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Dear ACUA Friends and Colleagues,

I hope many of our members have enjoyed some warmer weather after a cold start to the year...hopefully, this points to a lovely Spring just around the corner! There is still time to register for the upcoming **Midyear Conference**, March 18-21, 2017 in Louisville, Kentucky. There are six tracks to choose from including topics on higher education compliance, IT, fraud, NCAA compliance, audit leadership, plus a new track on auditing auxiliaries. On-site registration will open on Sunday, March 18 at 4:00 p.m. I hope to see you there!

ACUA committees have been very busy. I want to highlight the activities of a few of our committees. Now that the **Professional Education Committee (PEC)** has done an outstanding job organizing our Midyear Conference in Louisville, their focus shifts to preparing for the Annual Conference in New Orleans. The 2018 conference marks the **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the first ACUA meeting and is ACUA's first Annual Conference in the Big Easy since 1967! Mark your calendars and plan early to attend another great networking and educational event.

The **Membership Committee** has been actively working on identifying new and retaining members. The volunteers serving on this committee have dedicated significant time yielding nearly a dozen new institutional members and over 100 new individuals within our membership portfolio! This committee is coordinating another Small Shop Mentoring Cohort in the coming months, so be on the lookout for this opportunity to connect with your peers. It's not too late to renew your membership for 2018, if you haven't already done so.

The **Communications Committee** has focused on bringing synergy across all committees and providing enhanced communications for the membership. Recently, volunteers on this committee proposed, and the Board approved clarifying statements, regarding ACUA's Core Values. Check out these well-articulated statements that further define ACUA in the "About Us" section of the website.

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 Mary Krauss from Auburn University and the work she is doing as Co-Director for Social Media. I would like to thank the many volunteers who dedicate their precious time to keep these values alive and move ACUA forward! If you would like to join ACUA's fantastic group of volunteers, available opportunities are continuously posted on the front page of the website.

Regards,

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

Executive Director of Audit, Risk, and Compliance  
Virginia Tech

ACUA CORE VALUES

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

## Volunteer Spotlight: Mary Krauss

Mary Krauss is IT Audit Manager at Auburn University and has been a member of ACUA since 2009. She has previously volunteered as a committee chair, conference speaker, and proctor. Currently, Mary serves as the Co-Director for Social Media.

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

**Mary:** I decided to become a volunteer in order to take advantage of the networking opportunity.

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

**Mary:** My favorite memories of ACUA include the dinner dances and fun costumes.

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

**Mary:** I have learned that there are some awesome members in ACUA that are always willing to help and share knowledge.

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

**Mary:** If you never step forward, you'll always be in the same place. (Nora Roberts quote) I can't remember who shared this quote with me, but I always use this advice when faced with a new challenge or opportunity.

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

**Mary:** I enjoy sewing, running, and being mom to two wonderful kids.



*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.*

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