



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Marvin Selig

Charter Member

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1947

CEO

Commercial Metals Steel Group, Dallas, Texas

An industrialist, philanthropist and visionary who changed an entire industry, Marvin Selig was in the vanguard of steelmakers who displaced integrated steel mills beginning in the mid 20th century and is recognized within his industry as one of its transformative leaders.

Selig, an innovative steelmaker and entrepreneurial engineer, built a new steel plant on the banks of the Guadalupe River near Seguin with a \$2,000 loan after graduating from The University of Texas, College of Engineering in 1947. That year, he founded Structural Metals Inc. and began recycling railroad scrap metals into rebar. The plant poured and rolled the reinforcing steel for new roads and highways, supporting the postwar building boom. The site near the Guadalupe River has been in continuous operation ever since as a “mini-mill,” a smelter of scrap steel that for decades was this county’s largest employer. The company started out turning worn-out railroad track into steel reinforcing rod for concrete construction, with the first steel rolling off its line in 1949. Profitable from day one and in every year since, the plant today produces more than 750,000 tons of steel per year

and is a leading supplier to the construction and manufacturing industries. The company merged with Dallas-based Commercial Metals Corporation in 1963 and Selig became CEO of Commercial Metals Steel Group, which eventually grew to include 100 affiliate companies. He held various board positions until well after his 2002 retirement. As an entrepreneurial engineer, Selig was a pioneer of the modern-day mini-steel mill concept, which brought increased efficiency, productivity and profitability to that industry worldwide.

Selig is a former president of The Jewish Institute of National Security Affairs in Washington, D.C., was a commissioner of the Lower Colorado River Authority, and served as an economic and industrial advisor to governments in countries in Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the United Kingdom.

He established the Marvin Selig Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering in 1997 and the Marvin and Ellie Selig Excellence Fund for Entrepreneurial Studies in the Cockrell School of Engineering in 2003.