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A TRIBUTE ON THE 25 TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (IIMA) AND ITS CO-FOUNDERS: C. E. TAPIE ROHM JR., PATRICK J. MCINTURFF JR. AND WALTER T. STEWART JR.

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Trevor Rohm, Hardeman County Medical Group
Gerhard Steinke, Seattle Pacific University
Jake Zhu, California State University, San Bernardino**

Welcome to the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the International Information Management Association (IIMA) on this afternoon of Monday, October 13th, 2014 at the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus (PDC) in Palm Desert, California.

**OPENING REMARKS BY JAKE ZHU
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO**

IIMA is a special place for all of us. For twenty-five years, it has served as a forum for all of us to gather together to engage in intellectual conversations, to disseminate knowledge, and to renew our profession. Over the many years, IIMA has helped many us with our tenure and promotion, and has made our manuscripts available worldwide through our publication outlets, the three IIMA journals and the seasonal conference proceedings. Also for many of us, IIMA is not only a forum for academics, but also a place for friendship, family and fun. Many of us have become life-long friends and some of our families are known to each other. We eat, drink, walk, chat, dance and laugh. No matter it is in New York, Houston or Chicago, or it is in Beijing, Dublin or Amsterdam, we all had fun and enjoyed the collegiality, professionalism and friendship that IIMA has brought to us.

As we gather here today to celebrate the 25th IIMA anniversary, we would like to thank and offer tributes to our long-time friends, the IIMA co-founders, C. E. Tapie Rohm Jr., Patrick McInturff and Walt Stewart. Many IIMAers who have run or helped run our annual conferences, served or are serving as IIMA Officers, and Journal Editors. Tributes also go to them. In a private conversation, my friend, Warren Adis, Professor at Iona College in New York made a comment on organizing conferences, he said, "Folks don't realize how much work is involved until they actually run one themselves." I believe we all would agree. No matter you are a regular IIMA attendee or an occasional visitor to our conferences, we thank you, too, for your support of what we do at IIMA. In this sense, we are here to celebrate each other and the entity that has brought us together, the IIMA.

In a series of remarks this afternoon, presented by colleagues who have attended IIMA conferences over many years, we will enliven the specialness of the IIMA that offered a place for all of us to come together and make a contribution to our disciplines, to become mature intellectually, and to learn from one another. We each have become better because of IIMA and the many people who have contributed to it. Presented now, in alphabetical order of last names of colleagues, are several tributes to the IIMA founders, Tapie Rohm Jr., Patrick McInturff and Walt Stewart in celebration of the 25th anniversary of IIMA.

**REMARKS BY WARREN ADIS
IONA COLLEGE, NEW YORK**

While each year with Tapie at IIMA has been memorable, I would like to tell three stories that capture those times.

The first is 25 years ago in San Bernardino. The very first conference I attended, it was there that I met Tapie and we hit it off, right from the start. My guess is that is everybody here has felt the same way, when they first met Tapie. He makes everyone feels immediately at home and important.

I liked how he talked – with lots of “Folks” and “All” and “Oks” He had a plan to create IIMA, it was supposed to be People Centered rather than Organization Centered like those large conferences that we all have attended. And he was right, in that if you grow the people and then everything falls into place. Whatever challenges there were, and there were many, Tapie was handling them. Whether it was hauling the newly published IIMA journals through O’Hare Airport, then by subway to our Hotel in Chicago. That is Tapie. Numerous Airports numerous subways, numerous hotels. Talking about journals, figuring out how to start our Journal (actually 2= JIIMA and CIIMA), get them printed cost effectively (Prison System), get them edited (Tapie was Editor in Chief).

So in his own folksy way, with lots of hard work, here we are 25 years later.

The second story happened a few years later. I arrived 1 day late to the IIMA conference. So Tapie came over and said how glad he was to see me. I explained that there was a conflict because the dates coincided with the Jewish New Year, and I had to wait till the holiday was over before flying out to California. So Tapie said, let’s make sure this conflict doesn’t happen again. So every year since then he asks me when are the Jewish holidays, and then schedules the conference before or after those dates. For me that was an important gesture, that told me that Tapie was a mensch = a real person, someone you can trust to do it right, the way it ought to be done. Sometimes a Jewish word captures it precisely.

In the early years of IIMA, while we were still figuring out newsletters, web sites, mailing lists, we had an IIMA conference outside of Atlanta. We did not have lots of attendees, and I was concerned. We had a talk about the situation, and I asked him how we were going to handle it. And Tapie said to me: if we can keep up the quality of this conference we were sure to be successful. He was right.

