



Dear ACUA Friends and Colleagues,

It is now officially summer, yahoo! It means quieter times on college campuses, school is out for the younger kids, less traffic and vacation time. With all the excitement of summer, don't forget to register for the upcoming Annual Conference on September 24-28, 2017 in Phoenix, AZ. Registration opens June 1st. You won't want to miss it!

Many of you are already aware that ACUA has launched a new online community, **Connect ACUA**. This is very apparent by the significantly increased volume of activity. We are so excited about the success of the new community and all the networking and sharing that it facilitates! Don't forget that the old ACUA community will be deactivated on **June 30th**. If there is discussion and resources of importance to you on the old community, I encourage you to save this information locally in the coming weeks. Once the old community is deactivated, the data will no longer be available.

I hope you have all taken advantage of the opportunity Internal Audit Awareness Month provides for internal auditors to increase awareness and build support for our function. ACUA's Recognition Committee will continue to provide tools to members to promote internal audit for Internal Audit Awareness Month and throughout the year. Thank you to the Recognition Committee for these tools and your dedication to ACUA!

Have you heard about the new "**Training for Travel**" program? The ACUA Faculty, which is part of the **Professional Education Committee (PEC)**, has developed and is introducing this program. The program assists ACUA member institutions in taking advantage of the expertise ACUA Faculty has to offer. ACUA's faculty is a valued resource that is available when members are looking for talented speakers on topics such as risk, internal controls, auditing, compliance and fraud. With mutual agreement between the requesting member institution and an ACUA Faculty member, in-person training can be provided by the Faculty member for the cost of their travel expenses. In addition, arrangements can be made to provide CPE certificates for the training through ACUA. A Training for Travel form was developed to assist with this process. Use of this form is free, there is a small fee of \$65 per training participant if CPE is requested, and of course travel expenses must be paid or reimbursed to the faculty member. The form can be found on the ACUA Faculty website in the coming weeks.

Best Practice topic of the month:

This month's highlighted best practice is performing follow-up reviews. We all know that this can be a daunting task, however, follow-up reviews are also very important in providing assurances to the Board and executive management. Our stakeholder's have a vested interest in verifying that risks are appropriately mitigated and beneficial opportunities are exploited. Timely follow-up reviews and an appropriate escalation process when agreed upon actions have not been completed are key to this best practice. Don't forget that follow-up reviews are also required by the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (Standards)* in the Performance Standards addressing *Monitoring Progress*. We probably don't remind ourselves and our stakeholders often enough about the importance of these reviews. Keep on plugging away!

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

This month highlights the Communications Committee and Jennifer McPherson at Mississippi State University. Jennifer was instrumental in implementing the new online community, **Connect ACUA**. I am sure everyone that has used the new community would agree that it was a HUGE accomplishment and success. Thank you so much Jennifer for all your time, work and dedication to ACUA!

Until next month, I wish you all happy auditing!

Pam

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

Committee Spotlight: Communications Committee

The purpose of the Communications Committee is to provide accurate, timely and relevant information that our members find valuable. The committee consists of the Chair, Sam Khan, and four directors, who oversee various communication channels.

- **Ron Richards**, the Journal Editor, compiles, edits, and publishes the [College and University Auditor](#) journal.
- **Meaghan Smith**, the Web Services Director, updates and recommends enhancements to the website.
- **Khareem Gordon**, the Social Media Director, develops the strategic direction and manages the Social Media content for LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter.
- **Jennifer McPherson**, ACUA Community Director, helped launch and manages the new community platform, [Connect ACUA](#).

If the thought of volunteering in any of these areas gets you excited, then please take this [brief survey](#) so we can learn more about you and how you can best help.

Volunteer Spotlight: Jennifer McPherson

Jennifer McPherson, Senior Auditor at Mississippi State University, has been a member of ACUA since 2013. She is the ACUA Communities Director and helped coordinate the recent launch of the Connect ACUA Community. Connect ACUA allows our members to share ideas and resources with each other by either logging into the site or through email. Our members can also connect with each other and build professional networks through Connect ACUA.



ACUA: Why did you become an ACUA volunteer?

Jennifer: Vijay talked me into it. Seriously, though, most of my career has been spent in the corporate world, and ACUA has been a valuable resource to me as a higher education auditor. ACUA has helped me to better understand risks specific to higher education and what controls and best practices can be implemented to help mitigate those risks. Plus, I have met many incredible people through ACUA and look forward to meeting more.

ACUA: What is your favorite ACUA memory?

Jennifer: All of the Annual Conferences I have attended have been memorable. I always return to campus with new energy and ideas. The trivia nights are especially fun ways to learn more about colleagues and fuel our competitive natures!

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

Jennifer: Our profession is constantly changing, but ACUA resources and networking help educate us on current trends and issues.

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

Jennifer: My faith guides me, so I would say that Proverbs 3:5-6 is the best advice I have been given. It basically states to trust and acknowledge God in all that you do and not to rely on yourself, and He will guide you.

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

Jennifer: Besides being an MSU employee, I am also an alumna and a HUGE fan of all MSU athletic teams - HAIL STATE! My family travels to Walt Disney World at least annually as members of Disney Vacation Club. I love to read and am always searching for new book recommendations, but my most guilty pleasure is attending New Kids on the Block concerts with my girlfriends. I am also a soccer and baseball mom and love it!