



Dear ACUA Friends and Colleagues,

I am so excited about the work of ACUA's volunteers. It has only been a couple months since the Annual Conference in Phoenix but ACUA volunteers have been busy! As mentioned previously, our focus this year is to provide more higher education specific content to ACUA's members.

One of many areas where ACUA provides relevant, high-quality information for member's use on campus is in the area of auditing a varsity athletics program, and specifically its compliance with NCAA regulations. Understanding and meeting these regulations are responsibilities unique to institutions of higher education, and this undertaking carries significant compliance and reputational risk with high-profile consequences. A volunteer taskforce assessed our options over the past year and based on their recommendation, ACUA has again partnered with The Compliance Group, a nationally-recognized intercollegiate athletics compliance agency, to update our comprehensive NCAA Audit Guides for Divisions I and II. These NCAA Audit Guides can be found within the "Audit Tools" section under the "Resources" tab on the ACUA website, and will include new information in an enhanced format for 2017-18. Expect these updates by year end!

Additionally, a taskforce has been diligently working to develop a process and roadmap for volunteers to provide overviews of higher education specific topics that may be of interest to members. This new tool will include background information, key risks and controls, sample audit steps, common audit issues, and other information to kick start your next audit on these topics. Keep an eye out for more information as we aim to release the first of these tools early in the New Year!

Registration is now open for the upcoming Midyear Conference, March 18-21, 2018 in Louisville, Kentucky. There will be five tracks to choose from including topics on higher education compliance, IT, fraud, NCAA compliance, and audit leadership. Of course, there will also be plenty of time for networking and enjoying Louisville!

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 Jana Clark from Kansas State University and the work she is doing as Distance Learning Director for ACUA which involves securing speakers and serving as moderator for all webinars.

As we wind down 2017, I would like to thank our many volunteers. You are our most valuable resource! If you would like to join ACUA's fantastic group of volunteers, available opportunities are continuously posted on the front page of the website. Please get involved, volunteer, and help ACUA to move forward!

I'll close by reminding you to be on the lookout for your Membership Renewal notice that was mailed in mid-November. Plan to renew by January 1 to ensure continuous access to ACUA's member benefits!

I wish all of you and your families relaxing, safe, and festive holidays!

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

Executive Director of Audit, Risk, and Compliance  
Virginia Tech

## Volunteer Spotlight: Jana Clark

Jana Clark is Senior Internal Auditor at Kansas State University and has been a member of ACUA for over 4 years. She currently serves as the Distance Learning Director for ACUA which involves securing speakers and serving as moderator for all webinars. The Distance Learning Committee also drafts the marketing announcements for webinars and sets up the platform to deliver the webinars to our membership.



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

**Jana:** I decided volunteering was a great opportunity for me to meet new people and gain leadership experience. I also thought I could learn a lot from the people in ACUA, and it would be easier to ask people for help or advice if they already knew me.

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

**Jana:** My favorite memories are all the new people I meet by being a volunteer and having people tell me they recognize me from the webinars.

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

**Jana:** I've learned that it takes a lot of time and a lot of behind the scenes work to deliver the various benefits that ACUA offers...from webinars to the journal to mid-year conference to the annual conference. Most people don't realize the planning, discussion, and organization that go into it.

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

**Jana:** The best piece of advice I've ever received is "You'll regret the chances you don't take".

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

**Jana:** I enjoy running and working out, I read a lot, like being outside, and am a total sports junkie. My favorite place to be is in the seats at Bill Snyder Family Stadium watching the Wildcats play. :)

*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.*