The last story is simple. We were walking together from our Hotel in Savannah to a restaurant, and chatting back and forth. Now here is the interesting part, every time we met an individual or couple heading in our direction, Tapie paused our conversation and greeted that couple, and complemented them on their appearance, or their nice smile, or how we were sharing this nice day together, and the list goes on. They always chatted back and you could see their uplifted spirit. Being from NY, where we walk looking straight ahead and not saying hello to strangers, I saw this as a remarkable quality and gift.

Thanks for giving me this opportunity to reminisce about so many great conferences, and so many great friends, all because Tapie, Pat and Walt had this special drive and quality to start IIMA. Thanks You.

**REMARKS BY JOSEPH O. CHAN
ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO**

I still remember my first IIMA conference in 2004. I was checking in to the IIMA conference at a hotel near Navy Pier in Chicago, when a man with a warm greeting and welcoming smile presented me with a badge and journals for the conference. This man was Dr. Tapie Rohm. At the end of the registration, Tapie encouraged, "If you like what we do here, I invite you to play further roles in the organization." I took to heart Tapie's invitation and spent the next 10 years committing myself to various roles within the IIMA.

This was just the beginning of many fond memories at the IIMA conferences. These conferences have provided a forum for intellectual exchange and scholarly endeavors. The IIMA has been a source of knowledge and an outlet for my research. Many colleagues at the IIMA supported me throughout the advancement in my academic career. Additionally, the IIMA has afforded me numerous opportunities for leadership positions within the organization. Most importantly, I value the relationships developed through the IIMA with a very unique group of talented scholars over the years. My colleagues and I built friendships through unforgettable experiences like touring the countryside of Dublin, climbing the Great Wall of China in Beijing, and cruising the canals in Amsterdam.

These opportunities are owed, in large part, to Tapie and other cofounders of the IIMA. Tapie's vision, leadership and valuable services over the years have contributed immensely to the success of the organization. Over the next 25 years, my expectation for the IIMA is for the organization to become an elite group in Information and Technology Management on an international scale that cultivates the next generation of premier scholars by focusing on excellence in academic research and social responsibility.

**REMARKS BY XIN JAMES HE
FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY**

International Information Management Association (IIMA) is really a great platform for IT professionals and university professors. Since I joined IIMA in 2002, I have benefited in various aspects: from academic publication, to network experience, and to leadership skills.

On this 25th Anniversary of IIMA, we not only celebrate its great success, but also say many thanks to Dr. Tapie Rohm, the founder of the IIMA, who has contributed so much to the organization, to its associated journals, and to the people around him.

Best wishes to the IIMA, to all its members, and to Tapie Rohm, pat McInturff and Walt Stewart!

**REMARKS BY TANYA GOETTE,
GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY**

Memories of my first IIMA Conference: The year was 1998. The location was San Bernardino, CA.

Joe Sessum had been my boss when I was a temporary instructor at Kennesaw State University while I was working on my PhD at Georgia State. He had tried to get Jack Marchewka and me to attend IIMA, but it had never worked out for either of us to go. So several years later when I was just getting started in my career as a faculty member at Georgia College, I decided to submit an article to IIMA for presentation and publication in the proceedings.

I arrived at the building on Cal State – San Bernardino campus and went to the room where the reception was slated to occur. No one was there. I saw some food on a table so I figured I was in the correct place. I waited, and I waited. Finally, about 30 minutes later, a few (10-15 probably) people came in. They had been at a software demonstration that ran late. Everyone was very nice, but I was surprised at how few people were at the reception. I figured there would be more there the next day.

The next morning I appeared at the appointed place and time. I discovered less than 20 people were attending the conference. We all sat around tables grouped into a large rectangle. The person presenting moved to the head of the table to present when it was his/her scheduled time. There was no skipping out – everyone attended every paper. Everyone there gave feedback on every paper. You heard papers on topics you would have never elected to attend, and received feedback from points of view you had never thought of before. It was the best conference I had ever been to.

We all piled into cars for the trip to Palm Springs for our night out. The keynote speaker from Course Technology came with us. We took the tram up the mountainside. I remember meeting Tapie, Gerhardt, and Warren at my first IIMA conference.

Since 1998, I have only missed two IIMA conferences – 1999 in New York and 2010 in the Netherlands. I got Jack to join us in 2001 in Breckenridge, CO, and I brought Doug along when I was the Conference Chair in Savannah. I have fond memories of not only Ireland and China, but also of dinner cruises in multiple places. Most importantly, I count my IIMA comrades as not just acquaintances, but friends who I can't wait to see each year.

