

Key Company Officials



Thomas W. Kowa
President/CEO

Thomas W. Kowa began work in the printing industry during high school in the 1970s, as a part-time employee for Huston Patterson. At the time, his father, Robert Kowa, was president and CEO of the company. Tom continued to work for Huston Patterson during summer breaks while he attended Eureka College. Following graduation in 1976 with a business administration degree, Tom joined Huston Patterson full-time, working in various capacities within the production arena. Tom then moved into key management positions in both Huston Patterson's Decatur, Ill., and Champaign, Ill., facilities. In 1990, Tom was named executive vice president of Huston Patterson and of sister company Sigma Graphics, a commercial printing facility in Ottawa, Ill. Tom became president of the company in 1991, following the death of his father. Tom is also actively involved in several trade organizations, including the Association of Independent Corrugated Converters (AICC).



Steve Frantz
Chief Operating Officer

Steve Frantz has been involved with the printing industry for more than 40 years, beginning in the pressroom of Colwell Printing in 1964. The publication and stationery printer became Kowa Graphics in 1975. Frantz joined the staff of Midland Litho in 1980 as assistant to the vice president, commercial division, a company known for printing Hallmark greeting cards and state road maps. In 1985, Frantz was hired by Huston Patterson as general manager, where he worked on Sangamon Greeting cards and assisted in establishing national sales territories for labels. Frantz served as vice president, sales and production, for Printing Incorporated from 1990-1995, worked as vice president of sales and marketing for Midland Litho from 1995-2000, and rejoined Huston Patterson in 2000 in his current position of COO. In 2007, his duties as COO were expanded to Sigma Graphics. In November of 2008, Frantz was inducted into Label Printing Industries of America (LPIA) Hall of Fame. During his successful printing career, Frantz has worked or supervised in every area of the field but accounting.

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Don Ellis
Vice President, Manufacturing

Don Ellis worked for the *Decatur Herald & Review* newspaper from 1971 to 1989, beginning as an apprentice in the composing room and then becoming a prepress foreman. In 1978, Ellis was promoted to ad services/commercial printing manager. While in the position, he initiated the division's first work from hot metal to photo composition, and began the commercial printing division. Ellis performed efficiency studies for the division that led to a streamline in operations. In 1989, Ellis joined Huston Patterson in the customer service area and quickly moved into the position of plant manager before later being named vice president of manufacturing, his current position. At Huston Patterson, Ellis has led computer-to-plate technology and remains active in directing all prepress and pressroom activities. Today, he is responsible for the entire plant and facility. Ellis has attended numerous print and technical training courses and holds an associate's degree in business management. He has also participated in quality management and ISO training to help keep Huston Patterson on the cutting edge.



Jennifer Taylor
General Manager, Sigma Graphics, Inc.

Jennifer Taylor began work at Sigma Graphics more than 35 years ago as a part-time typesetter when the company was based in Streator, Ill. In 1972, Taylor was hired full time as a typesetter and also began to work as the general ledger bookkeeper and office manager. The company moved to Ottawa, Ill. Taylor continued to serve as the company's sole typesetter until 1987. After Sigma became part of the Huston Patterson family in the 1980s, Taylor assumed responsibility for sales and customer service in northern Illinois. Taylor was named general manager in the late 1980s. Since 2003, Taylor has been dedicated to all of the managerial tasks of running the company.



Tonya Kowa-Morelli
Vice President of Sales and Marketing

Kowa-Morelli graduated in 2002 with a B.S. degree in Communications from the University of Illinois at Chicago. From 2002-2003, she was a sales associate for AFLAC, where she moved into management as a District Sales Coordinator in the summer 2003. April of 2004, Tonya Kowa-Morelli joined Huston Patterson as the Client Services Manager for Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas. In the fall of 2007, Kowa-Morelli was named Sigma Graphics Director of Sales, Special Products Division. In the spring of 2008, she was promoted to Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Through her knowledge and incentives, she continually leads both companies' teams to reach new goals and successes through all internal and external programs and activities. Additionally, she is an active member of the Huston Patterson's Task Force and HPx Team. Kowa-Morelli sits on the board of the Association of Independent Corrugated Converters Sustainability Committee and has been recognized as "one of the top women in printing" by Printing Impressions.