



Dear ACUA Friends and Colleagues,

I am sad to say that this is my last newsletter as ACUA's President. However, I am excited and energized by our incoming President, Sharon Kurek, and all the great initiatives and ideas she has in store for ACUA's membership. I am confident that she will make a great President and make positive, innovative, and lasting changes. I welcome and look forward to passing along the gavel to my fellow colleague and friend at the Annual Conference in Phoenix.

I hope you are all registered and planning to attend the Annual Conference, September 24-28 in Phoenix, AZ. There are lots of great education sessions and networking opportunities planned. Our host committee has done a fantastic job in preparing us to visit their city and providing excursions to maximize networking opportunities and community engagement.

I am very excited about the key note speakers lined up for the conference including one of our own ACUA members, Mike Peppers, who will be representing the IIA as the newly elected Global Chairman. It has been a very long time since an IIA Global Chairman comes from the higher education industry. This is a great opportunity for ACUA and all of us in Higher Education internal audit to increase awareness about the challenges our industry is facing.

We also have keynote speakers from the Association of Governing Boards (AGB). AGB is very actively involved in informing our board members about their governance responsibilities and leading practices in overseeing the management of risks at the board level. Our speakers will provide strategies for raising the Board's awareness of risks and engaging them in risk discussions.

To round off the conference, we also have a professor from Arizona State University that will talk to us about self-leadership. He will focus us on demonstrating leadership to achieve excellence in all that we do.

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

This month highlights the Membership Committee and its Chair, Jana Briley from Georgia Southern University. This Committee just recently performed the membership survey; a very important tool for ACUA's leadership. This survey provides our members a voice in ACUA's strategies and initiatives. The Board very carefully analyzes the results of the membership survey and will thoughtfully act on the feedback we received from all of you. Thank you so much for providing that insight to help guide us in our work as a Board.

Thank you so much Jana for your commitment to ACUA! Jana has been an ACUA member and volunteer for many years and, therefore, provides the Board insight and historical knowledge that is important in our decision-making.

**Best Practice** topic of the month:

This month's highlighted best practice is providing training to the university community on governance, risk management and controls. There are so many ways to accomplish raising awareness about these important areas that all levels of the community are responsible for in some way. There are newsletters, formal classroom training, lunch and learn sessions, partnering with other organizations, recorded sessions available on a website, guest speaking to various committees and constituents including the Board, an active internal audit awareness day program, and brochures that you pass out at every opening and closing meeting. Word of mouth and training can be a powerful tool for changing a culture. Be creative and have fun with it. If you are having fun, your message is more likely to be remembered.

I have really enjoyed my year as ACUA President. I have learned so much, have met lots of great people and believe I have helped raise awareness of the internal audit activity in a small but lasting way. Thank you all so much for providing me this great opportunity!

I'll see you all in Phoenix next month,

*Pam*

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

## Committee Spotlight: Membership Committee

The Membership Committee promotes membership interests and gauges membership satisfaction, as well as works to recruit and retain members of the organization. The Membership Committee is a standing committee established by ACUA's bylaws. In addition to committee members, there are three task forces: New Member Outreach, Non-Member Outreach, and Small Shop Mentoring.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Jana Briley

Jana Briley is the Chief Audit Officer at Georgia Southern University and has been a member of ACUA since December 2004. Over the years, Jana has served ACUA extensively as a conference proctor, Co-Fraud Track Coordinator for the 2009 and 2010 Annual Conferences, Chair of the Professional Education Committee, and Midyear Conference Director from 2011-2013. Currently, she is both a Board Member-at-Large and Chair of the Membership Committee.



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

**Jana:** My predecessor, Scott Pierce, was very active with ACUA, and he encouraged me to volunteer because it is a great way to become involved with the association and network with colleagues – and he was right! I have met so many wonderful people from all over the world, and I am grateful for the friendships I have made. I appreciate their knowledge and willingness to share their ideas and to be used as resources.

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

**Jana:** I have so many fond memories from being a member of, and volunteer with, ACUA. I'm not sure I can pick one! I think it may be the first ACUA conference I attended. It was the 2005 Midyear conference in Miami. I was in the introduction to auditing class with Rob Clark. That was my first introduction to ACUA and meeting so many new people. I met two of my best friends who were in the same class. We have been friends ever since even though each of us live in different areas of the U.S.

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

**Jana:** Each role I have served in has brought new experiences and knowledge. I have learned more about how the association operates, and the friendships and network of colleagues I developed over the years has had a significant impact on me, both personally and professionally.

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

**Jana:** I have received a lot of advice over the years... but I probably needed it! What hits closest to home is – always be yourself. As long as you are doing your best or doing the right thing – be true to yourself. Be weird. Be different. Be happy. Be YOU!

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

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

**Jana:** I don't have much time for true hobbies. My son is in middle school now so that takes up most of my time. I love spending time with my family. I have a sweet dog and several cats – all strays that found their way to me – plus an occasional possum or raccoon. I think the word has spread that you can find a home with me in the country.

**Members Who Have Volunteered for 5+ Years**

The ACUA Volunteer Appreciation Committee would like to take this opportunity to recognize all the members who have volunteered for ACUA for five or more years within the last 15 years. On behalf of ACUA, we thank you for your service!

Mary Barnett, Virginia Community College System

Robert Berry, University of South Alabama

Frank Bossle (retired)

Betsy Bowers, University of Western Florida

Michael Bowers, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Jana Briley, Georgia Southern University

Mary Lee Brown (retired)

Richard Cordova, University of Washington

Deb Dahlke, University of Nebraska

Dick Dawson (retired 2017)

Pam Doran, University of South Carolina

Tom Dwyer, Syracuse

Leigh Goller, Duke

Melissa Hall, Georgia Tech

Julia Hann, University of North Florida

Doug Horr, Vanderbilt

Amy Hughes, Michigan Technological University

Phil Hurd, Georgia Tech

Sue Jago, Ohio University

Sandy Jansen, University of Tennessee

Kathy Kapka (retired)

Gail Klatt, University of Minnesota

Sharon Kurek, Virginia Tech

Heather Lopez, Washington State University

Brian Mikell, University of Florida

Mike Moody, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Justin Noble, Texas Tech University

Mark Paganelli (no longer in audit)

Vijay Patel, The University of Southern Mississippi

Nichole Pittman, University of Alaska

Kevin Robinson, Auburn

Sterling Roth, Georgia State University

Jim Sleezer (retired)

Meaghan Smith, Oregon Health & Science University

Patricia Snopkowski, Oregon State University

Toni Stephens, UT Dallas

Kim Turner, Texas Tech University

Helen Vanderland (retired)