



Dear ACUA Friends and Colleagues,

Spring is in the air, the Midyear conference has come and gone—very successfully I might add, and we are all gearing up for the end of the school year and summer vacations. While you have all this going on, please don't forget to also mark your calendars for the Annual Conference on September 24-28, 2017. Registration will open June 1st. Don't miss out on this opportunity for learning and networking, not to mention it's a whole lot of fun!

ACUA has officially launched its new online community, **Connect ACUA**. There has already been lots of activity, discussion and information being shared among members. If you haven't checked this out, you are missing out on a great opportunity to get plugged in with your fellow internal auditors from around the country and around the world. I can't thank the volunteers on the Communications Committee enough for all their hard work and dedication to this project! I have been receiving all kinds of good news and praise about the huge success of this "best in class" tool and the difference it is making for our membership. **THANK YOU** Communications Committee!

The month of May is soon coming upon us. As all of you know, **May is Internal Audit Awareness Month**. ACUA's Recognition Committee, led by La Donna Flynn at Pittsburgh State University, developed some great tools to help you promote Internal Audit Awareness on your campuses. These tools are one of the ways the Board of Directors and the Committees are meeting ACUA's Strategic Goal to be "widely recognized as the leading expert on internal auditing and assurance services in colleges and universities". We need your help to get the word out about Internal Audit! Internal Audit Awareness month is also a great opportunity to further your department's mission at your institution. You can find these tools under the Resources section of the website under Internal Audit Awareness.

This month's **Best Practice** topic is establishing an Internal Audit Strategic Plan. As auditors we routinely ask our institutions, colleges, functions, departments, etc. to provide us with their strategic plan in order for us to understand the entity we will be auditing, its goals and mission, and its objectives. Yet many times the internal audit function does not have its own strategic plan. Why is this? Well, I can answer that from my own myopic perspective. It takes time, thought and commitment when there is always some other priority, another fire to put out or major project to complete. A strategic plan will better prepare you for setting the department's priorities, provide the staff with clear direction and provide your stakeholders with assurance that the department is managing to set goals, objectives and standards. Consider establishing a strategic plan and how it may benefit your organization.

Our featured **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT** for April, provided by the Volunteer Appreciation sub-committee, highlights Doug Horr at Vanderbilt University. Doug is a long-standing ACUA member, recently an ACUA Past President and Chairs our newly formed (and very important) Partnerships Committee. I can't say enough about his contributions, but I'll let the article speak for itself.

I hope you are all enjoying the spring weather and spring flowers, I certainly am.

Until next month.....

Pam

Pamela Doran CIA, CISA, CPA
ACUA President
Executive Director, Audit & Advisory Services, University of South Carolina

Committee Spotlight: Partnerships Committee

The Partnerships Committee is a new committee formed in 2016 and is comprised of two sub-committees, Governmental Affairs and External Relations. Governmental Affairs is a group that monitors the higher education regulatory environment for significant changes that might affect our work. Included in that group is our liaison to the Council on Government Relations. ACUA has a seat on the Costing Principles Committee of COGR. The External Relations Committee is involved with exploring relationships with other higher education and similar organizations and leveraging those relationships to the benefit of our members, mostly in the form of educational opportunities. We currently work with URMIA, the SCCE, AHIA, and are exploring opportunities with NCURA, the IIA, and NACUBO and its regional organizations. ACUA also has a liaison that works with NACUBO and sits on the Accounting Principles Committee.

Volunteer Spotlight: Doug Horr

Doug Horr is Associate Vice Chancellor for Audit, Risk, and Advisory Services at Vanderbilt University and has been a member of ACUA for 25 years. Over the years, he has volunteered for ACUA conferences (from proctor to track coordinator), task forces and committees, and the Board (including President '13-'14). Currently, as the Chair for the Partnerships Committee, Doug dedicates a couple of hours each month to assessing progress toward committee goals, coordinating activities with committee members (both the Partnerships Committee and other committees), and periodically reporting to the Board. His guiding philosophy is "How can I make what I'm doing better for the members, including my own staff?"



ACUA: Why did you become an ACUA volunteer?

Doug: I believe in giving back to the organizations that give to you. My first couple years I learned so much at the annual conferences and met some fantastic people who became not only mentors, but great friends. It made me want to make sure others would benefit the same way I did.

ACUA: What is your favorite ACUA memory?

Doug: Too many to count, though all center around the incredible group of professionals I am very happy to call my friends.

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

Doug: That there is always something new to learn!! And that it takes a lot of volunteers to make this organization go!

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

Doug: Be true to who you are and everything else will take care of itself.

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

Doug: Travelling/cruising with my wife is my favorite hobby. I am also an avid wine collector (and drinker). I love all sports, and play golf and basketball regularly. I'm also a big fan of horse racing and make annual trips to Saratoga Springs with a group of friends.