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# KSU Internal Audit Center Newsletter

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Spring 2020

**H**oused at the KSU Center, the Internal Audit Center office is located in the Coles College of Business Graduate Programs offices.

We are proud of the support and meaningful engagement between the IIA, KSU, students, faculty, and practicing professionals in the education and professional development for the Internal Audit Profession.

Always front and center in our activities is our mission: to educate students at the undergraduate and graduate levels, conduct scholarly activities, and engage with the internal audit profession. In the following pages, we provide an update of the many activities of the center during the 2019-2020 academic year. We divide this into sections of on-campus engagement, off-campus engagement, impact and a note from the IAC Director.



Thank you for your involvement and/or interest in the education and awareness of the growing internal audit profession through KSU.

# On Campus Engagement

## IAEP Certificates

Internal Audit and related courses are thriving at KSU. KSU added an Internal Audit course for summer 2019, and we now offer students the undergraduate Internal Audit course year round, including fall, spring, and summer semesters. To earn the IAEP Certificate, students must complete five courses including Accounting Information Systems, Auditing and Assurance, Accounting Data Analytics, Fraud and Forensic Accounting, and Internal Auditing.

We issued a record 72 IAEP Certificates this year. 45 students successfully completed the necessary undergraduate courses to earn the IAEP Certificate awarded by the Institute of Internal Auditors. Additionally, 27 students completed the Master of Accounting specializing in Audit/Advisory and earned their IAEP Certificate.

## IIA Awareness Day

Kennesaw hosted the 1st annual IIA Awareness Day in August 2019. This was an opportunity for KSU students (majoring in accounting, finance or information systems) to learn more about career paths in internal audit/advisory. Seventeen companies and

professional service firms engaged with 82 students on a beautiful Friday afternoon.

## IAC Professional Stakeholder Meeting

In December, the IAC Director met with the external stakeholders to discuss the activities of the fall, the plan for spring, and solicit input for continuing to enhance the impact of our activities. Among those attending were Steve Brown, Jeff Browning, Carl Schulman, Paul McClung, Greg Kirkland, David Brand, Michael Hammond, John French, Lori Kaczynski, Doug Mims, and Ric Kimball. Thank you for your engagement! You provide the energy and motivation to continue to propel the program.

## IA/Advisory Student Day

In January 2020, Kennesaw hosted the 14th Annual IA/Advisory Student Day and Career Fair. 32 firms and over 100 students attended this event. Numerous schools around Georgia were represented with students. This is our biggest event all year and it was a huge success. We plan on having more firms and students attend in the future.



Our panelists this year consisted of Michael Hammond (Moore Colson), Caleb Moore (Mohawk), Brandi Thomas (Delta), Nataly Marks (KPMG), Nicole Huie (IIA Global), & Mark Cooper (UPS).

## Internal Audit Student Organization

This year we have re-launched an IA student organization on campus. This will be an opportunity for students to explore, share, and develop their interest in Internal Auditing. Currently our club consists of 10 members; Allison Anzelmo, Courtney Madison, Anthony Jokich, Caroline Graham, Christiane Plattel, John Ezeamakam, Kathryn Eady, Miranda Nunn, Robert Alfonso, Suzanne Zenoni. Our plan is to have at minimum of one meeting per semester. In the Fall 2020 semester, we plan to start the semester with a kickoff social to get students excited about networking, professional development and much more!!

## Graduate Classroom Engagement

Students in the MAcc audit/advisory path were engaged with many professionals in the classroom.

Engagements included:

- A capstone project for the Seminar in Auditing course requires students to propose an audit plan for a public company. Joining Dr. Schafer on the judging panel were Chris Arnone (Moore Colson), Chris Ritter (EY), and Phoebe Tsai (Assurant). They judged the students' presentations of their proposed audit plan/proposal to audit the financial Statements of Six Flags Inc. Constructive feedback was given to the groups on technical

and communication aspects of the presentations.

- Pierre Dait (Rausch Advisory) taught the students about software, such as SQL, that they can anticipate using in their careers.
- Domanique Williams and Daniel Stone (Protivity) – Discussed the variety of Internal Audit standards and frameworks available and what is used in practice to add value to clients (NIST, PCI-DSS etc.)
- Adam Heppe and Will Kessenich (Fiserv) discussed data analytics and the importance of learning new software's. They showed the power of Tableau, presenting an example of an interactive dashboard.
- Michael Lisenby and Brian Wojcio (Rausch Advisory) – Discussed fraud as part of the Internal Audit/Advisory projects as well as networking and progressing in your career

## Switch to Virtual Learning

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, the KSU face-to-face classes moved to online March 18. The classes maintained the online format for the rest of the semester. With students and professionals alike scrambling to find ways to learn and work remotely, it appeared that some of the rich information of having guest lecturers in class would be limited. However, both students and professionals took this opportunity to embrace a digital learning space.

