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NOVEMBER 2025 • WWW.RIMS.ORG

RIMS ERM Conference Heading to Seattle

With enterprise risk management continuing to grow in importance and visibility, the RIMS ERM Conference will be held in Seattle from November 17 to 18. As the premier event for risk professionals shaping the future of ERM, this two-day event will bring together thought leaders, industry innovators and practitioners to learn, network, share knowledge, and explore the latest ERM strategies, solutions and best practices.

The RIMS ERM Conference will provide many opportunities to engage with and learn from fellow risk professionals and the experts who are leading the conversation on ERM innovation. Nearly 30 educational sessions will explore a range of ERM-related topics for both advanced and foundational experience levels, and various networking sessions and table-top discussions will provide opportunities to exchange of ideas and insights on key ERM concepts. Attendees will also be able to download the Special ERM Edition of *Risk Management* Magazine, curated specifically for those looking to boost their enterprise risk management knowledge even further.

The conference will also feature keynote speaker Dan Chuparkoff, a pioneering technology leader with over 30 years of experience at Google, McKinsey, Atlassian and other notable companies. As one of the world's leading experts on innovation and AI, he will show attendees how to make sense of today's complex technological landscape to thrive in a future powered by AI.

All of this takes place in one of the world's most vibrant cities. Nicknamed the Emerald City, Seattle combines the best of urban lifestyle with the rugged outdoors amid beautiful natural surroundings. Many of Seattle's top visitor attractions are within mere blocks of the conference's location at the Sheraton Grand Seattle, including the Pike Place Market, Pioneer Square, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle Symphony, ferries, world-class restaurants and a historic theatre district.

So whether you are just getting started on your ERM journey or are an advanced practitioner looking to sharpen your strategy and take your program to the next level, the RIMS ERM Conference will provide you with the resources you need. We look forward to seeing you in Seattle!

To learn more about the RIMS ERM Conference or to register, visit https://www.rims.org/events/erm/erm-conference-2025. ♦

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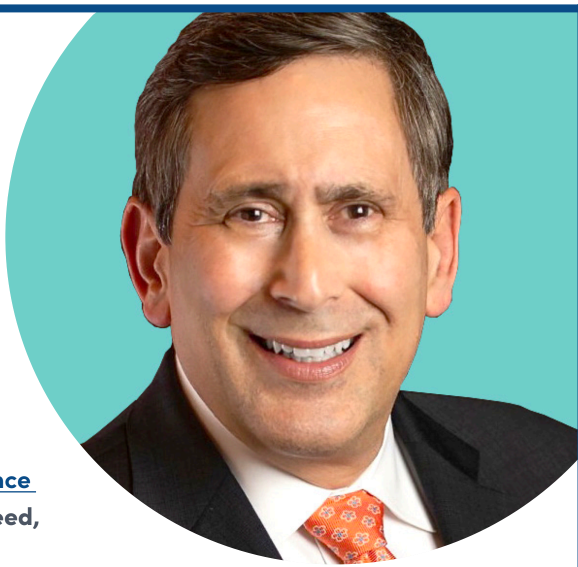

The View from 33,000 Feet

Greetings from 33,000 feet (10,058 meters) as I return home from Singapore and the annual conference of the Pan-Asia Risk and Insurance Management Association (PARIMA). I joined RIMS President Kristen Peed, RIMS Vice President Manny Padilla and RIMS Board Member Robert Zhang in recognizing 17 new RIMS-CRMP holders and celebrating the strategic collaboration between RIMS and PARIMA to promote the rapidly growing RIMS-CRMP certification program in that vast region. In fact, Singapore is home to the third-largest population of RIMS-CRMP holders in the world.

A week before I arrived in Singapore, I visited South Africa for the annual conference of the Institute of Risk Management South Africa (IRMSA), which had nearly 1,000 participants. At its joyful closing celebration, I had the honor of recognizing the late Dr. Gert Cruywagen as a 2025 inductee into the RIMS Risk Management Hall of Fame, presenting the award to his widow. Dr. Cruywagen is the first person from outside North America to enter the Risk Management Hall of Fame.

While in Johannesburg, I also participated in the board meeting of the International Federation of Risk Management Associations (IFRIMA). IFRIMA supports the development of risk management associations around the world. This year marked the creation of the Federation of African Risk Management Associations (FARMA), an effort championed by IFRIMA Board President Franck Baron. FARMA will work to foster risk management throughout the 54 African countries.

Days before I left for South Africa, Kristen Peed, Manny Padilla and 15 other RIMS board and staff leaders gathered to give and celebrate giving at the Spencer Educational Foundation's Funding their Future Gala. A record $1.9 million was raised to support scholarships, internships and career opportunities for the next generation of risk and insurance leaders. A big congratulations to Spencer's board and its hard-working staff team led by CEO Megan Miller, as well as to Lockton U.S. President Tim Ryan, who was honored that evening.

