

## RIMS Honors Industry Leaders

**R**IMS announced the winners of its 2026 industry awards during RISKWORLD, honoring a group of professionals who are advancing the risk profession in areas ranging from enterprise strategy to community leadership.

The society's highest honor, the Harry and Dorothy Goodell Award, was presented to **Nowell Seaman**, recently retired special projects lead for insurance and risk management at Federated Co-operatives Limited and 2017 RIMS board president. The award recognizes individuals who have advanced the society and the profession through outstanding service and achievement.

**Jeff Bray**, senior vice president and head of global risk management at Prologis Inc., was named the 2026 Risk Manager of the Year. The award recognizes professionals who have developed and implemented impactful risk management programs within their organizations. Bray oversees the risk management strategy at Prologis, including insurance programs, claims, business resilience and other evolving strategies to address emerging risks through the use of a formal enterprise risk management framework that links risk identification and mitigation with the organization's strategic planning.

**Emily Buckley**, insurance risk manager at Specialized Bicycle Components and vice president of the RIMS Rocky Mountain Chapter, was named to the Risk Management Honor Roll. As Specialized's first dedicated risk manager, she constructed a modern, enterprise-ready risk and insurance function from the ground up, including overhauling the company's global insurance structure, aligning policies to operational exposures, and establishing a framework to surface



Clockwise from top left: Award winners Nowell Seaman, Jeff Bray, Candace Heron, Tyler Vaughan and Emily Buckley Tyler Vaughan.

cross-functional risks and prioritize mitigation strategies.

Additional individual honors highlighted contributions at different career stages and across the broader risk community. **Candace Heron**, manager of claims management at Toronto Hydro, received the Volunteer of the Year Award, which recognizes chapter-level leadership. Heron is a co-chair and co-founder of the RIMS Ontario Chapter's Rising Risk Professional Network and was lauded for her efforts to expand engagement among emerging practitioners.

**Tyler Vaughan**, global risk manager for corporate risk and insurance at Cook Group Incorporated, received the 2026 RIMS Rising Risk Professional Award. The honor recognizes up-and-coming risk management professionals under the age of 35 or with less than seven years of professional experience in the industry. Vaughan was lauded for demonstrating exceptional initiative, volunteerism, professionalism and leadership potential. ♦



# It Takes a Village



**R**ISKWORLD in Philadelphia was a huge success! More than 10,700 participants gathered at the Pennsylvania Convention Center to experience a robust education program, valuable networking opportunities and the world's largest B2B risk and insurance marketplace. More than 300 companies participated in the Marketplace, which featured a new First Look Pavilion designed to showcase first-time exhibitors. In fact, the 2026 conference was the largest in 20 years with the highest number of exhibitors ever!

It takes a village to build such a conference. I tried to give a glimpse of what goes on through a series of "Behind the Scenes" videos that you can find on [the official RIMS YouTube channel](#) as well as on the RIMS [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. In one video clip, I mentioned that it takes over 1,000 people to produce RISKWORLD. That's probably an understatement. In this article, I will take you not only behind the scenes, but behind the years to give you a better idea of how it all comes together and what it takes to produce a major citywide convention.

First, let's go back in time, about eight years. That was when RIMS booked Philadelphia for the 2026 conference. Why so far in advance? In a word, competition. May is a sought-after month for many citywide conventions, and organizations like RIMS compete for dates and space. RIMS also needs to engage with between 30 and 40 hotels to accommodate attendees. Putting all this together takes a herculean effort by many people.

Some two years before the conference, the marketing and graphics teams begin creating the branding for the event, which will be used across all the signage and exhibiting elements as well as digital and physical marketing pieces. The marketing plan is then scheduled, incorporating a growing share of paid digital advertising across social media platforms. And, of course, during the conference, the social media team will be busy sharing the excitement with the world.

