

# Handing out Awards at this Year's Conference

By Crystal Reiss

One of the highlights of our annual conferences is the presentation of awards to those who have helped to advance and support our mission. On September 14, as this year's IAMFA conference in Amsterdam drew to a close, three prestigious awards were handed out during the closing gala at ARTIS-Groote Museum.

The Diplomat Award was presented to ERCO by IAMFA's Nancy Bechtol and Randy Murphy. The award recognized ERCO for its exceptional support, which has significantly advanced IAMFA's mission and that of its members. The award also honours ERCO's efforts to provide the outreach, innovation, and external expertise that is critical to our association's success, and to the long-term viability of museums around the world. As an early champion of IAMFA, and as one of its first corporate sponsors, ERCO President Mark Sieber received special thanks for providing the resources that make it possible for IAMFA to grow and thrive. Additional thanks went to ERCO's National Manager Richard Fisher, for providing the first presentation in IAMFA's educational series, IAMFA Online. Also celebrated was Matthew Cobham, ERCO's Global Cluster Manager for Culture, who regularly writes articles for *Papyrus*, and works with Richard to provide exceptional online presentations.

When presenting the award, IAMFA noted that, "ERCO is a leading international specialist in sustainable architectural lighting with LED technology. The family-owned business...operates as a global partner with independent sales and partner organizations in around 55 countries. Founded in 1934, ERCO pioneered architectural lighting across Europe in the 1960s, and now, 50 years later, is the first established luminaire manufacturer with a portfolio based entirely on LED technology." The second Diplomat Award of the evening went to Bob Lambe—long-time IAMFA member, *Papyrus* contributor, and administrator of

IAMFA's facility benchmarking program through his company, Facility Issues. Board members Jennifer Fragomeni and Anthony Young presented Bob with the award, highlighting his more than 30 years of experience in the field as a certified facility manager.

In addition to the many surveys and topics he has presented over the years, Bob's ongoing benchmarking workshop the Sunday before IAMFA's annual conference (this year's workshop was all about AI) and his monthly program, Cultural Facility Shared Practices, has supported IAMFA's members in expanding their expertise as overseers of operations at countless museums and cultural institutions worldwide. Bob's gifts as a teacher and manager in this field have been a great asset to IAMFA's membership.

The prestigious George Preston Memorial Award was presented by Nancy Bechtol and Alan Dirican, who together expressed their gratitude to longstanding fellow Board member David Sanders for his extraordinary organizational skills and laser focus as Secretary of IAMFA. David's service dates back to 2012, after he left the Natural History Museum in London, and includes IAMFA's Lifetime Achievement Award, which he received in 2017.

The presentation included warm recollections of first meetings, and of David's meticulous organizational skills, discipline, humor and candor. As the presenters stated, "Dedication, service, and true grit is David Sanders in three words. We have all had the privilege to learn from him all these years, and we are all better servants as a result.... Our association has benefited from David's amazing career and the wisdom he gained from each of his positions." 🏛️

*Crystal Reiss is Editor of Papyrus, and can be reached at iamfaeditor@gmail.com.*



L-R: Matthew Cobham, Nancy Bechtol, Richard Fisher and Randy Murphy.



L-R: Nancy Bechtol, Jennifer Fragomeni, Bob Lambe and Anthony Young.



L-R: Alan Dirican, David Sanders and Nancy Bechtol.

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