

IABC INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS COMMUNICATORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 8, 2015

IABC announces slate of incoming directors and officers for its 2015-16 International Executive Board

The International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) has announced its slate of incoming directors and officers to take up new positions on the 2015–16 International Executive Board (IEB).

The nominees, selected for the relevant positions through open competition, have now been approved by the current IEB and will be presented for ratification by delegates from IABC chapters and regions at the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at the IABC World Conference on Tuesday 16 June in San Francisco, California.

The International Executive Board is the governing body of IABC. It develops the strategic plan and direction for the association under the guidance of bylaws approved by the IABC membership.

The new individuals on the 2015–16 IEB slate were selected by the Nominations Committee of IABC members from across IABC's eight regions using a rigorous competency-based approach that emphasizes leadership, problem solving, global perspective, strategic thinking and business acumen. Other considerations include the geographic mix of the board, as well as the professional experience of the directors.

"The Nominating Committee did a terrific job evaluating the candidates and choosing new board members with outstanding qualifications to serve IABC in this capacity," says Robin McCasland FRSA*, the 2014–15 Chair of the Nominating Committee and past IEB chair. "We believe this year's group of new board members will bring even more value and engagement to what is already a strong working board."

The incoming Chair for the 2015–16 IEB is Michael Ambjorn of London, UK.

Filling in for Rosario Sheen's unexpired term (following her resignation for personal reasons), and appointed by IEB Chair Russell Grossman, ABC* is Olivia Gadd of London, UK.

The returning directors of the IEB are Sharon Hunter; Ritzi Ronquillo; Cindy Schmiege, ABC and Claudia Vaccarone.

The 2015–16 slate for ratification is:

Vice Chair (automatic succession to 2016–17 chair)
Dianne Chase; Charlotte, NC, USA

Director (three-year term)
Alain Legault, MA; Montréal, Quebec, Canada
Shannon Frederick, ABC; Bentonville, Arkansas, USA
Ron Fuchs; Basel, Switzerland

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Director (two-year term)

Olivia Gadd; London, UK

Secretary/Treasurer (one-year term)

Ginger Homan, ABC; Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA

Further information about these prospective office holders:

INCOMING VICE CHAIR

[Dianne Chase](#) is Senior Partner at C4CS, LLC, Leaders in Strategic Communication and Crisis Management, serving client partners from around the world. She is immediate past chair of the IABC Southern Region, where she's served five years on the board. She is vice chair of the 2015 IABC World Conference and a member of the IABC Brand Taskforce.

INCOMING SECRETARY/TREASURER

[Ginger Homan, ABC](#) is the founder of Zia Communication, which specializes in building communities and creating thriving cultures with employees and customers. She is a recipient of the Tulsa Chapter IABC John Hartman Professional Communicator of the Year Award and Leadership Tulsa's Paragon Award for her volunteer work with nonprofits.

NEW DIRECTORS

[Shannon Frederick, ABC](#) is the senior director of communications and stakeholder engagement for the Walmart Foundation. She is a member of IABC Tulsa, which won the 2013 IABC International Chapter of the Year Award under her presidency, and is a second-year board member for the IABC Southern Region.

[Olivia Gadd](#) has worked in marketing, communications and culture change for more than 25 years. Her passion is in creating and supporting dialogue with and within organizations to enable and understand alignment. Director of communications at Grant Thornton UK, she is currently segueing into a global role focusing on strategic people and culture projects.

[Ron Fuchs, APR*](#) is a member of Roche Corporate Communications in Basel, Switzerland and has 37-plus years' experience in multiple organizations – from pharmaceuticals and technology to transportation and the USAF – across communications disciplines. He has degrees from the Universities of Oregon and Southern California. His favorite job is raising twins.

[Alain Legault, MA](#) is based in Montréal and is the communication director of the largest college in the province of Québec, Canada. A high-level, bilingual communications professional with expertise in crisis management and corporate issues, he demonstrates passion, enthusiasm, and above all, a desire to be involved and to excel.

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Other senior officers moving into new roles:

INCOMING CHAIR

[Michael Ambjorn](#) is founder of Align Your Org where, with a participation-centered approach, he and his colleagues enable effective strategic planning, communication, and clarity of execution. He has held leadership roles at IBM, Motorola and the 260-year-old Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce. He is a consummate connector, speaker, facilitator and mentor.

INCOMING IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

[Russell Grossman, ABC, FRSA](#) is Group Director of Communications for the UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and a Director of Engage For Success. He has held a wide range of senior communication roles in UK public and private sectors in a 33-year career and a number of international roles within IABC. He is also a time-served IABC World Conference 'All-Star' presenter and speaker.

**ABC = Accredited Business Communicator*

**APR = Accredited in Public Relations*

**FRSA = Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce*

About IABC:

The International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) enables a global network of communicators working in diverse industries and disciplines to identify, share, and apply the world's best communication practices. IABC is recognized as the professional association of choice for communicators who aspire to excel in their chosen fields. For more information, visit www.iabc.com.

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