**REMARKS BY FRANK LIN
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN BERNARDINO**

It's my distinct honor and privilege to share with you an important milestone in the IIMA's history: it's 25th anniversary. When Jake asked me to provide remarks regarding the anniversary, I couldn't believe that it had already been that long. I started to reflect on how I got involved with the IIMA. Believe it or not, Tapie came to mind.

The story dates back to 1990, where I bumped into Tapie inside an elevator as an ABD going to a job interview at the DSI Annual Conference in San Diego. Our conversation focused on my area of expertise and why I was attending. I gave him my 30-second elevator pitch. When the elevator door opened, Tapie gave me his business card and said, "Please send me your curriculum vitae when you return to Buffalo."

As promised, I sent my C.V. to Tapie. He arranged a visit to CSUSB shortly after. He greeted me as I was walked towards the exit at Ontario Airport and proceeded to introduce me to the geography, climate, and history of San Bernardino. He left me with a very strong, positive impression of my future home with his down-to-earth, sincere, and warm personality.

I got to know Tapie over the years as an academic, colleague, and friend. Tapie is truly a visionary. He can spot trends in business and information management before they're widely acknowledged. He also earns his peers' respect through his unselfish concern for other people's happiness and welfare. He always has others' best interests at heart.

My very first quarter at CSUSB, Tapie scheduled me to teach an 8:00 AM class. For that class, I usually arrived at the parking lot on campus at around 7:55 AM and rushed directly to the classroom. I always told students, "I am here but I am not here." I really struggled that quarter. I was a night owl. At that time, as junior faculty, I placed a great amount of emphasis on my research. The only time I had to concentrate on my research was in the evening. I usually worked late, sometimes until 4:00 AM. As soon as Tapie found out, he never again scheduled me to teach class before noon.

Naturally, Tapie introduced me to the IIMA and I attended my very first IIMA Conference in 1992. I attended IIMA Conferences on and off over the years until I realized that, borrowing a phrase from Abraham Lincoln's historic Gettysburg address, the IIMA is an association of the community, by the community, and for the community. I believe all of you would agree with me on that. You, the people, in the community, have made it possible.

It's my great pleasure and honor to be associated with all of you through the IIMA. Thank you, Tapie. Let's celebrate this important milestone for the IIMA and its many years to come.

**REMARKS BY EMMANUEL UZOMA OPARA,
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY**

I met Tapie in 2002 when IIMA was held in Savana, Georgia. It was a wonderful experience because I was welcomed and received into the IIMA family. At this conference, I decided that

this group of intellectuals will surely create a path for my research career as I looked into the future.

My fun memories of IIMA just started and since then, I have attended all conferences no matter where it was held. The trip to Dublin was wonderful and extraordinary. Then we travelled to China and later cruised the great canals of Amsterdam. Back in the United States, we attended more conferences in New York, Chicago, Houston, New Orleans, etc. Here, creative and wonderful ideas were shared among colleagues. While, preparing for the Houston conference, Tapie spend days with my family at our resident. It was a very joyful time.

Thanks to my friend Tapie for the opportunities. Tapie has been great with his vision, leadership charisma as he and the rest of IIMA team have propelled IIMA to greater heights.

Congratulations to Tapie, Pat and Walt as more is expected of you as we move forward.

**REMARKS BY TREVOR ROHM,
HARDEMAN COUNTY MEDICAL GROUP**

On this the 25th anniversary, we gather to reflect and celebrate the impact the IIMA in our lives. Through the years, our professions, our travels and our experiences all shape how we view this, our changing information driven world. The IIMA has offered all of us opportunities to share our vision for information management and the dramatically impact on our professions.

The IIMA had humble beginnings, a few young professors looking to further their research and impact on the world. From a small little department at Cal State San Bernardino to reach across the globe to Europe, Africa, Asia and the islands of the sea, the impact has been very real for all of us who have participated. Some of us, have been greatly involved, others of us spring onward to other things, but the impact is the same; sharing of knowledge, building of friendships and travels throughout the world.

I was first invited to share a workshop on Medical Informatics at the Beijing Conference in 2007. Since that conference, medical informatics has had tremendous growth, both nationally and internationally. It is an ever changing dynamic field. I found the conference to be inspiring, educational and very much enjoyed the travels. Since that time, I have been able to attend many more conferences across the United States and Europe. I very much enjoy the “international flavor” of the conference, the people and the subjects found here in the IIMA.