Earlier that week, I traveled to Calgary, Alberta to honor another celebrated risk management professional: Susan Meltzer, who was also welcomed into the Risk Management Hall of Fame this year. The presentation took place during the RIMS Canada Conference, which saw a record 1,800 attendees. Susan, a past RIMS board president, thanked the many people who inspired and encouraged her and shared her appreciation for role that RIMS Canada and the RIMS Ontario chapter played throughout her illustrious career. Sadly, Susan passed away soon after the conference after a long illness. To honor her, RIMS, the Foundation for Risk Management announced that it plans to raise $40,000 to endow the Susan Meltzer Scholarship, to provide a RIMS Canada Conference registration annually to a Canadian risk management professional.

Risk management is growing, expanding and changing around the globe. As we conclude the celebration of RIMS' 75th anniversary, it is good to reflect on the many leaders like Dr. Gert Cruywagen and Susan Meltzer who worked to make RIMS and risk management what it is today. At the same time, we can celebrate the continued growth and development of risk management around the world. As I come down to earth, I salute all those who make it happen every day. Thank you.

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

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Key Considerations Regarding the U.S. Government Shutdown

The U.S. government shut down October 1 due to significant policy and political disagreements between Congressional Democrats and Republicans. It is impossible to know with any certainty how long the shutdown will last, but this has already been the longest federal shutdown in U.S. history. Republicans hold slim majorities in both chambers, and it has so far proven difficult to persuade a majority of those who voted for the shutdown to change their votes. According to the nonpartisan **Congressional Budget Office**, the shutdown will cost the U.S. economy between $7 billion and $14 billion, depending on how long it lasts.

IMPACT ON THE RISK MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY

RIMS is primarily concerned with the shutdown's impact on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), whose funding is included with the Continuing Resolution that lapsed on October 1.

As of now, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which administers the NFIP, will ensure that valid claims are paid with available funds. However, FEMA will stop selling and renewing policies for millions of properties in communities across the nation, according to FEMA's website. About 1,300 property sales per day and about 40,000 closings per month will be impacted, according to the National Association of Realtors.

It is important to note that the NFIP also supports several "non-insurance" activities, such as identifying and mapping flood hazards; disseminating flood risk information; developing community land use and building code standards; and providing grants and incentive programs to invest in flood risk reduction.

The NFIP has been reauthorized more than 30 times since 2017. The latest was in March 2025, shortly after FEMA borrowed $2 billion from the U.S. Treasury to cover NFIP claims—many from hurricanes Helene and Milton in 2024. FEMA said losses from 2024 "depleted the NFIP's funds generated from premiums to pay claims."

According to the Congressional Research Service, the NFIP—funded by the premiums it collects for flood insurance policies—had $615 million on hand as of January 25 to pay claims.

NEXT STEPS

RIMS will continue to work with its coalition partners to encourage lawmakers to reopen the government—thereby reauthorizing funding for the NFIP—as soon as possible. RIMS will also continue to encourage its members to sign and send grassroots letters supporting uninterrupted funding for the NFIP to their local Congressional representatives.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark Prysock, RIMS general counsel and vice president of public policy, at **mprysock@rims.org**. ♦

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RECOGNITION

Daniel Desjardins Honored with 2025 Donald M. Stuart Award

At this year's RIMS Canada Conference in Calgary, the RIMS Ontario Chapter (ORIMS) presented the 2025 Donald M. Stuart Award to Daniel Desjardins, senior director, global risk management and insurance at Bombardier Inc. The Donald M. Stuart award is recognized as Canada's highest honor within the risk management field and, since 1979, has celebrated Canadians who have made outstanding contributions to the profession.

Throughout his 44-year risk management career, Desjardins' vast contributions to the risk management profession have demonstrated exceptional leadership, strategic insight and a deep commitment to supporting future risk leaders achieve their professional goals. At Bombardier, his risk management responsibilities account for the safety and well-being of the organization's 18,000-plus employees, the integrity of over 5,100 aircrafts, and the resilience of properties in over six countries. He is also recognized as a pioneer in the realm of captive insurance and is credited for implementing the first employee benefits captive in Canada in the early 2000s. He currently serves as the president of Bombardier's wholly owned captive and The Bombardier Quebec Pension Committees that oversees seven pension plans and more than $7 Billion in pension assets.

"Daniel Desjardins is the epitome of a risk management leader."

