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## A Season of Accomplishments

When I took the stage last September to be your president, I made it clear that I wanted to build our future on one word...Association. My goal was, and remains, to come alongside likeminded people who have a passion for colleges and universities and the mission of higher education. That is the goal of ACUA.

Throughout these last months, this Board has worked hard to position ACUA for its next phase. The last year has been a transformative year for the Association. I laid out four specific items we sought to accomplish.

1. **Website:** With much labor and through tireless efforts, our Association has a new online presence. We have updated the engine, refreshed the content, and put a shine in our digital presence. We have launched a platform that should serve us into the future as we continue to develop our digital channels.
2. **Partnerships:** Today, I am proud to say that we have recognized increasing levels of commitment and partnership from our friends throughout the industry. We have reengineered and reengaged with our long-term friends and sought out new relationships as we continue to sell the benefits of partnering with us.
3. **ACUA Kick Starters:** Our dedicated volunteers continue to push out timely, higher education focused resources. Kick Starters remain an ongoing effort to augment our already robust set of resources.
4. **Conference Updates:** We have been responsive to your desires to see things differently at our conferences. We launched a reformatted midyear conference under the Audit Interactive banner, and we will launch our updated annual conference in just a few short weeks under the AuditCon moniker. We have worked to focus our conferences on a Learn, Apply, Collaborate learning model, asking our speakers to bring practical insights to their presentations. We have also altered our formats to be responsive to member feedback.

In addition, the Board entered into a strategic planning process this spring. This effort promises to bring about another round of evaluation and structuring to ensure we are spending our time and resources where they can make the most impact.

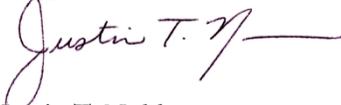
So, as I take a deep breath and look forward to celebrating our accomplishments at AuditCon: *A Higher Education Summit*, I would be remiss if I did not say one final “thank you.” Thank you to each of you for believing in and investing in ACUA. If not for you, our Association would not exist. Thank you once again to our amazing volunteers, our fantastic Board, and our dedicated staff. I deeply appreciate all that you have done and accomplished this year.



Lastly, as I have done each time we have talked, I'd invite you to again join in on the fun of volunteering with ACUA. Find your niche and please give back. Ignore those who say there is a clique. There isn't. There is just a group of people of love ACUA and who will come alongside anyone else who loves it too. There is a place for you. Come be an active part of the Association-you'll be glad you did!

I'll see you at Summit in Baltimore, until then...

Happy Auditing!



Justin T. Noble  
ACUA President  
Assistant Chief Audit Executive  
Texas Tech University System

## Volunteer Spotlight: Ray Khan

Ray Khan is Senior Data Analytics Auditor at Texas Woman's University and has been a member of ACUA for five years. He currently serves ACUA as Director of the Communities Committee. As Director, Ray manages the Connect ACUA site including monitoring discussion posts, creating quick tips on use of the website, and assisting others with migrating documentation to the website.



**ACUA: Why did you become an ACUA volunteer?**

**Ray:** ACUA has been a great organization when it comes to sharing. As I have relied on information I have received over the years, I wanted to give back and saw a great opportunity. Additionally, I saw a better chance to network with other peers.

**ACUA: What is your favorite ACUA memory?**

**Ray:** Miami trivia – Some say I might have ruined it, others say I lead to the correct results. Either way it was a blast, and I was glad the proper team won.

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

**Ray:** Always reach out for answers to any question you have. There is always going to be someone out there who was in your same shoes that will be able to assist you. With the diversity of ACUA, no question is too small, and they all have a level of importance.

**ACUA: What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?**

**Ray:** No matter where you are in your career, there is always someone that will need your assistance. Any level of assistance you can offer goes a long way, and whether you get a benefit or not, the feeling you get from helping someone is rewarding in itself.

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

**Ray:** I enjoy watching movies and watch at least one movie each week. We have created themed movie months so that we never get in a rut and are always seeing a film we have never seen before. I also have a large board game collection and enjoy playing a variety of games with my family and friends. These games are always great at providing some humor or helping me stay competitive and think of different strategies in order to win.

*Please contact Terri Tarbett-Wallace ([Frances.Tarbett@usm.edu](mailto:Frances.Tarbett@usm.edu)) or Martha Stirling ([STIRLINGMK@mail.etsu.edu](mailto:STIRLINGMK@mail.etsu.edu)) if you would like to nominate a current volunteer for the next ACUA Volunteer Spotlight.*