—a new conference for healthcare packaging professionals, engineers, and suppliers. The Prent participants all felt that the conference was well done.

“It was a great opportunity to network and build a stronger sense of community with this core group of medical device packaging professionals, as we haven't had the opportunity to do so since before the pandemic,” Schaffner said. “It was a fantastic conference that focused on the technical side of packaging. The founders who put the[PACK]out™ together did a great job.”

The agenda was filled with keynote speakers who focused on sustainability solutions, the impact of chaotic innovation, patient safety, product usability and design, navigating the supply chain, and more.

“The speakers and content were worthwhile, and the interaction with customers and suppliers was extremely valuable,” Handrow said.

“We are looking forward to being a part of next year's conference.”