Desjardins has been a member of the RIMS Quebec Chapter (QRIMA) for 40 years and served on its Board of Directors for 15. During that service, he held positions as chapter president and society director, and chaired numerous chapter committees. Daniel also served on the national RIMS Canada Council and as chair of RIMS Canada Council's National Conference Committee. Desjardins is also a guest lecturer at McGill University where he presents to students who are pursuing the Canadian Risk Management (CRM) designation.

"Daniel Desjardins is the epitome of a risk management leader," said ORIMS President Gloria Dang. "His contributions have shaped risk strategies nationwide and left a lasting impact on the lives and careers of countless individuals through his work as a mentor and educator. ORIMS is proud to present Daniel with Donald M. Stuart Award for his altruism and unwavering commitment to advancing the profession." ♦

IN MEMORIAM

Susan Meltzer

> **"Susan Meltzer will forever be remembered as a Canadian risk management icon."**

With great sadness, RIMS and the entire risk management community mourn the passing of legendary risk leader Susan Meltzer.

After graduating from Carleton University in Ottawa in 1975, Meltzer began her risk management career with Morris and Mackenzie Insurance Brokers. Her risk management journey included roles at the largest and most successful organizations in Canada including Bell Canada, SunLife Financial and Aviva Canada.

Throughout her career, Meltzer guided and mentored countless risk management professionals, taught Canadian Risk Management certificate (CRM) courses at University of Toronto, and participated in the Spencer Educational Foundation's Risk Manager in Residence program at several universities in North America.

Meltzer served as RIMS president from 1999-2000. She was a member of the board of the International Federation of Insurance and Risk Management Associations (IFRIMA) from 2000 to 2010, holding the position of president from 2004 to 2008. She also served on the CIP Society Council, and the Graduate Society of the Insurance Institute of Canada.

She received many accolades for her professional accomplishments, including Canada's highest honor, the Donald M. Stuart Award, in 2001 and RIMS' highest honor, the Harry and Dorothy Goodell Award, in 2004. She was also inducted into the RIMS Risk Management Hall of Fame in 2025. In 2024, ORIMS renamed its Top CRM Graduate Award the Susan Meltzer Award, commemorating her outstanding contributions to the CRM program.

"Susan Meltzer will forever be remembered as a Canadian risk management icon," said RIMS Canada Council Chair Valerie Barber. "Whether it was her approach to tackling complex risks or elevating the power and prominence of risk management, her innovative and collaborative spirit inspired us all to think big, be proactive and focus on the future. She was an incredibly generous and compassionate person who devoted countless hours to helping others reach their goals and achieve their dreams. Susan's contributions will continue to open doors for the next generation of risk management leaders for years to come." ♦

THE FOUNDATION
RIMS, THE FOUNDATION FOR RISK MANAGEMENT™

To honor Susan Meltzer's leadership and service, RIMS The Foundation for Risk Management has established the Susan Meltzer Scholarship Fund. The Foundation calls on the global risk management community to help establish a scholarship to fund expenses for a Canadian risk professional to attend RIMS Canada Conference every year. The Foundation plans to raise $40,000 to support this scholarship, and to initiate the fundraising effort, RIMS will contribute $10,000 to the scholarship fund. To donate to the Susan Meltzer Scholarship Fund or to learn about The Foundation, visit www.RIMS.org/FRM.

RIMS Delivers RIMS-CRMP Workshop in Madrid

In October, RIMS provided a two-day RIMS-CRMP certification pre-conference workshop in conjunction with the 2025 Brokerslink Global Conference in Madrid. The Brokerslink Global Conference brings together the world's brokerage community for three days of education and network opportunities with industry leaders and solution providers.

Under the expert guidance of Joseph Mayo, RIMS-CRMP Commission vice chair and president of J.W. Mayo Consulting, the workshop was a tremendous success, fueling dynamic knowledge sharing, fresh ideas, and highlighting the importance of collective expertise in advancing the global risk management community.

The workshop was part of a multi-year agreement between RIMS and Brokerslink that includes the delivery of a series of both private and public RIMS-CRMP Exam Prep Workshops for Brokerslink's global network of 45,000 professionals in 133 countries.

"Business resilience is driven by risk programs built on strong collaboration between risk professionals and their brokers," said RIMS CEO Gary A. LaBranche. "Delivering world-class risk management education to Brokerslink's global network will allow them to help their partners elevate the performance of their risk programs, enhance strategic decision-making, and unlock new opportunities." ♦

Exploring Cybersecurity Safe Harbor Laws

Complementing strong cybersecurity programs, legal safe harbor laws encourage firms to adopt cybersecurity frameworks while offering them a potential shield against punitive damages in the aftermath of a data breach, according to ***RIMS Legislative Review: A 2025 Cybersecurity Legal Safe Harbor Overview***.

