



ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY AUDITORS

*Advancing Auditing in Higher Education*

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Dear ACUA Friends and Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that almost a year has passed from when I began serving as ACUA's President! Many officers that have come before me have commented on the amazing nature of our organization and the tremendous commitment of our volunteers. While I knew this to be true, I certainly have appreciated each and every one of ACUA's volunteers over the past year!

I'd like to take a moment to recognize a few volunteers that I have had the pleasure of serving with on the board. As with any job, but especially in the world of volunteerism, you're only as good as your team...and it has been an honor to serve alongside of these very talented volunteers!

- Pam Doran, immediate past president, is a rock. She led a taskforce to develop a more intentional and structured approach to market ACUA to external stakeholders and strengthen our existing partnerships. She is one of my trusted advisors and I hope that I can fill her shoes and stay engaged!
- Justin Noble, vice president, brings a fresh perspective to the board. He has tons of good ideas and is willing to question our direction. He led a taskforce collaborating to better equip members with higher education specific content (Kick Starters). I'm thrilled that I have had the opportunity to spend time with him and am looking forward to all that he will accomplish as our next President!
- Robert Berry, secretary/treasurer, is a long-serving member of the board and has the difficult task of keeping track of our finances and investments...all under the scrutiny of a bunch of auditors!
- Jana Briley, board member at large, has spent many hours on our membership committee work. She is a tremendous leader for ACUA and is making an impact.
- Melissa Hall, board member at large, has a can-do attitude and always steps up to a challenge. She has worked with external relations to advance internal auditing and position ACUA to be a recognized resource to higher education leaders.
- Julia Hann, board member at large, has such a positive energy and devotion to ACUA. She has championed many initiatives for ACUA, including leading the website redesign discussions. I appreciate her work and advocacy for us to keep moving ACUA forward.
- Sam Khan, board member at large, brings a new perspective to the board. He asks thought provoking questions and utilizes his technical knowledge for ACUA's benefit.
- Brian Mikell, board member at large, has become a great friend over the years. He continues to lead us so that members can share best practices with the ACUA membership.
- Nikki Pittman, PEC Chair, has a tireless work ethic. She truly loves ACUA and is dedicated to providing the membership great conferences and educational opportunities.
- Richard Cordova, Audit Committee Chair, brings a unique perspective to board discussions as our internal auditor. He is a valued member of our team.

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 Melissa Hall from Georgia Institute of Technology and the work she has done on behalf of ACUA in many roles, including currently serving as a Board Member-at-Large.

ACUA CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY • OPEN SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE • MUTUAL TRUST & FRIENDSHIP • RESPECT • COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE • INNOVATION

I hope you are all registered and planning to attend **Annual Conference in New Orleans, September 9 – 13, 2018**. I am so excited with the content: exceptional general session speakers (including one of ACUA's own), superb bonus session offerings to choose from on Tuesday afternoon for low cost additional CPEs, and five tracks with 50 concurrent sessions selected by our incredible team of track coordinators! 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. You can register on-site at the New Orleans Marriott, so it is not too late to join us!

I have really enjoyed my year as ACUA President. I have learned so much, met lots of great people, and tried to serve our members well. Thank you all so much for providing me this great opportunity!

Regards,



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

Executive Director of Audit, Risk, and Compliance, Virginia Tech



## Volunteer Spotlight: Melissa Hall

Melissa Hall is the Associate Director of Forensic Audits at Georgia Institute of Technology. She has been a member of ACUA for eight years. Melissa began serving ACUA as a proctor, track coordinator, and speaker at Annual Conferences. After participating in the first cohort of the ACUA Leads! Program, she led a Best Practices sub-committee that “researched ‘hot-topics’ in fraud investigations, including surveys to the ACUA membership, and published those results in the ACUA journal.” Melissa is currently a Board Member-at-Large and will be a co-presenter at the ACUA 2018 Annual Conference (“ACUA 101: All about YOUR Professional Association – *Audit Trends and Issues*”).



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

**Melissa:** Although I am not new to auditing, I was new to higher education in my career, and wanted to learn more about the Industry. By volunteering, I have learned WAY more in return.

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

**Melissa:** In Miami a couple years ago, I served with a group at the first “ACUA gives back” group event during the Annual conference- by working together with my ACUA family to serve dinner at a shelter, I met great people. It always humbles me to remember how truly blessed I am!

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

**Melissa:** My peers encounter the same challenges (and victories) that I do- it’s great to learn from others who have been where I currently am- their advice is extremely valuable.

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

**Melissa:** “It’s not whether you make a mistake or not that matters.... we ALL make mistakes..... What’s important is how you react when you do.”

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

**Melissa:** When I’m not spending time with my husband and two daughters, I spend my spare time as a true crime JUNKIE- television shows, documentaries, podcasts and books - I sometimes think I missed my calling, and should have been a homicide detective?

*Please contact Toni Stephens ([tmesser@ntdallas.edu](mailto:tmesser@ntdallas.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.*