



Harriet Dutka

Harriet's entry into the steel industry was not by any grand plan or heritage. She was not the daughter or granddaughter of a steelmaker. In fact, it was just a job posting in the Student Resource Office at the University of Regina that started her journey. In fact, she was totally unaware that a steel plant even existed in the province where she had lived and had grown up.

Harriet has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan and is recognized as a Professional Engineer, (P.Eng.). Upon graduation she joined IPSCO Inc. as one of the inaugural members of the Management Training Program.

The program consisted of a two-year rotation through the major business areas of the company. Upon completion of the rotation Harriet began her initial assignment in the Melt Shop as the 4th Shift Manager for the new Continuous Caster. This was just the first of many experiences in steel plant operations. Assignments continued throughout the facility broadening her technical knowledge. Harriet initially thought her stay in the steel industry would be a short one. It was a recession and she thought in five years she would move on to her real job. Year one, year two ... and she suddenly realized that the steel industry had become her career of choice. During her time at IPSCO Harriet also received an MBA in International Business from The University of Pittsburgh. In 1994 Harriet transitioned into a new role, Director of Human Resources, and a new location, Montpelier, IA for the new greenfield steel mill project.

Although the new assignment in the USA for IPSCO Inc. was exciting and rewarding Harriet wanted to return to operations. After 10 years with IPSCO she went to work as a Shift Manager for a melt shop start-up at Gallatin Steel Ghent, KY. The challenges of new technology, DC-EAF and thin-strip continuous caster were fascinating. Harriet ended her time at Gallatin as the Melt Shop Manager, and team member of a dynamic and resourceful team that broke the 1-million-tons-per-year barrier for the first time.

The Timken Co.'s melt shops became the next stop on her steel mill journey. What started as a position managing the Harrison melt shop quickly grew to include the Faircrest melt shop and then as Plant Manager of the Faircrest steel plant. Harriet's time at Timken Allowed her to refine and improve not only her technical but her business skill set. Harriet's time at Timken instilled the strong sense of a company's role with respect to community responsibility and service. She was encouraged to and became a member of the 13th Class of Leadership Stark County. That participation has continued to influence Harriet's attitudes regarding the impact and responsibilities of companies in the communities that they are part of.

The lure of warmer weather and new challenges resulted in time with Commercial Metals Company in Cayce, SC. Although her stay at Cayce was only for a short time, it was perhaps one of the most rewarding and rejuvenating times in Harriet's career. The plant culture and the people were what she needed to recharge and recover from a battle with cancer. The Cayce Team reignited in her the passion for the process and the people who worked in it.

Quickly though announcement of a new greenfield project in Calvert, AL for ThyssenKrupp USA beckoned. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: to be part of a project from the ground up and to build a team. Harriet left South Carolina and began a new challenge as the Scrap/EAF Team Manager for ThyssenKrupp Stainless USA. ThyssenKrupp Stainless was acquired by Outokumpu when Harriet decided to venture back to Ohio and take a position as the Site Manager for Charter Steel.

After nearly 30 years on the producing side of the steel industry, it was once again time for a change. That began Harriet's transition to the supply side of the steel industry. Her time with Magnesita and SANGRAF in technical assistance has given her the opportunity to see her plant but plants all around the world. It has created not just a local but a global perspective on steelmaking. It is really the best of both worlds.

Harriet has been a member of The Association for Iron and Steel Technology (AIST) and its predecessor organization for over 25 years. She has served on the Electric Arc Furnace committee. She has participated in AIST's Modern Electric Furnace Training seminar for 20 years and in recent years also participated in the Ladle Refractory and Secondary Steelmaking Training seminar. In 2017, her peers recognized her contributions to the electric arc furnace steelmaking community with the AIST's John Bell Award. 2019 saw her recognized by the AIST as a Distinguished Member and Fellow.

Harriet's over 30-year career in the steel industry is best summed up by a quote from Emerson: "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."