

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy New Year! Now that we have turned the calendar on a new year, it seems like a good time to review some highlights from the past year, and to look forward to some interesting initiatives in the coming year.

### **Introducing the CIRPA Board for 2018-19**

CIRPA elections were held in the spring to select the new Board, resulting in a slight change in membership. The Board welcomed Yuqin Gong from the University of Prince Edward Island as Member-At-Large. Yuqin has actively supported many CIRPA conferences in the past as either a program chair or volunteer. Having an understanding of and an appreciation for the challenges of working in a small IR office, she brings to the board an awareness of the benefits and the opportunities that come from collaborating with strong networks of peers from across the country.

Among the changes to the Board, we also say goodbye to Garry Hansen of St. Thomas University, who completed two terms as Member-At-Large. Garry was instrumental in developing the current [Strategic Plan](#), co-leading the Membership sub-committee, and hosting the newcomer workshop at the conference. Prior to joining the Board, Garry was also very active in helping organize several conferences, including the Fredericton Conference (2011) where he served as co-chair. His humour and sage advice will be missed.

This year, I will be finishing up my second and final term as President, while Stephanie McKeown of UBC will be finishing her first term as Vice-President. Carmelinda Del Conte of Mohawk College is also completing her first term as Treasurer. David Paul (Portage College) was re-elected in the spring and begins his second term as Board Secretary. Randy Roller (University of Manitoba), Victoria Díaz (DPM Research) and Dawn Macdonald (Yukon College) fill the remaining Member-at-Large positions.

For those looking to become involved with CIRPA, the upcoming election will have six positions available, including three Member-At-Large positions, as well as three positions on the Executive (Treasurer, Vice-President, and President). Speaking from personal experience, serving on the Board provides an excellent professional development opportunity and I would encourage those interested to reach out to any current or past Board members to learn more.

### **CIRPA Calgary 2018**

The Calgary conference ("Tuning into Data") was a fantastic success, featuring more than 35 presentations and over 200 delegates. Many thanks to the conference co-chairs Laurie Beatt (SAIT) and Erin Lassiter (Mount Royal University), as well as all other contributors on their planning committees. Your efforts produced a job well done! Laurie and Erin both stepped in on short notice and put together a strong program that was a great experience for all in attendance. Our post-conference survey showed that 91% of attendees were satisfied with the conference and 98% would recommend it to their colleagues. This is excellent feedback that reflects the hard work of these planning committees.

Conference highlights should certainly include the full slate of workshops on diverse topics such as "Design Thinking" and "R Programming," the opening reception at the National Music Centre

(Studio Bell), and a variety of outstanding presentations. Our keynote speakers this year were musical therapist Jennifer Buchanan with “A Music Therapy Approach to Life” and marketing strategist Jonathon Love with “The Art of Failure (Practice Makes Progress).” Both shared illuminating perspectives and life lessons that resonated with many in attendance. We also welcomed back Gina Johnson (Assistant Executive Director for Partnerships and Membership) from [AIR](#) to continue growing our affiliation with their association. At the social event, Comedian Brian Stollery amused us all with his lingering technical/philosophical question: *What is a student? (And why are they so hard to count?)* which remains a resonating theme.

### **Best Presentation – Stephen Childs of York University**

This year’s award for Best Presentation went to Stephen Childs for “Fine Tuning Your Survey Dashboards for Maximum Impact.” We based this selection on the session evaluation survey and a review by the Best Presentation Committee. Stephen will present his work as CIRPA’s Best Presentation at the AIR Forum in Denver, Colorado this year. The award carries with it an AIR Travel subsidy cost-shared with CIRPA worth \$2,000 USD. For those who missed it, Stephen’s presentation will also be shared at an upcoming CIRPA webinar.

We would like to thank all those who presented at our 2018 conference and would encourage those who are planning to present at next year’s conference to check out past presentations on our Members portal.

### **Outstanding Service Award – Peter Seto – (Retired - Mount Royal University)**

At CIRPA Calgary we took the opportunity to recognize Peter Seto (Mount Royal University) for the Outstanding Service Award. Peter has helped build CIRPA, having been part of the Association since its early days. He served on the Board as Member-At-Large and Vice-President and has also co-chaired the Banff Conference (2009). He personifies dedication to the association through his commitment as an organizer, presenter, and mentor both to his team and other IR professionals.



*CIRPA President Mike Krywy and Outstanding Service Award recipient Peter Seto*

Thank you, Peter, for spending the past 20+ years building and supporting CIRPA, and for serving as a personal mentor to myself.

## **CIRPA 2019 - Montréal**

We are excited to announce that the 2019 CIRPA Conference will be making a return visit to Montréal, October 20th – 22nd at the Hotel Omni Mont-Royal. This was also the location of a very successful conference in 2012, centrally located on Rue Sherbrooke in the heart of the city's *Golden Square Mile* at the foot of Mount Royal. The hotel is also very close to a great late night [Shawarma venue](#), in case you were looking for an additional incentive to attend.

Our conference planning teams will be led by Cameron Tilson (Concordia University) and Neil Chakraborty (University of Toronto). Further information can be found on the [CIRPA website](#). The Call for Presentations will be launched within the next few months, so now is the time to begin thinking about what you would like to share.

## **Strategic Plan – What Lies Ahead for 2019**

In the New Year, CIRPA will continue to focus on achieving its Mission and Vision set out in the [Strategic Plan](#):

**Mission Statement:** CIRPA-ACPRI supports the professional development of its members through networking and knowledge-sharing to facilitate informed decision-making in Canadian postsecondary education.

**Vision Statement:** CIRPA-ACPRI will be a collegial community of institutional research and planning professionals.

The first strategic priority focuses on membership, as the Board continues to encourage all Canadian IR professionals to become members of the Association. Last year CIRPA launched a Limited Membership tier that enables those working in IR to become a member without paying a fee, though with some benefit restrictions. 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 Regular or Limited member](#).

The second strategic priority focuses on professional development through webinars and discussion forums. Hopefully you were able to catch the presentations by Dr. Tony Bates and/or Éric Martel on the National Survey of Online and Digital Learning Study where they walked us through an ambitious and interesting overview of their teams' pan-Canadian research. Past-presentations will soon be made available for those who missed them or wish to view them again.

The new member portal is the place to participate in "members-only" discussion boards where all members have the ability to post and respond to open discussion threads. We also have the capacity to create open/closed groups for regional groups or other special interest communities. This process replaces the Member Listserv and serves as the main method for communicating with members.

Finally, we also refreshed the [CIRPA website](#) this past year moving it onto a WordPress platform and making the look and feel more modern and accessible. This follows the introduction of a Members Portal the previous year where many of the functions of the previous website have now been integrated and enhanced. Many thanks to Member-At-Large Randy Roller who has led these changes despite being insanely busy leading his team at the University of Manitoba. Also a tip of the cap to former Board Member Luc Simon who laid the foundation for the modernized website while serving as the previous webmaster.

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.

Wishing all of you a fantastic year in 2019!

**Mike Krywy**

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**CIRPA ACPRI**

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