



Dear ACUA Friends and Colleagues,

I am sincerely honored and excited to have the opportunity to serve you as ACUA's President this year! I would like to thank Pam Doran for her leadership as President over the past year, as she worked tirelessly for ACUA and motivated others through her own commitment to service. I'm pleased to have her serve as the Immediate Past President on the board this year!

Congratulations and welcome to Justin Noble from the Texas Tech University System, as ACUA's Vice President for the coming year. Also, congratulations to Robert Berry from the University of South Alabama on his re-election as Secretary/Treasurer and welcome to the new Board Members At-Large, Brian Mikell from the University of Florida and Sam Khan from Oregon State University.

The 2017 ACUA Annual Conference in Phoenix was a great experience! Over 400 attendees participated in innovative and inspiring keynote sessions, individual sessions, and networking with peers at the opening reception and Wednesday's off-site dinner event, while over 100 participants took advantage of the Tuesday bonus sessions. I would like to thank the Annual Conference Director, Monica Moyer from Saint Leo University, for all of her efforts in managing such a great conference and the PEC Chair Nikki Pittman, the Phoenix host committee, and the many other ACUA volunteers that contributed time for this event. This year's award winners – Kevin Robinson, Outstanding Professional Contributions Award; Doug Horr, Member Excellence in Service Award; and Marion Candrea, Rising Star Award – were very deserving as their contributions have significantly contributed to ACUA. The energy at the annual conference was invigorating and I hope you'll join us for the 2018 Annual Conference in New Orleans!

We have a truly unique organization that is committed to sharing knowledge, building friendships, and raising awareness of our profession within higher education. The board and committees are focusing our efforts on these historical strengths this year. Our first focus this year is to better equip members with higher education specific content by working holistically across ACUA's committees and volunteers to assist ACUA in delivering on its goal of being the "indispensable resource for professional knowledge exchange and education content for internal auditing in higher education." This endeavor will focus on content for the ACUA resource library, risk dictionary, Connect ACUA, webinars, journal articles, etc.

The second area of focus this year is to continue to build on prior initiatives for ACUA to collaborate with other organizations to advance internal auditing and be a recognized resource to higher education leaders. Our Partnerships Committee will continue to build on ACUA's partnerships and collaborations to raise awareness of our profession and the value our members can offer their organizations. The more people who understand our purpose – the greater success we all can achieve.

The people that comprise ACUA is what makes this organization so special! I look forward to working alongside of my fellow board members, committee chairs, and all the hundreds of volunteers that accomplish the work of ACUA.

Be sure to visit ACUA's website, as it is continuously being updated with new information, volunteer opportunities, webinar announcements (one is upcoming on November 15), and much more at www.acua.org and utilize Connect ACUA, our online networking resource for ACUA members, to connect, engage, and share higher education internal audit information and best practices in real time. Please get involved, volunteer, and help ACUA to move forward!

Happy Halloween!!!

Sharon M. Kurek, CPA, CFE, MBA
ACUA President
Director of Internal Audit, Virginia Tech

Core Values

Integrity – Open sharing of Information – Camaraderie — Respect – Commitment to Excellence – Innovation

Volunteer Spotlight: Julia Hann

Julia Hann is the Internal Audit Director at the University of North Florida and has been a member of ACUA since 2006. She has volunteered in many capacities over the years such as proctor, track coordinator, Director of the Annual Conference, and Chair of the Internal Audit Awareness Committee. Currently, Julia serves ACUA as a Board Member-At-Large and liaison to the ACUA Communications Committee which handles Connect ACUA, *College and University Auditor* Journal, social media, and web services.



ACUA: Why did you become an ACUA volunteer?

Julia: I was a one-person audit department, and I had learned about ACUA through colleagues from other universities within our system. I was so isolated as a one-person internal audit department! So, when I met the ACUA Annual Conference Director, she suggested I volunteer as a track coordinator to get involved. I am so glad that I did!

ACUA: What is your favorite ACUA memory?

Julia: I have so many great memories from volunteering with ACUA! I have truly enjoyed getting to know everyone in our association. The simple fact that ACUA can come together to face the tough topics in Higher Education, inspires me to advocate more for internal audit in Higher Education. Probably one unique experience that was very memorable was during my last year as Annual Conference Director, I was learning more about the local IIA chapter structures. I had mentioned to The IIA Headquarters and the ACUA President, that it would be great to do a joint webinar for Internal Audit Awareness Month. The ACUA president and The IIA headquarters really liked the idea. So myself, the ACUA President, and Vice President got to personally meet with Richard Chambers and his staff before doing the webinar! It was a fantastic opportunity!

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

Julia: You cannot do your audit job alone and be successful! There are so many ideas, audit program samples, worksheets, and analysis that I have borrowed from our network of ACUA colleagues. I have even used ACUA faculty to speak to my campus to help stress the importance of internal controls in an organization. It really has helped me stay on top of how I can do my everyday job a little better.

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

Julia: One piece of advice that really helped ease my mind came from a president who once stated to me (after I had really upset a faculty member for observing his lab with EHOS) that given the reaction of someone who gets so upset shows they really care about their research work. The president eased my mind stating that he would be more concerned if the faculty member was not upset! While I had no intent to upset anyone, the president made a very valid point that often while many may get annoyed or upset with Internal Audit questioning their work, their negative reactions sometimes just show they deeply care. I often remember this during times we are facing controversial issues and struggle with the reaction of audit clients.

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

Julia: I recently moved about 15 minutes from the beach, so I grab any chance I can get to take a quick jog along the beach. My two boys (ages 6 and 1.5 years) keep me 100% occupied outside of audit! I mostly try to spoil them with trips to the neighborhood pool or local attractions.

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.

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2017 ACUA Award Winners

The ACUA Awards Committee announced the winners of the Outstanding Professional Contributions, Member Excellence in Service and the Rising Star Awards at the 2017 Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. **Kevin Robinson** from Auburn University received the Outstanding Professional Contributions Award for his outstanding and noteworthy contributions to the profession of internal auditing. The Member Excellence in Service Award was given to **Doug Horr** from Vanderbilt University for his many years of exceptional ACUA service. **Marion Candrea** from Rutgers University was named as ACUA's newest Rising Star, given to an "up and coming" professional who has made significant professional contributions in higher education auditing. Join ACUA in congratulating these award winners and their accomplishments, and check out the fall issue of the *College & University Auditor* for more details.



Kevin Robinson receives the Outstanding Contributions Award with ACUA President, Sharon Kurek (far right), Immediate Past President Pamela Doran (far left) and Awards Committee member Tom Dwyer (right) at the Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Doug Horr receives the Member Excellence in Service Award with ACUA President, Sharon Kurek (far right), Immediate Past President Pamela Doran (far left) and Awards Committee member Tom Dwyer (right) at the Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.



Marion Candrea receives the Rising Star Award with ACUA President, Sharon Kurek (far right), Immediate Past President Pamela Doran (far left) and Awards Committee member Tom Dwyer (right) at the Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

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