



Dear ACUA Friends and Colleagues,

The Midyear Conference will be over by the time you all receive this publication. I hope I had the opportunity to see you in Austin. I know that we will all come back to our offices enlightened, refreshed and having met new and interesting people that we will have a connection with for years to come.

Connect ACUA, the new and upcoming online community, has gone through an extensive beta test in the past month or so. All the ACUA beta testers seem pleased with the product. Midyear Conference attendees have been introduced to the new community and have begun using it to connect with their ACUA colleagues and share stories and discussions about the conference. The Communications Committee has done an extraordinary job implementing this product, staying on budget and timeline, and introducing it to our members. If you don't know who serves on the Communications Committee, here are its members:

- Sam Khan – Oregon State University, Chair of Communications Committee
- Julia Hann – University of North Florida, Board Liaison to Communications Committee
- Jennifer McPherson – Mississippi State University, Communities Director
- Meaghan Smith - Oregon Health & Science University, Web Services Director
- Khareem Gordon – University of North Florida, Social Media Director
- Ron Richards – University of West Georgia, Publications Director

Thank you all for your contributions! The official launch of *Connect ACUA* will be April 12th and the former community will be terminated on June 30th. Stay tuned for information on the launch of *Connect ACUA*.

Risk Assessments are this month's **Best Practice** topic. Risk assessing means different things to different people. The IIA *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing* requires us to establish a risk-based plan consistent with the organization's goals. A risk assessment involving the University's senior management and the board is the best way to accomplish a risk-based plan. Of course, if your institution has an established Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) process, the internal audit risk assessment should be aligned with that process. Speaking of ERM, I hope you all had the opportunity to view the recent ACUA webinar on ERM. Lots of good information was shared on that webinar. The webinar is available for viewing on ACUA's website, if you missed it!

There are many techniques in practice to perform a risk assessment. Ultimately your process must be understandable, effective and a process that your office, management and the board are comfortable delivers an accurate depiction of the institution's risk portfolio as it relates to the work of internal audit. Once an audit plan is established, that doesn't mean you are done assessing risk. Every audit (or just about every audit) should include a risk assessment of the audit area or process, so that your audit scope can include the high risks. I hope you all include risk assessments in your work routinely and have ongoing discussions with your clients about the benefits of assessing risks.

This month's **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT** provided by the Volunteer Appreciation sub-committee highlights Kim Turner from Texas Tech University System. Kim is a long-standing member and contributor to ACUA. She is one of the founders of the Risk Dictionary, an ACUA Ambassador, ACUA Faculty member, a past President, and many other roles I haven't mentioned. I hope you had the opportunity to talk with Kim at the Midyear Conference.

Another amazing Midyear Conference experience has come and gone. I hope you all enjoyed the conference and brought back valuable knowledge. It's time to gear up now for the Annual Conference in Phoenix!

All the Best,

Pam

Pamela Doran CIA, CISA, CPA

ACUA President

Executive Director, Audit & Advisory Services, University of South Carolina

Committee Spotlight: Ambassadors Committee

The Ambassadors Committee was established by the Board to develop and foster mutually beneficial relationships with other professional organizations and to enhance relationships with current and potential ACUA members. All members of the committee have previously served ACUA in leadership roles. Their combined experiences enable them to provide advice and counsel to the current Board. Vijay Patel, Immediate Past President, is the Chair of the Ambassadors Committee. The other members currently serving on the committee are: Sandy Jansen (Univ. of Tennessee), Tina Maier (Univ. of Central Florida), Betsy Bowers (Univ. of West Florida), Mike Peppers (Univ. of Texas System), Mary Barnett (Virginia Community College System), Seth Kornetsky (Tufts Univ.), Kim Turner (Texas Tech Univ. System), Kevin Robinson (Auburn Univ.), Dick Dawson (Univ. of Texas – San Antonio), Toni Stephens (Univ. of Texas – Dallas), Phil Hurd (Georgia Tech), Patti Snopkowski (Oregon State Univ.), Doug Horr (Vanderbilt Univ.), and Tom Dwyer (Syracuse Univ.).

Volunteer Spotlight: Kim Turner

Kim Turner, Chief Audit Executive of Texas Tech University System, has been a member of ACUA for 19.5 years. She has served ACUA in many capacities over the years, including as 2006-2007 President (her favorite ACUA job). In addition to serving on the Ambassadors Committee, Kim is currently co-chair of the Risk Dictionary Committee with Dick Dawson.



ACUA: Why did you become an ACUA volunteer?

Kim: Longtime member David Crawford asked me to partner with him to coordinate an annual conference track way back when, and I always just have a hard time saying no!

ACUA: What is your favorite ACUA memory?

Kim: My favorite memories are of the close friends I have made through ACUA and the many fun times we've had at board meetings, sightseeing trips, and dinner dances!

ACUA: What have you learned as an ACUA volunteer/member?

Kim: I've learned that being a part of ACUA, an organization where members freely share information with their peers, is worth more than gold.

ACUA: What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

Kim: Early in my career just before my first child was born, I got some excellent advice from a mentor about balancing a career and a family. I've never lost focus of which is most important

ACUA: What are your hobbies/interests outside of audit?

Kim: Snow skiing, traveling, and landscaping my yard.

Please contact Toni Stephens (tmesser@utdallas.edu) or Terri Tarbett-Wallace (Frances.Tarbett@usm.edu) if you would like to nominate a current volunteer for the next ACUA Volunteer Spotlight.