By having a virtual classroom, we were able to welcome guests from around Georgia and two guests from out of state! Many thanks to the following for sharing how their internal audit functions work in practice as we covered the specific textbook topics: In the picture below. from left to right: Aaron Gagon (CAE - Apple), covered Governance and expanded on his role of being Apple's CAE; We had a panel consisting of Paul McClung (CAE - West Rock), Alica Wilson



(CAE - Southwire), Carley Ferguson (CAE - Mohawk), Greg Kirkland – not pictured- (CAE - Mueller WP), talking about managing the Internal Audit function; Joanne Sebby, (CAE - Fiserv) discussing consulting engagements. How wonderful to have six CAE’s engaging in class.

To finish the Seminar in Internal Audit, we held an in class capstone case competition. Students applied their knowledge of internal audit from class to present a 15 minute presentation on how the internal audit function could assist a non-profit charity maximize the achievement of the organizations’ mission. Five groups presented to a panel of judges playing the role of the charity’s board of directors. The judges included: Ryan Neff (Protivity), Amanda Mulvey (Apple), Billy Boyd (Moore Colson), Regina Davis (Crowe), and Scott Roberson (Fiserv).



The winning team impressed the judges with a broad list of value added activities and issues for the charity to consider. These ranged from governance issues to ERM and specific internal control issues spanning from operational to financial and strategic initiatives to help the organization realize their mission. The winning team won merchandise from the Martin Truex Jr. Foundation, the charity organization in mind as the authors created the case.

## Mentoring/Coaching Meetings

As part of the MAcc Capstone course, students were asked to connect with professionals for a 30-minute conversation with a professional about their 5-year plan. We had many IA/Advisory professionals volunteer for this opportunity. Ten students benefitted from having conversations with leaders in our profession. We thank all that volunteered and all of the following who engaged.

- Booz Allen/Steve Brown
- Asbury Auto/Barbara Jesup
- State Farm/Tamara Robinson
- Bluelinx/Adam Bowen
- Crowe/Regina Davis
- Apple/Aaron Gagnon
- Fiserv/Richard Chang
- Apple/Amanda Mulvey
- Fiserv/Sarah Lasek
- Deloitte/Pat Noll

# Off Campus Engagement

## IAEP Orlando Conference

Two faculty and six MAcc students attended the Internal Audit Student Exchange Program (IASE) in Orlando, FL in the Fall. The “KSU Team”, both faculty and students, were an exclusive group of volunteers that helped with registration and supporting the IIA staff at the international student leadership conference. In addition to volunteering, the students got the opportunity to network with professionals and offered opportunities for interviews with attending firms. Volunteers pictured below (from furthest to closest) are Courtney Madison, Dr. Heather Hermanson, Allison Anzelmo, and Chrissy Plattel.

The “KSU Team” pictured from left to right include: Felix Saucedo, Allison Anzelmo, Dr. Heather Hermanson, Chrissy Plattel, Courtney Madison, Miranda Nunn, John Ezeamakam, and Dr. Brad Schafer. Students had the opportunity to network with professionals, faculty, and students from other schools around the world. During the conference, students were assigned to teams consisting of students from different schools to participate in a case competition. This is a wonderful learning experience because they were thrown into a situation where they had to solve a problem in less than 48 hours with a group of students that they did not know. Miranda Nunn’s group won 1st place (pictured below).



## Volunteered at The Atlanta Conference (TAC)

KSU was the only school who had student volunteers at this event. Two MAcc students and two faculty/staff attended and they helped at the registration desks and then attended the event. Felix Saucedo stated, "The Internal Audit Volunteer day allowed me to understand the endless possibilities that Internal Audit could help out with. Meeting so many professionals that were passionate about what they do, as well as the many companies looking for candidates like myself, helped me see this function as one I would like to work in for my own professional career."

## IIA Atlanta Chapter Case Competition

KSU won the 2019 IIA Atlanta Chapter Case Competition. Pictured below is Buddy Orol, Will Hermanson, and Michael Neese who represented KSU. They had Fredi Masci as their faculty mentor and Jason Sammons as their professional mentor. Way to go OWLS!!!