Another important task is designing, building and operating the main stage for the general sessions that feature the keynote speakers—all of whom also need to be booked well in advance. The production company spends





about nine months working with RIMS staff to write scripts, create videos and design other imaging used during the general sessions. Every night during the conference, the team also puts together a [highlight reel](#) of the day's events. This year, the team even created a video saluting the 250th anniversary of the signing of the American Declaration of Independence.

The general session team also spends a great deal of time rehearsing the various speakers who will be appearing on stage to welcome everyone, present awards and conduct other RIMS business. Coming on and off stage, reading from teleprompters and being comfortable under bright lights does not come naturally to everyone so it takes a little practice. And, occasionally, something happens that requires last-minute changes, such as this year when a lift had to be brought in to get me onstage in a wheelchair thanks to a leg injury that I sustained the day before the Opening Reception. (see above)

A year before the first person sits down in an educa-



tional session, the RISKWORLD conference planning committee begins its work. They receive hundreds of proposals generated from an open call for submissions. These proposals come from all over the world and from all aspects of the risk and insurance community, focusing on topics both routine and cutting-edge. The committee must decide which ones will be presented at RISKWORLD. It is never an easy task, but choices have to be made because there are only so many rooms and only so much time.

In parallel to this work is the year-long effort of the sales team. They are responsible for filling the Marketplace and obtaining the sponsorships that make the conference possible. This involves hundreds of calls and follow-up emails, hours of discussion and collabora-



## CEO PERSPECTIVE

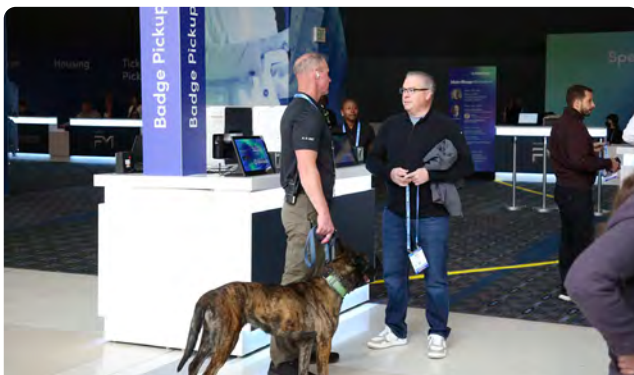


tion with 300+ partners to create a meaningful conference experience. The team also works with companies to help identify venues for their hospitality events.

Meanwhile, hundreds of laborers, vendors and contractors are hard at work, building the Marketplace and the exhibitor booths, setting up various conference spaces, and putting all the pieces of the show together. This involves electricians, carpenters, riggers, welders, Teamsters, stage hands, security guards, janitors, AV technicians, IT technicians, drivers, freight handlers, forklift operators, carpet layers, caterers, food servers, florists and temp workers, among many others.

Other conference programs and events are planned and organized months in advance, including the Chapter Leadership Forum, the Spencer-RIMS Risk Management Challenge, the Anita Benedetti Student Involvement Program, and several award presentations, including the Risk Manager of the Year, the Harry & Dorothy Goodell

Award and Risk Management Hall of Fame. The Spencer Educational Foundation also provides exceptional experiences for the more than 250 students in attendance, as well as engaging events like a pickleball social and a golf tournament. And leaders from around the world gather for





a meeting of the board of the International Federation of Risk and Insurance Management Associations.

As a convener, RIMS takes its duty of care seriously. Convention centers are designed to let people in and have many access points, from dozens of doors in the front of the building to many loading docks at the back of the building. One day the convention center is completely empty and the next, 11,000 people arrive. This presents quite a challenging risk management environment.

RIMS works hard to ensure the safety and security of all participants. This includes engaging dozens of uniformed security personnel, arranging for uniformed, armed police officers, engaging K-9 units, installing metal detection equipment, distributing urgent response devices, providing on-site medics, ensuring AED devices are working, and monitoring the cyber environment around the clock, among other responsibilities.

Let's also not forget all the finance and operations responsibilities that go with registering 11,000 participants, accounting for the income and expense, paying the bills, managing all the data, securing the insurance, providing analysis and approval of dozens of contracts, and all the other administrative tasks that go with a years-long complex organizational effort.

