

## Huston Patterson Company History

- Huston Patterson **began as Herald & Review Printing and Stationery in 1895**, a commercial printing division of the *Decatur Herald & Review*.
- In 1939, Ernie Huston and Jesse Patterson, **Herald & Review Printing and Stationery employees, bought the division** and renamed it Huston Patterson. The company remained in the same location until 1953, and then moved to its present location.
- **In 1961, Robert G. Kowa bought Huston Patterson.** At the time, the letterpress printing company had print revenues of \$200,000. Shortly after Kowa's purchase, the company bought its first offset, single-color printing press.
- Kowa's oldest son, Thomas W., began working for the company in high school. After graduation from Eureka College **in 1976, Thomas joined the company full time.**
- As the company grew, Huston Patterson added 2-color and 4-color presses. **Not until 1978 when Huston Patterson was running three shifts and weekends did the company buy its first new press.**
- In 1983, Robert Kowa purchased Sigma Graphics, a printing company in Ottawa, Ill. Today, **Sigma Graphics is Huston Patterson's Special Product Division**, with a variety of single to full color presses, bindery and finishing equipment.
- In 1989, equipment including a new Heidelberg Speedmaster 5-color 40" press was added to keep pace with the greeting card markets and later positioned Huston Patterson to pursue the label and packaging industry.
- **Thomas W. Kowa became President/CEO** following his father's death in 1991. Concurring with his father's business philosophy, he lead the company to future success as Huston Patterson continued to grow and prosper.
- In 1998, Huston Patterson added an in-house sheeter to better serve clients competitively and to pass stock savings on to clients
- A year later, 1999, Huston Patterson updated their prepress by going directly from computer to plate, eventually eliminating working with film completely.
- In 2001, Huston Patterson added an 18,000 square foot building to house a new KBA 7-color 64" press with in-line UV and aqueous coating.
- **Tonya Kowa -Morelli**, Tom's daughter, joined HP in 2004 as the Client Services Manager covering the Southwest territory. Tonya is the **3<sup>rd</sup> generation of the Kowa family** to work in the print industry.

- In 2005, a second new KBA 6-color 64” press with in-line aqueous coating was added. Both presses have scanning Densitronics-S Closed Loop Spectrophotometry Systems and ARC (Auto Plate Register) with CCD video cameras. At the same time, an all-new jogging and cutting system was added to the finishing area and a fully automated Screen plate-setter was added to prepress. This technology provides clients with unmatched versatility and speed for the most complex jobs.
- In the spring of 2006, Huston Patterson circulated its **first issue of HPxpressions**, a quarterly package print industry publication, and **launched their new HPx brand programs (the Huston Patterson Experience) and website [www.experincetheevolution.com](http://www.experincetheevolution.com)** geared to focusing on exceeding their clients expectations.
- In the spring of 2007, the **Robert G. Kowa Theatre was constructed** for HPx Academy training, client presentations and media / corporate events. The theater-style seating accommodates up to 24 participants, and the space is equipped with a full-size projection screen and surround sound stereo system.
- In the summer of 2007, Huston Patterson took to the skies by establishing a private aviation company, **HPx Air** and purchasing a Cessna T206, providing round-trip travel for clients and industry partners to and from the HP headquarters in Decatur.
- In the fall of 2007, Huston Patterson was **voted “2007 Innovator of the Year”** by the Association of Independent Corrugated Converters members for their innovative **HPx Academy training program**.
- In late winter of 2008, Huston Patterson purchased two more brand new KBA 6-color presses featuring UV and aqueous in-line coating capabilities. A new 40-inch was installed at Sigma Graphics and the 56-inch was installed in the Decatur plant.
- In the spring of 2008, **Tonya Kowa-Morelli, was promoted to Huston Patterson’s leadership team** serving as Vice President of Sales and Marketing.
- In the fall of 2008, Huston Patterson’s **HPxpressions quarterly publication received the bronze award** from Printing Impressions and Publishing Executive magazines. This award was given for the outstanding printing of the 2007 4<sup>th</sup> quarter cover using MetalFX.
- Today, Huston Patterson focuses on top sheet and label printing for the packaging and point-of-purchase markets. Huston Patterson **has more than doubled print revenues** from 2001 to 2008.