Deco '19 Speaker Bios

Steve Agler
A past-president of SGCD, Steve is a graduate of Indiana University with majors in biology and chemistry. He served as North American President of Kammann Machines for eleven years and presently works as a sales and marketing consulting for OMSO North America and Inkcups. Steve served on the SGD and SGCD Board of Directors and was President of the organization in 1985. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the International Recording Manufacturers Association.

Todd Barson, Ferro Corporation
Based in Cleveland, Ohio, Todd currently serves as Product Manager for Dinnerware Systems, Industrial Specialties, and Laser Marking Products. He presently handles sales and technical service responsibilities for ceramic frits, glazes, colors, laser marking, and ceramic decorating products. Todd has a Bachelor of Science in Ceramic Engineering from The Ohio State University, and a Master's in Quality Management from the University of Akron. He serves on the Board of Directors for Solutions at Work, Inc., a non-profit partner of Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Todd currently serves as Secretary for the SGCDpro Board of Directors and is a member of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA), and the Glass Art Society. Todd previously served on the Board of Directors of the Ceramic Manufacturer’s Association, and as chairman of the Canton-Alliance Section of the American Ceramic Society.

Carol Brophy, Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Carol is a seasoned litigator representing clients in environmental law, administrative law, and state and federal litigation. She represents a wide range of companies in matters involving federal and California laws including Proposition 65. Her background as both an engineer and an environmental assessor enables her to apply these skills to not only the legal aspects of compliance, but the scientific and technical aspects as well. She has extensive experience developing cost-effective compliance solutions for manufacturers and chemical processors, working both with clients’ in-house technical staff and consulting scientists. Carol also assists multinational companies in meeting the complex product importation, labeling, and formulation requirements imposed by US and international law. She assists clients in negotiating permit limits and defending compliance orders. Carol has been speaking at Deco meetings for more than a decade, keeping attendees abreast of ever-changing Proposition 65 compliance mandates.

Dr. Berhhard Fritsche, Heidelberg
Dr. Bernhard Fritsche holds a Masters’ degree in Material Science from the University of Stuttgart, and a Doctorate from ETH Zurich in Material Science. In 2001, he also earned a Master’s in Industrial Management. Dr. Fritsche has worked in various industries in the past 20 years, serving in varying positions. He joined Gallus in 2017 in the role of General Manager Screening. Dr. Fritsche speaks fluent German and English and holds German and Swiss citizenship.

Bob Keller, Marabu North America
Bob has been involved in the printing industry for nearly 20 years. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, he started his career as a nuclear submarine officer serving on the USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN-635) and the USS Sam Rayburn (MTS-635) over the course of 8 years. He began his civilian career with Sawgrass Technologies, spending 11 years in various technical and operational roles, departing in 2009 as a Divisional Vice President. He left the industry for two years to take on a new challenge leading a startup in Albuquerque, NM focused on high performance thermal insulation. He returned to the industry and the location he now considers home to lead Marabu North America, LP in Charleston, SC – a wholly owned subsidiary of Marabu GmbH, a 160-year-old, family owned, German manufacturer of industrial inks and coatings.

Bob has been the General Manager for the last 8 years. Bob holds a In addition to his bachelor’s degree, Bob holds a Masters degree in Nuclear Engineering, and an MBA.

Julian Joffe, Engineered Printing Solutions
Born and educated in South Africa Julian is the founder and Co- President of Engineered Printing Solutions. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of the Witwatersrand and has a strong knowledge of Printing Technologies. He initiated the conversion to InkJet Printing at EPS some 11 years ago leading the company to a successful growth path. Julian has logged more than 2500 hours as an aviator.
Deco ’19 Speaker Bios Continued

Sean Lanigan, Applied Surface Technologies

Sean Lanigan is the founder and president of Applied Surface Technologies; a company specializing in technologies and processes used to improve traits and qualities on substrates such as metals, plastics, glass and ceramics. Sean has more than 20 years of experience with coatings and processes in the automotive, solar, architectural, manufacturing as well as glass and ceramic decorating fields. Applied Surface Technologies is the exclusive N. American distributor of Pyrosil.

