

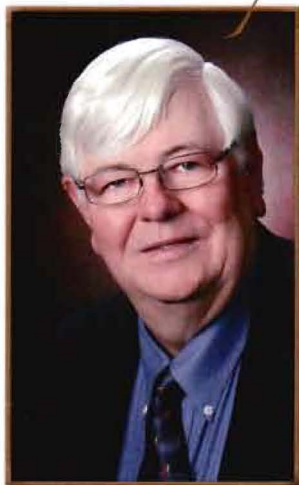
## DECORATIVE AND INDUSTRIAL LAMINATES

# Hall of Fame

### INDUCTS FOUR FOR 2010

The Decorative and Industrial Laminate Hall of Fame was established in 2004 to recognize leadership and service activities that have significantly and demonstrably contributed to the advancement of the laminate industry. TCM-Americas is honored to induct four influential individuals in 2010 at the Decorative Surface Conference in Montreal, October 26 through 28.

### Will Splittgerber



During 29 years of service at Wilsonart, Will Splittgerber traveled the world and helped Wilsonart expand from Texas to North Carolina and then internationally. Splittgerber's dedication to preserving the same high quality standards in all venues of Wilsonart's worldwide production makes him a leader in his field. His career at Wilsonart began with summer employment there in 1978. The following year, the company hired him as a quality control analyst in the computer processing control systems department,

and he later moved into testing and lab management. Between 1989 and 2007, he held positions as Director of Quality Assurance and Director of Product Quality.

Splittgerber's many professional highlights include acting as Technical Director of the North American Laminate Flooring Association (NALFA), for which he published the first standards. He was also a U.S. representative of the laminate industry for the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and a chairman for the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA).

Since his retirement January 1, 2008, Splittgerber has traded world travel and the challenges of quality assurance and technical agreements for the opportunity to tend a corn and wheat farm that his family founded 1883 and has been in continuous operation since 1891. Working alongside his family near Temple, Texas, he's converting some of that farmland to native grasslands. 🌿

### Ramon Guivernau



Commendable for 33 years of distinguished service with Coveright, Ramon Guivernau's career journeyed from the original Th.Goldschmidt to Coveright. His career is marked with consistent success and opportunity for cultural exploration.

In 1973, he worked for 11 months at the Th.Goldschmidt headquarters in Essen, Germany, before moving back to his native Spain to start a new branch in Mollet/Barcelona. A successful start there drove the then-owner, Casco Nobel, to send Guivernau and his family to Canada

to establish a North American presence. Guivernau became President of the North American Division. Eight years after founding the Coburg/Toronto business, the company was ready to purchase a U.S. company in Blythewood, S.C.

Th.Goldschmidt was a leading developer of aminoplastic resin bases for low-pressure laminates. The American division was able to go beyond these products and developed new applications and new chemistry to improve these materials and others. When Guivernau retired in 2006, Coveright was the largest company in the world for surfacing materials with nine companies in nine different countries worldwide. 🌿

## Leland Owens



Leland (Lee) Owens spent 23 years in the decorative paper industry and is well-recognized for influential leadership. In 1968, Owens earned a Bachelor of Science Degree with an International Marketing major and understudies at the School of Forestry from the Business School at Syracuse University, where he was president of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and a member of the hockey team.

Professionally, Owens gained management, sales and marketing experience with Mobil Oil Corporation, Columbia Pictures and Strathmore

Paper Company in the '70s and '80s. He joined Arjomarie (now Arjo Wiggins) of Paris, France, as Sales Manager for North America in Decorative Laminate Papers in 1988. From 1995 until 2000, Owens was Vice President of Sales for North America in Decorative Laminate Papers at PWA Dekor (now Munksjo Paper Company).

He was Chairman of the TAPPI European Plastic Laminate Forum in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1995. This marked the first TAPPI Symposium in Europe for this division of the paper industry. Two years later he chaired the first TAPPI Asian International Laminate Symposium in Hong Kong, China.

As Sales Manager for Printed Designs for Suddekor, GmbH for seven years and Sales Manager for Munksjo Paper Inc. for two years, Owens cultivated professional relationships with an international clientele but resided in the Eastern U.S. throughout his career. He retired in 2009 and enjoys deep sea fishing, walks on the Atlantic beaches and involvement on the Board of Bel Air, a division of Lauderdale By The Sea, Fla. He continues to consult as a facilitator to many international industries and global contacts. 

*"Getting to know and work with all the people in this industry through the many years has been greatly rewarding. It's all about the journey."*

LELAND OWENS

## Surinder S. Khurana



Surinder S. Khurana (d. July 26, 2004) is remembered as a pioneer of the laminate flooring industry. Khurana was engaged in the wood-based panel and lamination industry since the 1960s, when he developed a dense particleboard that enable direct lamination. From 1970 to 1990, he was in technical management for Wirus (now Pflleiderer), where he met his wife, Helga. In the Wirus Lamination Division, he took one of the first short-cycle presses into production.

Khurana contributed much to the development and continuous improvement of low-pressure (direct) lamination, which became the most-applied process in Europe. Together with Vits in the 1980s, he worked on enhancement of the two-bath saturation by use of gravure roll in the intermediate impregnation equipment leading to higher quality and cost-saving advantages. He earned the Wirus Award in 1984 for development of a new impregnation process. During Khurana's 19 years with Wirus, his knowledge of particleboard, saturation, resin and lamination led to important advancements and later to technology transfer to Asia and Australia.

Throughout the 1990s, Khurana worked from his office in Gutersloh, Germany, as Director of European Sales and later Director of International sales for Mead Specialty Paper, USA. During the early years, he made more and more companies enthusiastic about laminate flooring. Khurana worked closely with colleagues at Mead Specialty and customers on continuous developments and performance enhancements of wear resistant overlays, leading to increased popularity of laminate flooring. In 1993 Khurana received the Mead Award for Tenacity of Purpose and Persistence in Performance. He shared his expertise via several symposia presentations in the mid-'90s and active EPLF involvement.

Credited with helping MeadWestvaco develop high abrasion-resistant overlays for use in direct lamination of laminate floors, Khurana left his position as Senior Director of Strategic Business Development there in 2002 to focus on consulting in impregnation and laminating within the laminate flooring industry. 