

# IFMA Foundation: Board of Trustee Insights

Author: Dean Stanberry  
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As a new member of the IFMA Foundation Board of Trustees, I recently had the opportunity to attend the annual trustee strategic planning meeting hosted by Milliken at their Spartanburg, NC campus. I wanted to take this opportunity to share some insights into the functioning of the Foundation and what it means to be a trustee.

## **Foundation Background**

The [IFMA Foundation](#) was established in 1990 as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation, the IFMA Foundation is supported by the generosity of a community of individuals—IFMA Members, chapters, councils, corporate sponsors and private contributors—and is proud to be an instrument of information and opportunities for the profession and its representatives. A separate entity from IFMA, the IFMA Foundation receives no funding from annual membership dues to carry out its mission. Supported by the generosity of the FM community, IFMA Foundation provides education, research and scholarships for the benefit of FM professionals and students. Foundation contributors share the belief that education and research improve the FM profession.

Now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, the Foundation is guided by a fifteen member board of trustees. There are two paid staff members;

- An Executive Director; currently held by William Rub and co-located with the IFMA staff in Houston, TX.
- A Director of Academic Affairs; currently held by Charlie Claar. Charlie has a long-time association with IFMA, but is retiring later this year. A replacement job opportunity for Charlie is currently open.
- Also participating as a member of the board is IFMA CEO Tony Keane.

As a non-profit, the Foundation has achieved a best-in-class operating expense ratio; with 80% of its annual budget supporting programs and 20% for administration.

Beginning with the 2010-2011 trustee term year, the Foundation has become truly international. For the first time, the Chairperson for the Board of Trustees does not reside in North America. The new Chairperson is Stephen Ballesty, Head of Advisory for Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB), is based out of Sydney, Australia. In addition to Stephen, we have a board member based in Austria and one in Finland. If you're interested, [click here](#) to see a list of the current board of trustees. The board has even had to alter some of its terminology in deference to our international member. The annual strategic planning meeting has been called the "Spring Meeting" throughout the Foundation's history. However, since June is not spring everywhere in the world, it will now simply be called the June meeting.

## **Promoting Accredited Degree Programs (ADP)**

A few years ago, IFMA shifted responsibility for accredited degree programs to the IFMA Foundation. The accreditation program initiative was designed to recognize and encourage the strengthening of current, valid facility management education degrees and to assist in the development of new facility management degree programs. In the 2009-2010 program year, a total of 18 new ADP's were added; 11 in North America, 5 in Europe, and 2 in S.E. Asia. In addition, the Foundation published the first [North American Facility Management Degree Program Guide](#). Planning is underway to publish an Oceania/Asia guide in 2010, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the European FM Degree Education Guide was released in 2009. Lastly, a combined North America/Asia/Europe FM Degree Guide is under review as a future objective.

## **Sustaining the Future of FM**

In addition to the promoting the accredited degree programs, the Foundation awards a number of [scholarships](#) and grants each year. In 2009, there were 27 scholarships, 4 grants, 1 International Student of the Year, and 2 ePoster award recipients for a total of \$94,430. As of the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline the Foundation had received 101 scholarship applications, with final recipients to be notified prior to World Workplace 2010.

These awards are made possible by donations from endowments and donations funded by individuals, corporations, IFMA chapters, and IFMA councils. Scholarships are available annually to graduate and undergraduate students pursuing degrees in facility management or related fields. In addition to the scholarship, sponsors provide recipients the means to attend World Workplace where they can take advantage of the opportunity to network with others in the FM community.

## **Research and Knowledge Tools**

The Foundation also supports existing FM practitioners with a series of research publications and initiatives. Following are a few of the publications made available by the Foundation;

- The Economics of Sustainability in Commercial Real Estate
- Cut It Out!
- FM Technology Update
- The Business of Green Cleaning
- Violence in the Workplace—The Role of the Facility Manager
- Pandemic Preparedness Manual

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- Deliver the Green
- Wireless Systems in the Facility
- Addressing the Threat of Terrorism: Guidelines for Prevention and Response funded by the IFMA Foundation
- Universal Design in the Workplace: Perceptions of Accessibility and Accommodation funded by the IFMA Foundation
- Speech Privacy in Clinical Settings funded by the IFMA Foundation

These items, and more, are available either for download on the [Foundation web site](#), or for purchase through the [IFMA Bookstore](#). Be sure to check out the [Sustainability Series How-To Guides](#), also available for free download.