Steve Presutto

Steve Presutto is Technical Sales Manager with Peter-Lacke, US, and is responsible for sales and support of waterborne coatings into the glass industry throughout the US and Canada. He has 38 years of experience in the printing and coatings industry. Prior to joining Peter-Lacke four years ago, he held a variety of roles including Chief Colorist, Technical Manager and Product Manager with Coates Screen and Sun Chemical. Steve has an Associates Degree in Chemistry from Bergen Community College in New Jersey and has published several articles on glass decorating in a variety of industry publications. Steve served on the SGCDpro Board of Directors from 2003 through 2012 and was President in 2010. He has been an active member of the organization since 1999.

Dr. Wesley King, Fusion Ceramics

Dr. King received his B.S. in Ceramic Engineering from The Ohio State University, and his PhD in Glass Science from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. Wes has experience in research and development, manufacturing, and business development. His previous assignments include corporate titans such as GE, Saint-Gobain and Dal-Tile, as well as smaller firms and start-ups. He currently serves as VP of Sales and Marketing for Fusion Ceramics, whom he joined in 2012.

Melanie Schubert, TUV Rheinland

A member of SGCDpro, Melanie is a board approved food chemist, having received her Master’s degree from a leading German University. She has been responsible for food contact services at the TUV Rheinland Shanghai laboratory for five years. In 2015, Melanie joined the North America Retail Team as a Regulatory and Compliance Manager for food surface contact articles, and other chemical services.

Sean Weir, Schilling Inc., Inks & Coatings Division

Sean Weir is the Managing Director of the newly formed Inks and Coatings Division of Schilling Graphics. Sean joined Schilling in August of 2018 bringing with him over 25 years of glass and ceramic decorating experience. Formerly with ESL Electroscience and Ferro Corporation, he has held positions in Sales, Product Management, Research and Development, and Technical Service. Sean has also held roles at PPG Industries, The Gordon Bartels Company and Watson Standard Paints and Coatings. Sean holds a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh and is a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Ceramic Society, the Federation of Societies for Coatings Technologies, and the International Microelectronics and Packaging Society.

Robert Zollweg, Keynote Speaker

Born in Toledo, Ohio, Robert graduated from the University of Toledo with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design and Painting. A Vietnam Veteran, Robert began his career in the glass industry with Owens-Illinois in 1970 and joined Libbey in 1978 working as a packaging designer, art department manager, product designer, creative director, and finally Global Design & Creative Director.

Robert has traveled the world on behalf of the industry, attending national and international trade shows, and visiting glass and ceramic manufacturing factories all over the world for product development and inspiration. He has worked with the product development teams of every major retailer in North America, including Crate & Barrel, Pier One Imports, Macy’s, Kohl’s, Williams-Sonoma, Pottery Barn, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Target, Walmart, The Kroger Company, and Bath and Body Works.

Highlights of his career include working with Freda Diamond, whom he credits for his inspiration, two weeks working with the Extreme Home Makeover for ABC television, developing the Just Desserts & Tastings Collection, and writing 18 cookbooks and entertainment books. Robert was the 2007 recipient of the Society’s Frank S. Child Award.

SGCDpro Directory Updates

Stop by the SGCDpro booth to update your SGCDpro company and individual listings for the 2019-20 directory to be published in June. SGCDpro staff will show you how to update your listings online.

While you’re there, reserve your booth for Deco ’20 in Cleveland, OH.

Call for Speakers for Deco ’20

Companies and individuals interested in presenting at Deco ’20 in Cleveland may contact the society by phone: 740-588-9882, by email: info@sgcd.org, or by mail: SGCDpro, PO Box 2489 Zanesville, OH 43702.