It is impossible to fully describe the scope and scale of RISKWORLD, but I hope this provide a glimpse of what

went on in Philadelphia and what you can expect next April at RISKWORLD 2027 in New Orleans.

Between now and then, however, there are plenty of other opportunities to gather with your peers and colleagues, such as the [RIMS Canada Conference](#) in Québec City (October 18-21) and [RIMS ERM Conference](#) in Columbus, Ohio (November 19-20), as well as regional events like the [Florida RIMS Educational Conference](#) in Naples, Florida (July 28-August 1), [RIMS Texas Regional Conference](#) in San Antonio (August 10-12), and the [RIMS Western Regional Conference](#) in Seattle (October 4-7).

As we close the books on RISKWORLD 2026, please join me in first congratulating the Delaware Valley Chapter, which is not only celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, but proved to be such a gracious host. We also must thank the RIMS professional staff, Freeman, CNTV, the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Philadelphia Police Department, Merrill Herzog, Gabriel Protects, all the men and women of the various unions who worked the conference, the dozens of volunteers who help select the education

#### Event Management Leads

Stuart Ruff-Lyon  
Theresa Medina  
Blanca Ferreris  
Kamy Persaud  
Tricia Montero  
Victoria Novickis



sessions, the 250 speakers and panelists, 320 exhibiting companies and sponsors, the Spencer Educational Foundation and the over 10,700 participants who helped make it the BEST RISKWORLD EVER!

[This video, which ran at the conclusion of the closing general session](#), highlights many of the people who made RISKWORLD 2026 such a success and we are grateful for all of their contributions.

See you next year in New Orleans!

**Gary A. LaBranche**, FASAE, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer  
RIMS, the risk management society

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

# Recognizing Chapter Excellence

At RISKWORLD, RIMS honored four chapters for their exceptional strategic planning and goal achievement as part of the annual Chapter Awards program. The winners shared their best practices at the Chapter Leadership Forum and their accomplishments underscored the vital role of local networks in supporting professional development and community-building.

For its efforts to expand resources, programming and opportunities for its members, the **Dallas-Fort Worth** chapter was named Chapter of the Year.

The **Rocky Mountain** chapter received the inaugural Community Impact Award for taking exceptional action to support its network of risk professionals and industry partners. The award recognizes chapters that demonstrate outstanding achievement in cultivating community, professional development and leadership.

RIMS also presented Chapter Honors to the **Los Angeles** and **Saskatchewan** chapters for aligning their programming with the organization's strategic priorities, including initiatives focused on professional development, member engagement and advocacy. ♦



Dallas-Fort Worth  
Chapter of the Year



Saskatchewan  
Chapter Honor



Rocky Mountain  
Community Impact Award



Los Angeles  
Chapter Honor

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## Jorge Luzzi Inducted into Risk Management Hall of Fame

**F**ounded in 2011, the Risk Management Hall of Fame maintains the history of the field of risk management and recognizes risk practitioners who have made exceptional contributions to advancing the discipline. The 2026 inductee is Jorge Luzzi.

Jorge Luzzi's career stands as a defining example of leadership and service that will have a lasting impact on the global risk management community. Widely respected by his peers and colleagues, Luzzi dedicated his professional life not only to advancing the discipline, but to strengthening the networks and people who make the profession thrive.

Throughout his career, Luzzi served as a global risk leader for major organizations including Pirelli, Telecom and RCG. In these roles, he demonstrated technical expertise and a strategic mindset that elevated risk management as a critical function that supports business growth and resilience.

Equally impactful was Luzzi's commitment to professional organizations. As founding president of FUNDALARYS, the Latin American Risk Management Foundation, he played a pivotal role in building a platform that fostered collaboration, education and advancement across the region.

His influence extended across many risk management organizations, including serving as president of IFRIMA (International), FERMA (Europe), ABGR (Brazil) and as an honorific member of ANRA (Italy). He helped bridge communities and elevate global standards by engaging with APARYS in Panama, APOGERIS in Portugal, ADARA in Argentina, ADOGERIS in the Dominican Republic, AGERS and IGREA in Spain, and RIMS in North America.