May we all continue our endeavors to further the work of information management in this the digital age, in this ever changing information overloaded world. May we remember those who have founded the IIMA and never forget those who will come after, so that we may all enjoy those opportunities to impact the world around us!

**REMARKS BY GERHARD STEINKE
SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY**

Congratulations to the IIMA turning 25! Many thanks to our founders, Tapie Rohm, Walt Stewart and Patrick McInturff, who began this organization and held the first conference in 1990 in San Bernardino, California. And the following 3 years continued with an annual conference in San Bernardino.

In 1994, the 5th annual conference of the IIMA was held in Las Vegas. I came across a call for papers for this conference, submitted a paper, was thrilled when it was accepted and that began my association with the IIMA. I met Tapie (he's the first one most people meet when they arrive at a conference!) and became acquainted with friendly, bright, energetic, and challenging colleagues – who soon became friends and mentors. I've always looked forward to the annual conferences of the IIMA. These were times to renew friendships, meet new colleagues, present my research and receive feedback and critique, bring along some of my students, and continue discussion of topics related to Information Systems—in the academic and in the applied arena.

I want to share some highlights that come to mind when I think of the many past conferences that I have attended:

- 1994 University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada – Watching jousting at the Excalibur Hotel as we ate chicken without knives and forks.
- 1995 Kennesaw State University, Marietta, Georgia – Enjoying catfish with our gracious conference host, Joe Sessum.
- 1996 University of Northern Colorado, Estes Park, Colorado – Driving/sliding in the snow parks with Charmayne's car with no snow tires! And staying in the Stanley Hotel.
- 1997 Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada – Watching the Phantom of the Opera and enjoying the conference dinner on top of the CN Tower – hosted by Michael Murphy.
- 1998 California State University San Bernardino, San Bernardino, California - Joseph B. Dougherty, President and CEO, Course Technology, Inc. was our keynote speaker. The conference dinner was up on the mountain after taking the Palm Springs Tram.
- 1999 Iona College, New Rochelle, New York – The first conference hosted by Warren Adis...who led a walking tour of New York City with the conference dinner in Chinatown.
- 2000 Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington – I got to host this conference with the conference dinner on top of the Space Needle.
- 2001 University of Northern Colorado, Breckenridge, Colorado – Walking through Breckenridge during early December enjoying the light snow and pre-Christmas shopping - a conference hosted by Charmayne Cullom, JayLightfoot and Tod Sedbrook.
- 2002 Georgia College & State University, Savannah, Georgia – missed this conference and the dinner cruise hosted by Tanya Goette. ☹
- 2003 California State University San Bernardino, Las Vegas, Nevada – Dr. Ray Hackney from Manchester, UK was the keynote speaker. Back at the Excalibur Hotel.

- 2004 University of Northern Illinois, Chicago, Illinois – Wonderful dinner leaving the Navy Pier and cruising Lake Michigan, with Scott C. Rosenfelder, a partner with Deloitte & Touche, being our keynote speaker—hosted by Jack Marchewka.
- 2005 Dublin, Ireland – What wonderful days experiencing Ireland...remember a privacy paper by Bernd Stahl, and Rob Harris boasting about golfing on some famous golf course along the bluffs. The conference dinner was in a hidden community center – that our bus driver finally found - with wonderful dancers providing Irish entertainment.
- 2006 Iona University, New Rochelle, New York – Warren Adis led another walking tour of New York by night, ending with dinner in Chinatown – and invited Michael Delohery, Chief, High Technology Crimes Bureau, Westchester County District Attorney's Office to give a keynote address. I think James He co-hosted this conference.
- 2007 University of Technology & Science Beijing, People's Republic of China – Missed this conference but heard wonderful stories...
- 2008 California State University San Bernardino, San Diego, California – Another conference hosted by Tapie along with Jake Zhu with a wonderful dinner cruise around San Diego and Coronado Island.
- 2009 Prairie View A & M University, Houston, Texas – Emanuel Opara hosted this conference in Prairie View, followed by a tour of the NASA complex in Houston.
- 2010 HU University of Applied Sciences, Utrecht, the Netherlands – A great conference hosted by Pascal Ravesteijn, Gilbert Silvijs, and Diana Boekman, that started with a reception in the Speelklok Museum and a walk through Utrecht at night experiencing Trajectum Lumen where we found many artistically lit locations throughout the historical city center. Trevor Rohm shared a paper on medical information systems. Our conference dinner took place while cruising along the canals of Amsterdam.
- 2011 New Orleans, Louisiana – What a great time walking through New Orleans, hosted by Doug Goings, and hearing about the infrastructure built to prevent widespread flooding should another typhoon hit the area. There was a great paper on Internet privacy presented by Ramesh Subramanian. Dinner was on the Steamboat Natchez.
- 2012 Chicago, Illinois – On our evening tour of Chicago we visited many of the historic sites within the city (including President Obama's home) and ended at a restaurant where we enjoyed Chicago's best pizza—hosted by Joseph Chan. Robert Shumaker worked hard to find more reviewers for the CIIMA.
- 2013 Iona University, New Rochelle, New York – Another visit to New York and a conference hosted by Warren Adis, Ore Soluade, Don Moscato, and Shoshana Altschuller—as well as James He from Fairfield. An ex-CIO of Coca-Cola was the keynote speaker.

