

Dec 2014 Newsletter

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New Chapters Abound As We Draw 2014 to a Close

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RITA GUNTHER | **MCGRATH**

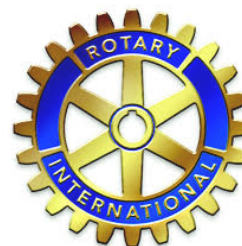
Author. Speaker. Consultant.

Dear Colleagues,

It's all about change over here these days.

Anne Marie Ferguson, my long time executive assistant has decided to retire. While it's bittersweet for me, it's a wonderful opportunity for Anne Marie. She can take better advantage of those (oh too short) Canadian summers, spend more time lawn bowling and hiking and more deeply engage with the important work she does for Rotary.

While we bid a very fond goodbye to Anne Marie as part of my day-to-day team, we are welcoming Pam Ryan to take over her role. Pam, who can be reached at Pam@ritamcgrath.com, joins us virtually from Ohio, where as an experienced Virtual Assistant she is already used to calmly dealing with global interactions for her clients. Meanwhile, Marion Reinson (Marion@ritamcgrath.com) is going to assume a full-time role as Business Director in the New Year.



A Biographical Tribute to Ian MacMillan



Following an invitation from the editors of the Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal, I had the opportunity to pen a biography of my mentor and friend, Mac. From his early days studying chemical engineering in South Africa to his current role at Wharton where he spends a lot of time on

social entrepreneurship his story takes a fair number of unexpected twists. To read the article click [here](#). To watch a video summary of it, click [here](#).

A taste of my presentation at the World Business Forum at Radio City Music Hall

For those of you who couldn't join the several thousand of your colleagues who attended the session on "Provocateurs" at Radio City Music Hall last October, [here](#) is a short video clip from my session.

Spending time with some amazing thinkers at the Global Drucker Forum

The Global Drucker Forum was quite the event, with distinguished speakers and great ideas galore. I got to share a panel with the irrepressible Nilofer Merchant, as well as Nancy A. Tennant, the head of innovation for Clorox and Marc Merrill, the founder of Riot Games, on the topic of innovation. Read about the event [here](#). One of the items that sparked a surprising degree of consensus is that leaders in companies are being incited not to invest in their people and innovation, with some commentators actually saying we're making negative progress. I also got to meet Steve Denning in person for the first time – his takeaways from the Drucker Forum are [here](#).



[Here is a slide show](#) with some of the memorable quotes from the Forum.

Developing Growth Opportunities with Indigenous Irish Enterprises



Way back in 2003, I was part of the [Enterprise Strategy Group](#), a task force of various stakeholder representatives with the mission of advising the Irish government on economic development policy. One of our major recommendations was that indigenous Irish enterprises deserved at least as much attention as foreign multinationals looking to set up subsidiaries in the Emerald Isle.

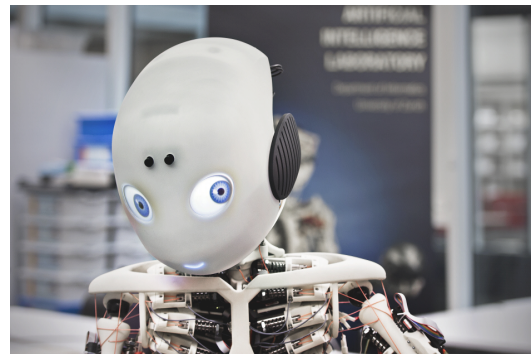
It was delightful, therefore, to see how much progress has been made in encouraging innovative new companies, (in spite of Ireland's economic setbacks) when I spoke at a program coordinated by the Irish Management Institute and Enterprise Ireland in support of indigenous Irish companies working on innovation-fueled growth programs. Read more [here](#).

Considering the future of telecommunications at the International Telecommunications Unit conference

Meeting in Doha, Qatar, futurist Gerd Leonhard assembled a distinguished panel to discuss the future of telecommunications. A [major theme](#) was that of the exponential quality of change for organizations and societies that are designed for linear change. It's also clear that the line between ourselves and our devices is blurring. To have a look at the presentations, [check out Gerd's web site](#).

I also met a robot called Roboy, and his creator, Professor Rolf Pfeifer.

I had no idea how far robots have come now that they have left the factory and entered our lives. Our relationship with them is changing fundamentally. For Pfeifer's TED talk on this subject, click [here](#).



In the News

[Finding Opportunities Others Don't See](#) (Inc. Magazine)

[Think You're Adept at Multi-tasking? Probably Not.](#) (Inc. Magazine)

UCD Smurfit School Business Journalist Award Winners [Announced](#) – End of Competitive Advantage wins Business Book of the Year

Continuous Reconfiguration – [Emerald Insight](#) commended the research behind Rita's paper.

[Commentary](#) on Rita's CIPD talk

A [Re-discovery](#) of Discovery Driven Growth principles

What do top companies for leaders do? HR Executive [cites](#) Rita's thinking.

More links to recent press mentions can be found on the [Press section](#) of my website.

Password for the “Tools” Section of My Website

To access the tools part of the web site (downloadable diagnostics, quizzes, spreadsheets and other cool stuff) go to the [RitaMcGrath.com website](#) and use the password - **mcgr8th!** (*the exclamation point is part of the password*).



Toward 2015

I hope the rest of the year brings you opportunities to be with family and friends, enjoy some downtime, and reflect on your goals for 2015.

Rita





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