The report is authored by **RIMS Public Policy Committee** members Katherine J. Henry, partner and chair of the policyholder insurance coverage practice at Bradley LLP, and Harold Weston, clinical associate professor and WSIA Distinguished Chair in Risk Management & Insurance at Georgia State University's Maurice R. Greenberg School of Risk Science, with the support of Bradley LLP Associate Attorney Anna Hamel. It provides a general overview of expected cybersecurity measures that organizations must take to satisfy safe harbor requirements. The report dives deeper into those requirements in six U.S. states, as well as briefly reviewing recently adopted Federal Communications Commission regulation.

"Cyberbreaches are bound to happen, so understanding and leveraging safe harbor laws can provide an additional layer of protection," the report notes "These regulatory guidelines can provide an invaluable guide for organizations to confidently enter into new markets across the United States while, simultaneously, building a stronger, more robust cybersecurity defense."

To download the report, visit RIMS Risk Knowledge library at **www.RIMS.org/RiskKnowledge**. ♦

RIMS-CRMP STORIES

Heather Moldowan

Senior Consultant, Strategy and Risk Management

Optiv

Heather Moldowan is a strategy and risk management consultant at Optiv, a cybersecurity firm headquartered in Denver, Colorado. Based in Calgary, Canada, she earned her RIMS-CRMP certification in 2023. She discussed how the RIMS-CRMP can help ERM and cyberrisk professionals build on their experience.

What inspired you to pursue the RIMS-CRMP?

I have a unique background, starting in sales, moving into IT/cybersecurity talent acquisition, talent management and resource management, and then eventually crossing over into cyber risk management consulting.

My passion for risk management began at that point but I wanted to expand my knowledge beyond cyberrisk. Cyberrisk is an enterprise risk that all organizations must contend with, but all too often cyber and IT teams exist in silos and don't speak the language of the business—the two groups don't always communicate well. I wanted to help bridge this gap in the industry by approaching it from both sides. The RIMS-CRMP offered me the exact type of education I sought—strategic, business focused, enterprise risk management.

You have deep experience in ERM and cyber. How were those two areas addressed in the exam?

The exam emphasizes the strategic role of ERM by focusing on aligning risk with organizational objectives. What stood out to me was how the scenarios required thinking beyond technical controls, encouraging a holistic understanding of risk, governance and resilience. It reflected the way risk professionals today must bridge operational knowledge with strategic insight, especially in evolving areas like cyber.

The exam reinforced the importance of risk-informed decision-making at all levels of the organization, which is critical in both ERM and cybersecurity contexts.

How does the RIMS-CRMP supplement your other professional certifications?

My RIMS-CRMP and Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certifications are a powerful combination. The CISSP grounds my work in cybersecurity with a strong understanding of controls, governance and threat management, while the RIMS-CRMP adds a broader enterprise risk perspective—connecting cybersecurity risks to organizational strategy, performance and resilience. This alignment helps me bridge the gap between cybersecurity and executive-level risk conversations, ensuring that cybersecurity is integrated into overall enterprise risk management and decision-making processes.

How has the RIMS-CRMP credential played a role in shaping your career trajectory and goals?

My risk management career started in cyber, moved into ERM, and I now find myself back in cyber, but with a different perspective. I am a more business-focused, strategic-thinking cyberrisk management consultant and the RIMS-CRMP gave me the foundation to do that. I am excited to continue helping organizations build strategic cyberrisk programs that fit with their business. Currently, I am expanding my knowledge in the areas of cyber resilience and business continuity management, helping companies plan for cyberrisk events, as it is truly not a matter of "if" an attack happens, but rather "when." ♦

Interview by Justin Smulison, RIMS business content manager. For more about the RIMS-CRMP certification, visit **www.rims.org/certification**.

SNAPSHOTS

RIMS CANADA CONFERENCE™
CALGARY 2025 | SEPTEMBER 14-17

AUGUST 4-6 | SAN ANTONIO

RIMS TEXAS REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

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CONFERENCE :::

November 17-18
RIMS ERM Conference 2025
Seattle, WA

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VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS :::

November 15-17
RIMS-CRMP Exam Prep at RIMS ERM Conference

November 19-20
Applying and Integrating ERM

December 2-3
Captives as an Alternative Financial Technique

December 4
Leveraging Data and Analytics for Continuous Risk Management (Part I)

December 4-5
RIMS-CRMP Exam Prep with PARIMA

December 9-10
RIMS-CRMP Exam Prep

December 11
Managing Data for ERM (Part II)

December 17
Optimizing Risk Management with Artificial Intelligence (Part III)

December 18
Generative AI for Risk Management (Part IV)

For more information, visit www.RIMS.org.

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