



Dear ACUA Friends and Colleagues,

Is it almost August already? Time flies when you're having fun! Remember that the Early Bird registration for the upcoming Annual Conference, September 24-28, 2017 in Phoenix, AZ, ends August 7th. It's going to be a great conference, so be sure to register now!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PEC Committee, particularly the Annual Conference Director, Monica Moyer, for all the time, effort and heart that was put into pulling together the upcoming conference. There are lots of moving parts in planning a conference, so it takes a team committed to delivering a quality experience to the membership to make it successful. Thank you so much for all your efforts!

This coming year we will have a new Annual Conference Chair, Allen Amyotte from the University of Calgary. Allen has been shadowing Monica this past year and will step into the Chair role after this year's Annual Conference. Thank you Allen for volunteering for this important role. We are looking forward to the conferences planned under your leadership.

COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT (provided by the Recognition Committee):

This month highlights the Standards and Best Practices Committee and its Chair, Brian Mikell at the University of Florida. This is a very important committee, as it keeps us informed of best practices and new developments in our profession and industry. This committee writes whitepapers, monitors standards, and maintains the Risk Dictionary. If any of these activities interest you, please read further in the Committee Spotlight attached and check out the ACUA website homepage under Volunteer Opportunities for openings as a volunteer on this committee. This committee provides a great opportunity to make a real difference in providing valuable resources to our members.

Thank you so much Brian for your commitment to ACUA and the internal audit profession! As you know, Brian will be taking on a new role as an ACUA Board Member-At-Large in September continuing his volunteerism and commitment to the organization.

Best Practice topic of the month:

This month's highlighted best practice is establishing a student intern program. There are many benefits to a student intern program; some more apparent than others. Certainly student interns are likely less expensive than hiring permanent staff, but also provides the opportunity to expose students to internal audit. This exposure is beneficial because it could mean a future high-performing staff member in the making or a future manager/ leader within the organization who understands and appreciates the value of internal audit. I have also found that having student interns in the office changes the office dynamics positively by increasing the energy level and also possibly providing leadership opportunities to internal audit staff members. Consider providing the interns with unique opportunities such as presenting their work product to senior leadership of the University. Not only will the students appreciate and welcome the opportunity, but my experience has been that senior leadership also welcomes the opportunity to hear the fresh and unique perspectives that the students provide. Consider developing a student intern program and all its potential benefits!

Until next month,

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Pamela Doran CIA, CISA, CPA
ACUA President
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Committee Spotlight: Standards and Best Practices Committee

The Standards and Best Practices Committee is composed of three subcommittees that all seek to provide information and tools that will enhance the professionalism of the ACUA Community. The subcommittees include:

- **Best Practices** – This subcommittee seeks to identify and research topics of concern to the ACUA membership resulting in unofficial guidance and tools issued through articles, white papers and other modes. Regular services would include the biennial ACUA salary survey, ad hoc survey services to the ACUA Community, maintaining a database of QAR volunteers and the ACUA Resource Library (online).
- **Audit and Accounting Principles** – This subcommittee seeks to monitor, analyze and report to the ACUA Community, from the higher education perspective, the status and impact of updates and changes to official audit and accounting principles.
- **Risk Dictionary** – To assist the ACUA Community in assessing risk in the higher education environment, this subcommittee seeks to maintain and improve ACUA's copyrighted Risk Dictionary.

Volunteer Spotlight: Brian Mikell

Brian Mikell, Chief Audit Executive at University of Florida, has been a member of ACUA since 2004. He has served at many ACUA conferences as proctor, booth and table host, and presenter (Los Angeles, CA 2014). He currently chairs the Standards and Best Practices Committee.

ACUA: Why did you become an ACUA volunteer?

Brian: I wanted to be involved. I wanted to make a difference in my chosen profession, Higher Education Internal Audit. Being a volunteer also made me feel part of the ACUA Community, where before I was just attending a conference.

ACUA: What is your favorite ACUA memory?

Brian: Volunteering throughout the year always culminates for me in the Annual Conference. I do not have one favorite memory, but many awesome memories from the interaction, collaboration and camaraderie with my peers in the ACUA Community.

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

Brian: Not so much learned as reinforced what I learned many years ago from competing in sports – the collective efforts of many can accomplish more than any individual.

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

Brian: The only way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time! Don't be dismayed by the enormity of any project, just get to work on it!

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

Brian: I serve on the board of Amazon Vision Ministries, which has the mission of sharing the Hope of Christ with the people of the Amazon Basin in Brazil. This includes involvement in annual mission trips to the Amazon Basin. I also enjoy singing in the choir at Westside Baptist in Gainesville, FL. I am also an avid GATOR fan, and you will recognize me at conferences by the Orange and Blue that I almost always wear!

