

President's Report

Greetings everyone! With the end of the year approaching, it seems like a good time to recap some highlights from the past year, and to look forward to some interesting initiatives in the new one.

Introducing the CIRPA Board for 2017-18

CIRPA elections were held in the spring to select the new Board – and as usual, there are several newcomers, a few returnees, while some members are taking on new roles. I will be carrying on for my second and final term as President, while Dr. Stephanie McKeown of UBC Okanagan moves from Treasurer to Vice-President. Carmelinda Del Conte of Mohawk College is transitioning from Member-at-Large to Treasurer, while David Paul (Portage College) continues on as Board Secretary. The Member-at-Large positions are filled by Randy Roller (University of Manitoba), Garry Hansen (St. Thomas University), as well as newcomers Victoria Diaz (DPM Research) and Dawn Macdonald (Yukon College).

We'd like to extend special thanks to Miranda Pearson (University of Regina) who finished a 5 year term on the board, first as Secretary and later as interim VP. We'd also like to thank Charlotte Alexander who spent one term on the Board, and led Communications over the past 2 years.

CIRPA Toronto 2017

CIRPA Toronto was a fantastic success, featuring over 40 presentations and more than 250 delegates. Many thanks to the lead organizers from Seneca College, including Henry Decock, Pina Marinelli-Henriques, and Matthew Duncan – as well as all the other contributors on their planning committees. A job well done!

Conference highlights included the opening reception at the Hockey Hall of Fame, a full slate of workshops on diverse topics such as design thinking and R programming, and many great presentations. We welcomed some new friends from AIR – Dr. Christine Keller (CEO) and Dr. Gina Johnson (who is from Minnesota, which is almost like being Canadian) – to help connect the Canadian IR world with that of our southern neighbours.

Our post-conference survey showed that 95% of attendees were satisfied with the conference, and 97% would recommend it to their colleagues.

Best Presentation – Morgan Blair of Medicine Hat College

This year's Best Presentation went to Morgan Blair for her presentation "The Death of Hunch-Based Decision-Making in Higher Ed". The selection was based on the session evaluation survey and a review by the Best Presentation Committee. Morgan has been invited to attend the AIR Forum in Orlando, Florida in 2018, where she will present her session as the CIRPA Best Presentation for 2017. The award carries with it an AIR Travel subsidy cost-shared with CIRPA to the tune of \$2,000 USD. For those who missed it, Morgan's presentation will also be shared via a CIRPA webinar in the new year.

We'd like to thank all those who presented at the past conference, and would encourage those who are planning to present at next year's conference to check out past presentations via our Members portal in January.

Outstanding Service Award – Brian Christie – University of Regina

At CIRPA Toronto 2017, we also had the opportunity to recognize Brian Christie (University of Regina) for the Outstanding Service Award. Brian is one of the founders of CIRPA, who has been part of the Association from Day 1. He personifies dedication to the association, through his commitment as an organizer, presenter, and mentor to his team and other IR professionals. Thank you Brian, for spending the past 25+ years building and supporting CIRPA.

CIRPA 2018 - Calgary

We are excited to announce that the 2018 CIRPA Conference will be held in Calgary, October 21 - 23rd, at the Sheraton Suites Calgary Eau Claire, an AAA Four Diamond hotel located just steps from the Bow River and the city's best dining, shopping and local attractions. Our conference planning teams will be led by Evan Cortens (Mount Royal University) and Laurie Beatt (SAIT). Special thanks to Jodi Magee (University of Calgary) for helping with the early conference planning. Further information can be found on the [CIRPA website](#). The Call for Presentations will be launched early in the new year, so begin thinking about what you'd like to share.

Strategic Plan – What Lies Ahead for 2018

In the New Year, CIRPA is going to begin promoting a Limited Membership, which was approved at the recent AGM. The Limited Membership which will enable those working in IR to become a member without paying a fee, albeit with some restrictions on benefits. Ideally, we'd like to have all IR professionals participate in CIRPA as either Regular or Limited members, so we can truly be inclusive and representative of all IR professionals. The Membership drive will kick off in the new year – so please encourage others from your office to become a full or limited member and stay tuned for further details. Go to <https://cirpa.member365.com/> to become a new member or to renew your membership!

CIRPA will also be providing more year round professional development activities. Building on our successful webinar series from the past year, we will look to feature 3 to 4 new presentations this upcoming year. We will also launch a new “members-only” discussion board feature on our CIRPA website – which will enable members to post and comment their thoughts, questions, and research. These forums will also enable members to share and retrieve files from a document library. The Discussion Boards will soon replace the current listserv process.

You can see the full CIRPA Strategic Plan [here](#).

This and that

As you can see, there's a lot planned for the upcoming year. For those who wish to become more involved, please reach out to myself or another Board member to let us know your interest. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Mike Krywy

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CIRPA President Mike Krywy and Outstanding Service Award recipient Brian Christie