Pictured below, Buddy, Fred Masci (faculty mentor) Will, and Michael waiting for results. Pictured on right are Barry Ballow (Coca-Cola) Dave Dobill (State Farm), Will, Michael,



Buddy, and Brandi Thomas (Delta Airlines) representing the judges and winning team. IIA Atlanta Chapter monthly meeting - December

In December, Dr. Brad Schafer presented an hour of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) to nearly 100 IIA members at the UPS Corporate Headquarters. His topic was "The Application of Accounting Behavioral Research for the Internal Audit Profession". The presentation was very interactive, and Dr. Schafer thanks the IIA Atlanta Chapter, Rausch Advisory, and UPS for including him in the program.

## Impact

### Faculty Update

For the 2019-2020 academic year, KSU had four CIA's on faculty. Dr. Schafer earned his CIA in October joining Sunay Mutlu, Debbie Benson and Fred Masci. Fred Masci, a longtime supporter of the KSU program joined the faculty. He brings many years of experience in the Internal Audit Profession and several years of teaching to KSU. He taught the Internal Audit course in summer 2019, and with an overwhelming success, he has agreed to additional courses both fall and spring.

Professor Debbie Benson retired from the faculty this spring after 16 years of service



teaching many Internal Audit classes. We appreciate her service to and dedication to promoting the profession through her classes. She will be missed.

Bruce Lindeman continues his giving back to KSU by serving as a career coach in the Coles College of Business. Bruce served many years at GP in internal audit and leading the recruiting efforts on KSU. Now he serves as a career coach and mentor full time at KSU encouraging students to find their fit in the profession, including the opportunity internal audit offers in a career path. Bruce is a true champion of the IA profession to our students. Thank you for your engagement in advising our next generation of internal audit professionals.

Research productivity of KSU faculty continue to place KSU among the elite schools producing high quality scholarship. As of August 2019, the BYU rankings place KSU in the top 60 universities in the world in accounting research, and top 30 in the audit and education areas.

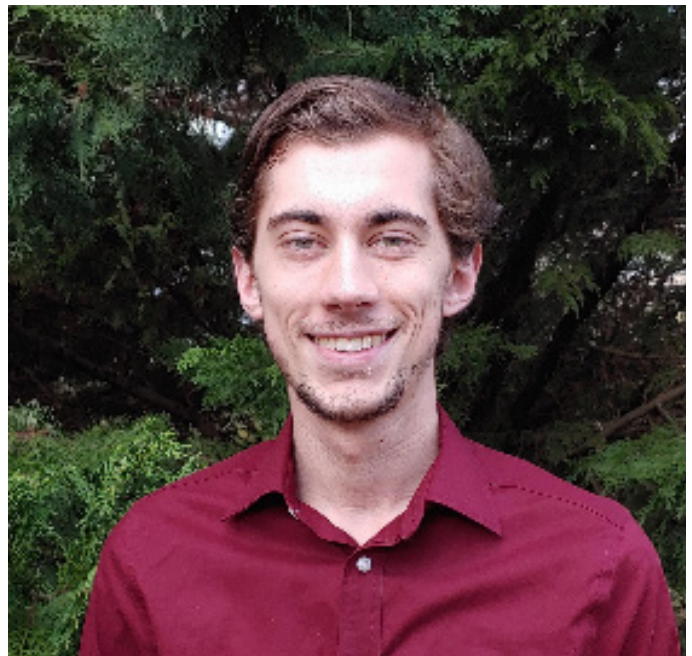
## Direct Financial Support in Grants and Scholarships

The IIA Global Headquarters through the Internal Audit Foundation continued to financially support the program with an \$11,000 grant to support a student working in the Internal Audit Center for the 2019-2020 academic year. This grant allowed Allison Anzelmo to work with the center director to accomplish the many activities and functions listed in this newsletter. We appreciate her efforts and wish her well as she starts her career with PwC.

The KSU Accounting Honors Banquet was cancelled this year due to all campus events being suspended. Through the generosity of many supporters, the School

of Accountancy continues to award many financial scholarships to deserving students. We would like to congratulate the next wave of MAcc students coming in, as well as the undergraduates who are one step closer to graduating!

