



Dear ACUA Friends and Colleagues,

Happy New Year! I hope 2018 has gotten off to a great start for our members. It is hard to believe that we are almost into February and the Midyear Conference is just around the corner. Don't forget to register for the upcoming **Midyear Conference**, March 18-21, 2017 in Louisville, Kentucky. There are now six tracks to choose from including topics on higher education compliance, IT, fraud, NCAA compliance, audit leadership, plus a new track on auditing auxiliaries.

I am honored to be part of an organization with core values of:

- Integrity
- Open Sharing of Knowledge
- Mutual Trust and Friendship
- Respect
- Commitment to Excellence
- Innovation

So many volunteers dedicate their precious time to keep these values alive and move ACUA forward! To continue to be the most valuable resource available to audit and compliance professionals in higher education, ACUA's committees have taken action to address our goals in accordance with our core values.

Several of our committees have been collaborating to better equip members with higher education specific content, with representation from **Best Practices, Communications, Professional Education** as well as several board members. The task force is developing and testing a process that includes the selection of content, cultivation and review of material, dissemination through a multichannel communication strategy, and dynamic response to continuing issues. This new tool will include background information, key risks and controls, sample audit steps, common audit issues, and other information to **kick start** members next audit on these topics. This endeavor will focus on content for the ACUA resource library, risk dictionary, webinars, journal articles, Connect ACUA, conference sessions, etc. Be on the lookout for the debut release of this new resource. *We need volunteers to assist us with guiding this effort*, so please reach out if you are interested in getting involved!

The **External Relations** sub-committee has been working with ACUA volunteers to reach out to other organizations, such as the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), to advance internal auditing and position ACUA to be a recognized resource to higher education leaders. Our goal is to advocate for how internal audit organizations partner with higher education leaders to build stronger governance systems that allow organizations to better achieve their goals and objectives. The more people who understand our purpose – the greater success we can all achieve.

ACUA's Volunteer Appreciation sub-committee provides a **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT** each month to recognize the efforts and great work of our member volunteers. This month's volunteer spotlight highlights Meaghan Smith from Oregon Health and Science University and the work she is doing as Communications Committee Chair.

Don't forget to (1) check out the newly updated NCAA Audit Guides for Divisions I and II within the "Audit Tools" section under the "Resources" tab on the ACUA website and (2) nominate an exemplary colleague with a heart of service to the ACUA Board (nominations due February 1).

Regards,

Sharon M. Kurek, CPA, CFE, MBA
ACUA President

Executive Director of Audit, Risk, and Compliance
Virginia Tech

Volunteer Spotlight: Meaghan Smith

Meaghan Smith is Lead Auditor for Oregon Health and Science University and has been a member of ACUA for seven years. She initially served as Web News Editor and later as Web Services Director, where she worked with other ACUA committees to update ACUA's website content. Meaghan is currently the Communications Committee Chair, which involves coordinating the activities of Web Services, the ACUA Community, Social Media, and the *College and University Auditor Journal*. In addition to her work with the Communications Committee, Meaghan also serves on the Awards Committee and volunteered as proctor and on the host committee for the 2016 ACUA Midyear Conference in Portland.



ACUA: Why did you become an ACUA volunteer?

Meaghan: I joined ACUA as a brand new staff auditor right out of school. Patti Snopkowski, then CAE of the Oregon University System, encouraged me to get involved. I responded to a Call for Volunteers on the website for the Web News Editor position, where I posted news articles to the scrolling menu on the website homepage. It was a great way to build my own awareness of current issues in higher education while helping the ACUA membership at the same time!

ACUA: What is your favorite ACUA memory?

Meaghan: One of my favorite ACUA memories was attending my first Annual Conference in Miami, Florida. It was so great to finally meet many of the ACUA volunteers that I'd been emailing back and forth with for years!

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

Meaghan: I'm still regularly amazed by the amount of time and effort put in by volunteers to make ACUA run on a day-to-day basis. There is a huge amount of coordination with many emails and conference calls that all happen behind the scenes. Some days the number of ACUA-related emails in my inbox outnumber the rest of my work emails! I've also gained an invaluable network of colleagues who are always willing to help with questions.

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

Meaghan: I've received a lot of great advice both professionally and personally. I enjoy reading, and one of the most empowering books for me personally is "Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking" by Susan Cain. I highly recommend this book for any other introverts out there!

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

Meaghan: I like spending time with family and friends, reading, exploring new places, watching college softball, and being outside in the Pacific Northwest. I also regularly volunteer at a local nonprofit cat rescue shelter with my husband where we help cats and kittens find new homes.

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.

Core Values

Integrity – Open Sharing of Knowledge – Mutual Trust and Friendship — Respect – Commitment to Excellence – Innovation