RIMS presented Luzzi with the Society's highest honor for lifetime achievement, the Harry and Dorothy Goodell Award, in 2002. ALARYS named him Risk Manager of the Year in 2000 and he was honored by Assembleia Legislativa do Estado de Sao Paulo, Brazil for contributions to insurance and risk management culture in 2005.



Luzzi also authored numerous risk management articles on a wide range of topics as well as a book titled *The Challenges of Risk Management*, which was published by MDS Group in 2019.

At the time of his passing in 2024, Luzzi served as the CEO of RCG–Risk Consulting Group, executive director of MDS' alternative risk transfer vehicle HighDome, the president of APOGERIS and a director of IFRIMA.

He was celebrated onstage at RISKWORLD by his wife Manuela, daughters Alexandra and Daniela, friends and colleagues.

"Jorge Luzzi's contributions to advancing the risk management profession globally were immeasurable," said RIMS CEO Gary LaBranche. "He will inspire others for generations to come." ♦

# University of Texas at Austin Wins 2026 Risk Management Challenge

This year's winner of the Spencer-RIMS Student Risk Management Challenge was the student team from the **University of Texas at Austin**.

Presented by the Spencer Educational Foundation and RIMS, and supported by FM, the annual competition pitted 53 university teams from 12 countries against each other as they developed solutions for a risk management case study.

The 2026 Risk Management Challenge case study was provided by Lakeshore Recycling Systems in Rosemont, Illinois. Student teams were asked to develop strategies for the waste industry to address mounting fire risks resulting from the improper disposal of lithium batteries.

Eight finalists presented their strategies before a panel of judges at RISKWORLD in Philadelphia, with University of Texas at Austin team ultimately being declared the winner. The University of New South Wales (Australia) took second place and DePauw University



1st Place: University of Texas at Austin



2nd Place: University of New South Wales (Australia)

3rd Place: DePauw University

came in third. Each of the top three teams received cash prizes—the first-place university received \$10,000, the second \$7,500 and the third \$5,000. ♦

## RIMS and FUNDALARYS to Collaborate on Risk Management Education in Latin America

RIMS and the Latin American Foundation for Risk Management FUNDALARYS (formerly ALARYS) have entered into an agreement to elevate risk management practices in Latin America by promoting a global standard of knowledge and professionalism through education.

The agreement outlines a plan for the more than 2,000 risk practitioners who hold the FUNDALARYS-AIRM certification to earn the globally accredited RIMS-Certified Risk Management Professional certification (RIMS-CRMP). In the months ahead, RIMS instructors will host both public and private RIMS-CRMP Exam Prep Workshops for Latin American audiences. Additionally,

RIMS will share resources, study guides and case studies to support exam takers, and will prepare a select group of risk professionals in Latin America to lead future RIMS-CRMP prep courses.

“As the world becomes more interconnected, the demand for globally qualified risk professionals will continue to rise,” said RIMS President Manny Padilla. “RIMS collaboration with FUNDALARYS serves to advance a global standard for risk management. RIMS is proud to share the insights embedded within the RIMS-CRMP framework and offer Latin America’s risk community the resources to strengthen their capabilities and build more resilient programs.” ♦

# Krupesh Shah

*Krupesh Shah is a graduate student at Columbia University pursuing a Master of Science in Enterprise Risk Management and a former RIMS Rocky Mountain Chapter Advisory Board member. Ahead of graduation and an enterprise risk management internship, Shah discussed how he expects the RIMS-CRMP certification to help in his daily responsibilities and throughout his promising career.*

### **What inspired you to pursue the RIMS-CRMP?**

My decision to pursue the RIMS-CRMP was driven by early exposure to the risk management profession and the people within it. While engaging in the risk management industry, I attended RISKWORLD and various RIMS events where I could interact with practitioners who held the certification. Hearing firsthand how the RIMS-CRMP supported their careers by strengthening their understanding of enterprise risk, enhancing credibility, and providing a common professional language made a strong impression on me.

