

IN MEMORY OF WONDERFUL PRRES COLLEAGUES

Sadly, a number of PRRES colleagues has passed recently. We have wonderful memories of their many contributions to PRRES and to property education and research; I have drawn together some of their contributions.

RITA AVDIEV

Rita Avdiev was a great supporter of PRRES and the property industry; particularly for younger people starting their property careers. She was a regular attendee at PRRES conferences; receiving the PRRES Corporate Excellence Award a few years ago at the Sydney conference.

Rita was a great friend to many in PRRES. In fact, she presented the keynote address at the first PRRES conference in Melbourne in 1995, which was quite a controversial presentation and challenged the various university property programs to move with the times. She encouraged the property courses to stay up-to-date with industry trends, and was very forceful in her views on property education. Rita was the chair of the Property Advisory Committee at Western Sydney University for many years.

Rita was a lovely kind person and was always happy to talk with property academics at the PRRES conference; and was particularly supportive of women in their academic careers. Rita was involved in executive recruitment in the property industry and produced the Avdiev Remuneration Report each year, so property professionals could see how much they were overpaid or underpaid each year.

Rita loved classical music and was a regular attendee at the Sydney Opera House.

We will miss you, Rita; rest in peace.

JOHN BAEN

John Baen (from the US) was professor in property at Lincoln University in the early 1990s. He set up the first regional conference for property academics held at Lincoln University in 1990 under the banner of the Australasian Real Estate Educators Association, which then became PRRES in 1995. So John's initiative saw the basis for PRRES; a wonderful vision; thank you John. In more recent years, John was professor of real estate at University of North Texas, and has always been in high demand as an industry speaker.

John brought an amazing energy to his presentations. When we first met John, he was always going at 100 miles an hour, and his conference presentations were an amazing "theatre performance". Many PRRES colleagues met John for the first time at the 2014 PRRES conference in Lincoln University where he did the keynote address, and were totally overwhelmed by his amazing presentation style.

John had a wonderful commitment to property education and the development of PRRES. His last PRRES conference was in Canberra in 2020. John was also actively involved in ARES.

Rest in peace, John.

Submitted by:

Professor Graeme Newell

Western Sydney University