Also available is [The International Journal of Facility Management](#) An open source, Internet—accessible journal devoted to the science, technology and practice of facility management. It is designed for both academics and professionals, and derives its audience from universities, researchers, practitioners and allied professional organizations throughout the world.

And last, but not least, is [FMpedia](#)©. This free facility management glossary is, to a large extent, modeled on Wikipedia ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)). FMpedia© is a dynamic, real time, open, Internet-based glossary where contributors are welcome to add new FM terms and definitions, and comment on existing ones. It is meant to be as broad and international as possible. The glossary is non-commercial, supported by the IFMA Foundation, and contains no product endorsements or paid sponsors. We hope you find this resource of value and encourage you to participate in its growth.

One of my trustee assignments will be to serve on the Knowledge Management committee.

## **Funding the Foundation**

As a non-profit entity, the Foundation is funded strictly by donations, sponsorships, (educational) endowments, and fundraising events. Following are a few of the funding sources;

- **Member's Choice:** IFMA members have the option of contributing to the foundation when they join IFMA or process their annual membership renewal. The suggested donation amount is \$15 on the membership application/renewal form. Currently there is approximately a 32% participation rate for member supported donations. Please consider supporting the Foundation with your next membership renewal opportunity.

- **Sponsorships:** IFMA Chapters, Councils and corporations support the Foundation through annual contributions. These can either be restricted or unrestricted funds. Restricted funds would be amounts targeted for a specific purpose, such as a scholarship, grant, or research project. [Contributions may also be made directly to the Foundation through the web site.](#)
- **Endowments:** Over the years the Foundation has accumulated a number of endowments from IFMA Chapters and corporations. These endowments are intended to fund ongoing scholarship opportunities. The endowments are invested with the expectation of a return to fund annual scholarship opportunities. Unfortunately, the recent recession has impacted the endowment portfolio return on investment.
- **Fundraising:** The Foundation engages in annual fundraising events to round out the sources of income. For those fortunate enough to attend IFMA's World Workplace, you may have participated in the Foundation's Gala event, held the night prior to the opening of World Workplace. This is a festive function including food, entertainment, and silent auction with all proceeds benefiting the Foundation's work. There is the annual Utilities Council Golf Tournament, also coinciding with World Workplace. If you plan to attend World Workplace in Atlanta this year, please consider supporting the Foundation by attending the Gala. Tickets are available as you register for the conference or available at conference check-in.

## **Making It All Work**

As a new trustee I am privileged to be working with this small team of talented and dedicated volunteers. The Foundation Board of Trustees, with some assistance from the IFMA Headquarters staff, accomplishes everything listed above. To make it happen, we have to be very focused in our monthly meetings. To keep us on track, we utilize a balanced scorecard to ensure our actions are aligned with our stated objectives.

Please visit the Foundation web site, and be sure to check that Member's Choice box at your next membership renewal opportunity. While IFMA upholds the existing FM practitioners with certification programs and on-going education, the IFMA Foundation is the custodian of the facility management profession's future.

Hopefully this has helped to become better acquainted with the IFMA Foundation and its contributions to the profession. To join and follow the IFMA Foundation's social media outlets online, visit the foundation's [LinkedIn](#),

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[Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. Further questions regarding the Foundation may be directed to Dean Stanberry ([mdstanberry@comcast.net](mailto:mdstanberry@comcast.net)) or William Rub ([william.rub@ifma.org](mailto:william.rub@ifma.org)).

See you at World Workplace...

<p><b>Dean Stanberry</b> LEED AP O+M</p> <p>Workplace Strategy &amp; Sustainable Facilities (720) 877-1521 Mobile</p> <p><a href="mailto:mdstanberry@comcast.net">mdstanberry@comcast.net</a> <a href="http://www.linkedin.com/in/deanstanberry">www.linkedin.com/in/deanstanberry</a></p>	
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