### **How did preparing for the RIMS-CRMP and earning the certification, supplement or enable your college work?**

I saw the RIMS-CRMP as an ideal foundational credential. Earning the certification before starting my graduate program helped me establish a structured, practitioner-oriented understanding of ERM concepts, which allowed me to approach my coursework with greater context, confidence and clarity from the outset.

Preparing for the RIMS-CRMP significantly enhanced my academic experience. While my coursework provided theoretical foundations and exposure to quantitative and qualitative risk methods, the RIMS-CRMP helped me synthesize those concepts into a cohesive, enterprise-level perspective. The exam reinforced how governance, risk appetite, controls and performance measurement interact in real organizational settings.



### **How does the RIMS-CRMP provide a glimpse into some of your upcoming risk responsibilities when you join the profession?**

The RIMS-CRMP does an excellent job of previewing the day-to-day realities of an ERM professional. It highlights that much of the role involves coordination, communication and judgment not just risk identification. Concepts such as embedding risk into strategy, aligning risk appetite with business objectives, facilitating risk assessments and advising leadership are central to the exam and directly reflective of real-world responsibilities.

### **What excites you about a career in risk management and ERM?**

The opportunity to operate at the intersection of strategy, operations and governance. ERM professionals have a unique vantage point. They see how decisions ripple across an organization and can help leaders navigate uncertainty with greater clarity. I am particularly motivated by the idea that good risk management enables growth, resilience and trust. In a world defined by rapid change and complexity, ERM plays a critical role in helping organizations not only survive but make informed, forward-looking decisions. Being part of that process is both intellectually engaging and professionally meaningful. ♦

*Interview by Justin Smulison, RIMS business content manager. To learn more about the RIMS-CRMP certification, visit [www.rims.org/certification](http://www.rims.org/certification).*

# Risk Engineering for What's Ahead

Fire Protection Engineering

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



### CONFERENCES :::

#### **July 28-August 1**

2026 Florida RIMS  
Educational Conference  
Naples, FL

#### **August 10-12**

RIMS Texas Regional Conference 2026  
San Antonio, TX

#### **September 24**

Chicagoland Risk Forum  
Chicago, IL

#### **October 4-7**

RIMS Western Regional Conference  
Seattle, WA

#### **October 18-21**

RIMS Canada Conference 2026  
Québec City, QC

#### **November 19-20**

RIMS ERM Conference 2026  
Columbus, OH

### WORKSHOPS :::

#### **June 9-10**

RIMS-CRMP Exam Prep

#### **June 11**

Managing Data for ERM

#### **June 16-17**

RIMS-CRMP-FED Exam Prep  
with AFERM

#### **June 18**

Optimizing Risk Management  
with Artificial Intelligence

#### **June 25**

Generative AI for Risk Management

#### **July 15-September 23**

RIMS-CRO Certificate Program  
in Advanced ERM

#### **August 10-December 31**

Applied Risk Management  
Certificate Program

#### **August 26-December 31**

Risk Foundations Certificate Program



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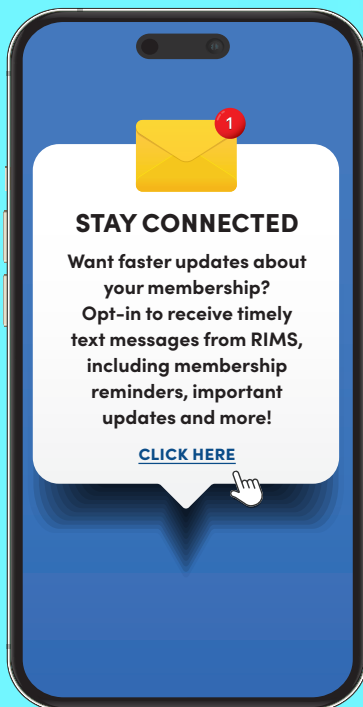
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