Specifically, related to the Internal Audit/ Advisory scholarships, we are proud that the IIA grant for \$11,000 was again awarded for the 2020-2021 year. We are excited that incoming MAcc student, Jake McWhorter has been selected for this position. The IIA Atlanta Chapter Scholarship recipients are: Adian Woida and Emilee Wells (\$1,000 each), and the Rausch Advisory Scholarships recipients are Preston Martin and Cameron Jannuzzo (\$1,250 each). The next page



highlights these deserving students. “Since I started at KSU I have hoped to be able to complete my education here and cannot wait to begin the MAcc program in the fall. This wouldn't be possible for me without the generous contributions made in the form of scholarships by the Institute of Internal Auditors. I am so thankful that the IIA is willing to invest in my future to help me become the best accountant I can be.”  
– Adian Woida



"I am grateful for the generosity and support I have received from Kennesaw State University and the donors of the IIA Internal Auditing Graduate Scholarship. It was a pleasant surprise to be a recipient of an award relating to Internal Auditing because I am spending my summer studying for the CIA exam. This scholarship has been encouraging and motivating for me. Words cannot express how thankful I am to receive this support from the IIA Atlanta Chapter along my educational journey." – Emilie Wells

"I am very excited to be a part of the KSU MAcc program this fall! The Internal Audit program is one of the best, and I am looking forward to engaging with others." – Preston Martin



***The mission of the Internal Audit Center (IAC) is to educate students at the undergraduate and graduate levels, conduct scholarly activities, and engage with the internal audit profession.***



# Note from the IAC Director

**I**t is an honor to partner with amazing students and professionals to promote education for the Internal Auditing Profession. As I reflect on the past academic year, we saw dramatic changes in how we educate and connect. However, the mission and activities to build an ever stronger relationship with our profession remains constant. The partnership of all the stakeholders of the Internal Audit Center (students, university, professionals, and IIA locally and globally) is vibrant. This was a record year in many ways. We issued a record number of IAEP certificates. We had an incredible number of professionals giving of their time and talent to come to classes, provide career coaching advice, and participate in multiple student networking events. KSU successfully moved to online learning space for the health and safety of all. Turning lemons into lemonade, our virtual classroom allowed professionals to connect with students without the added time and cost of travelling to campus. How amazing to have dozens of top leaders (CAEs and Advisory Partners) connecting with students in class, one on one, and at networking events.

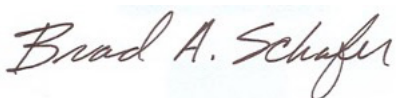
To make all of this possible, I thank all of our stakeholders who have made a financial commitment to the growth of the Internal Audit Center. Specifically, the KSU administration has continued to financially support the program. The IIA Global Headquarters has continued to financially support KSU through a grant program allowing us to have a graduate student working in the IAC. The IIA Atlanta chapter continues to provide two scholarships to high quality students. I thank everyone for all of your support.

I thank all of the corporate, professional service firms, and individuals for the financial support of our program. I am so grateful for all of the following individuals and organizations who gave over \$11,000 collectively to fund our many activities for the year.

Asbury Automotive – Barbara Jesup  
CRI – Doug Mims  
Coca-Cola – Barry Ballow  
Deloitte – Darryl Butler  
Delta Airlines – Brandy Thomas  
KPMG – Ric Kimball

KSU Faculty – Brad and Jennifer Schafer  
Mohawk Industries – Carley Ferguson  
PRGX – Steve Brown  
Rausch Advisory – Michael Lisenby  
UPS – Carl Schulman  
WestRock – Paul McClung

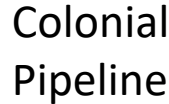
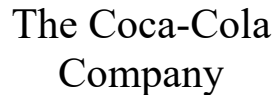
The future is bright and the IAC is proud to engage in even more terrific opportunities with the stakeholders to continue the rise of the profession. Please continue to support the program as we continue to elevate the program and profession (<https://community.kennesaw.edu/givetocolos>).



Brad Schafer, Ph.D., CIA  
Director, KSU Internal Audit Center



## Stakeholders 2019 - 2020



### IAC Advisory Board:

Steve Brown (Chair), Barry Ballow, David Brand, Darryl Butler, Carley Ferguson, Michael Hammond, Steve Jackson, Barbara Jesup, Ric Kimball, Greg Kirkland, Michael Lisenby, Paul McClung, Doug Mims, Jason Sammons, Carl Schulman, Linsey St. Mary, Brandi Thomas

IAC and School of Accountancy: Mo Azam, Lori Kaczynski, Aaron Gagnon

### Individual Supporters:

Steve Brown, Carley Ferguson, Doug Mims, Brad Schafer