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Dear ACUA Friends and Colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying some warmer weather and have some personal time scheduled over the summer for some R&R! Sign up by July 23rd to take advantage of early registration discount for our **Annual Conference in New Orleans, September 9 – 13, 2018!** This conference marks the **60th Anniversary** of the first ACUA meeting and is ACUA's first Annual Conference in the Big Easy since 1967! The **Professional Education Committee** has been busy planning for our upcoming conference and have developed another great networking and educational event. I would like to thank the PEC Committee, particularly the Annual Conference Director, for all the time, effort, and heart that was put into pulling together the upcoming conference.

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! And there are plenty of opportunities at the Annual Conference to meet, greet and network with your colleagues in higher education. It's going to be a great conference, so be sure to register now!

Have you recently completed an audit of an area with emerging higher education risks? Consider documenting a **Kick Starters tool** to assist your ACUA colleagues! The **Kick Starters Taskforce** has developed templates to ensure efficient completion to enable easy sharing of knowledge that could be invaluable to your peers. These short guides on higher education audit topics are developed by subject matter experts to help colleagues plan and perform their next audit. Contact the **Standards and Best Practices Committee** to get involved!

The **External Relations** sub-committee has been working with ACUA volunteers to reach out to other organizations to advance internal auditing and position ACUA to be a recognized resource to higher education leaders. Our goal is to advocate for how internal audit organizations partner with higher education leaders to build stronger governance systems that allow organizations to better achieve their goals and objectives. Additionally, we are very fortunate to have a **Strategic Partnership Taskforce** developing a more intentional and structured approach to market ACUA to external stakeholders and strengthen our existing partnerships.

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 Robert Berry from The University of South Alabama and the work he is doing as ACUA's Secretary/Treasurer. ACUA has highly committed and active volunteers, and I greatly appreciate each of you!

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: Robert Berry

Robert Berry is Executive Director of Internal Audit at The University of South Alabama. He has been a member of ACUA for 11 years. Robert's first volunteer role was as a track coordinator at the 2010 Annual ACUA Conference. Then he became a presenter at every conference through 2016. In addition to his work with the conferences, Robert has served ACUA for many years as a board member and currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer.



ACUA: Why did you become an ACUA volunteer?

Robert: The decision to become a volunteer was pretty easy. You see, I joined the higher education industry in 2007 with a lot of internal audit and consulting experience but no direct higher education industry experience. I needed to get up to speed very fast. It was that year I attended my first conference. Not only were the people friendly, but they were knowledgeable. On top of that, most seemed to be receptive to sharing their knowledge with me and anyone else for that matter. It was because of the great people and resources I was able to get acclimated to the industry very fast. I guess you could say I met the organization at a time when I needed it most. So when I saw opportunities to give back, the decision was a no-brainer.

ACUA: What is your favorite ACUA memory?

Robert: I honestly can't say that I have a favorite memory. What I like is that the membership Community is so diverse that you can find almost any type of person and/or conversation you desire. I've tried to take the opportunity to meet as many people as possible. Also, I tried to have many different experiences with those people. For example, I have fun memories of hiking up the mountains in Oregon with Khareem Gordon and June Orth. I can recall taking the Sony Studios tour with various members. And who could forget having beer in the barbecue restaurant in Missouri. The conversations that occurred during these experiences range from friendly to professional. But all in all served to create certain bonds that hopefully will last a while.

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

Robert: As a member, I have learned that there are some truly good people in this world. I have always believed that most people are genuinely good. This organization has affirmed that for me. As a volunteer, I have learned that many hands truly lighten the load. There are times when I am truly with it and have it all together. Then, there are times when I'm falling behind in all areas of life. But I noticed, when we ask for help our fellow friends are typically there for us.

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

Robert: Treat the janitor the same way you treat the CEO.

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

Robert: Outside of audit, I like to read, write, and work on a few of my passion projects (just ask and I might talk your ear off). I also love spending time with friends. We do anything from traveling, to cooking out, to just relaxing and reminiscing about the good ole days. I spend a lot of time laughing, mostly at myself. I'm a huge Sci Fi fan and love murder mystery books and movies.

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.