And here we are in San Bernardino again. To gather as colleagues and friends, to share our research, to learn from one another, to talk about our profession, and to dream about the future of Information Systems and Information Technology and its impact on our society.

We celebrate 25 years of the IIMA. We thank all of those who have participated and contributed throughout the years to make this organization so successful. But most of all we thank Dr. Tapie Rohm, who along with Walt Stewart and Patrick McInturff, had the vision and the drive to start this organization with the annual conferences, as well as the various journals and publications.

And we look forward to the future – eager to continue to learn and share as the IIMA continues to make a difference in the next 25 years!

**RESPONSE BY C. E. TAPIE ROHM JR.
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN BERNARDINO**

The IIMA was the brainchild of three professors from California State University San Bernardino. Professor Rohm had served as Senior Fulbright Scholar to the Republic of Tanzania in East Africa, when he returned back to the campus; he wanted to do more with the international scene. Professor Pat McInturff was interested in starting a new journal dealing with the study of information management; he had served as an assistant editor to his laws school journal when in laws school. Professor Walt Stewart had lived in Europe when he was a young boy and returned as young man as a missionary for his church; he was interested in helping to organize and manage the organization. So, the three of them placed out a call for papers for the first International Conference on Information Management to be held in San Bernardino in 1990. The first conference had about 150 professionals and professors from around the world show up. The first proceedings were produced from the papers.

About two years later, the first issue of the *Journal of International Information Management* (JIIM) was published. The conference has been running since that time with proceedings and a journal being published twice a year.

The idea for the association was for new professionals and professors to be able to hold positions in a leadership capacity that would be recognized by their employers. The idea was to keep the association smaller than the big ones. Most presenters noticed that the attendees were interested in their work and gave useful feedback to them. A dinner was always held but in a very unique setting like at a restaurant at the end of the pier overlooking the Pacific ocean; at the Cliff Hanger at 5,000 feet hanging over the side of the mountain with a spectacular view; and the chicken restaurant at Knott's Berry Farm to name a few. With unique experiences at the various locations, it became a tradition which has carried on to this day.

Anyway, the idea worked, the attendees got promoted, advanced and published. The experience paid off for all involved. Of course, there was the issue of money. With a lower conference fee, the new association still needed money. The three professors used their own funds at first. Then, the Department of Information and Decision Science at Cal State was formed, the department helped defray some of the expenses, especially for publishing the journal.

The association decided to move around the United States and the globe. First direction was to Las Vegas, Nevada, then Marietta, Georgia, and Estes Park, Colorado and the first international venue of Toronto, Canada. Of course, a university professor or professional hosted the IIMA at their institutions and a great dinner at unique places took place.

As with any conference, some attendees came and went and some stayed around. New ideas were developed and implemented. The idea came up for an addition publication called the *Communications of the IIMA*. This idea was adopted and began being published in 2002. At the

same time the *Journal of International Information Management* was changed to the *Journal of International Technology and Information Management*.

In 2005, the conference was held in Dublin, Ireland, the association's first venture to Europe. At this conference a delegation for Chinese came to the conference and asked if they could host the conference at their institution in Beijing. Arrangements were made to hold the 18th annual conference at the University for Science and Technology Beijing. A wonderful time was had with the Asian scholars. This led to the first Asian conference in Beijing, China, in 2007 and was very successful. A group from The Netherlands came and began to attend, this led to a conference in Utrecht, Holland in 2010. The international portion of the name became a solid reality.

The IIMA has taken on a life of its own, thanks to all of those people who have desired to make it happen. We all appreciate of the time and efforts placed by those involved. The 25 year anniversary was a great achievement for this association.

We hope that the next 25 will be greater than the past. Visit us often at WWW.IIMA.ORG