53rd Annual Seminar Highlights

An event this size requires a lot of coordination and months of preparation. Our seminar co-chairs Ken Shaw and Suri Musiri (see the current issue Spotlight articles on page 6) had their hands full directing the various subcommittees to make sure we had enough caffeine to get us through the day. See below for a few interesting factoids related to this year’s event:

- Total attendees: 1013
- Total presenters: 53
- Months of preparation: more than 8
- Volunteers:
  - 35 committee members
  - 30 additional volunteers
  - Over 2,500 volunteer hours
- Total courses: 28
- Total CPE granted: over 7,000 hours
- Coffee consumption:
  - 73 gallons of regular coffee
  - 28 gallons of decaffeinated coffee
  - 9 gallons of hot water for tea
Annual Seminar Thoughts from Officers and Board of Governors

The IIA Chicago Chapter Officers and Board of Governors would like to thank our internal audit community for their support. An event like the Annual Seminar would not be a success without the support of our professionals. This support comes in many ways: attendance at Chapter-sponsored events, volunteerism, speakers, etc. See below for brief messages from some of our Officers and Board members.

Cathlynn Nigh
Senior Vice President

When you leave a session with a new idea, motivated to address an issue or the will to take a step in a new direction, then that session was a success. The Women's Initiative hosted such a Forum. Our amazing guest speaker was Connie Lindsay, Executive Vice President and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Northern Trust. She was motivating, inspirational and engaging. Each person in the room learned that:

• The “joy” is in the journey.
• A secret of being successful in the workplace and in life is to have a genuine passion for what you do and to have a never ending curiosity.

Life is amazing, but at times, we get so involved in our lives that we sometimes forget to live our lives. Something as simple as taking time daily, weekly or monthly to be self reflective can give the basis for a solid foundation and direction both personally and professionally...to take inventory of where you are at and what needs to be accomplished. Always have your “elevator” speech ready for every event is an opportunity. Connie was engaging and she had great insight into life and leadership. It was the Women's Initiative’s pleasure having Connie Lindsay as our guest speaker at the Annual Seminar.

We would like to invite you to our upcoming events. Please mark calendars.

June 17th - Womens’ Roundtable
July 22nd - Womens’ Lunch and Learn
August 19th - Networking Event

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Ken Clow
Vice President of Education

Were you at the 53rd Chicago Chapter Annual Seminar? If not, you missed a great day filled with excellent speakers, networking with audit professionals, seeing old acquaintances and mingling with sponsors of the event. Our Co-Chairs, Ken Shaw and Suri Musiri put together a fabulous team of volunteers. With their passion, drive for excellence and thought leadership, the seminar was a great success.

The day began with a dynamic, funny and electric speaker, Tim Gard, who is one of less than 150 individuals world-wide that has been inducted to the speakers “Hall of Fame”. His ability to engage the audience and drive his message across was absolutely astonishing.

The morning and afternoon break-out sessions included a number of great topics and speakers. One of those sessions was Six Sigma for Auditors. This session included a wealth of information that was only the “Tip of the Iceberg” on how auditors can use Six Sigma techniques in their audit projects.

Leading the charge in the general afternoon session was Sharon Grant. Her passion, love of the profession and leadership in the IIA is a testament to us all!!

Lastly, the reception. What a great time!! Enough said…..

I would like to thank Ken and Suri, the committee members, speakers and sponsors for making this year’s seminar a wonderful event. I look forward to next year’s and I hope to see all of you there.

Nick Saracco
Treasurer

The 2013 Annual Seminar was a great event to showcase timely thought leadership and the growing opportunities in the internal audit community. From the dynamic keynote speakers to the volunteer speakers (and last-minute fill-ins), our Annual Seminar Committee provided the Chicago-land area with the opportunity to learn about a number of key drivers in the internal audit industry across a spectrum of areas, including healthcare, social media trends, information technology, and ERM.

The breakout sessions and closing reception provided great opportunities to network with peers, former colleagues and new people. They also showed that internal auditors know how to have a little fun. This event is something I look forward to each year, and it never disappoints.

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The 2013 Annual Seminar was a great success by all accounts. The Annual Seminar Committee, led by Ken Shaw and Suri Musiri, did an excellent job marketing, promoting and coordinating the event. This is an event I look forward to every year and it did not disappoint in 2013. From the keynote speakers to the courses offered, the talent was top notch. The food did not disappoint either!

Tim Gard was entertaining and had people laughing throughout his presentation, but his message was simple: have fun wherever it is you work and whatever it is you do. This is a simple message, but one that is not always easy to follow. Work seems less like work when you can have a little fun. I think it is important to like where you work and who you work with. You can accomplish this by having a sense of humor and sharing this sense of humor with those around you.

Sharon Grant’s presentation was phenomenal! Sharon is a passionate and dynamic speaker, and she is a great advocate for the profession. It is clear that she enjoys what she does, and that enjoyment is key to being good at it. Sharon is active in the IIA (Executive Committee of the Board and the Research Foundation) and I look forward to collaboration with the Chicago Chapter in the future.

The reception was a good time as always. This is my favorite part of the Seminar because it gives you a chance to regroup with your team, catch up with former colleagues and network with new people. I have always said the Annual Seminar is a great deal because you get 8 quality CPE for a very reasonable price, but what you cannot put a price on is the connections you make at the event. I have hired two individuals the past four years from IIA (Chicago Chapter) connections and the Annual Seminar has made this possible.

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Peg Koenings  
*Board of Governors*

The 2013 Annual Seminar was a great way to connect with colleagues I’ve known over the years and to meet new ones. Excellent discussions took place during the Enterprise Risk Management, CAE, and Audit Committee Panel sessions. Thanks to the Chicago Chapter for putting on a very successful and valuable conference.

Tonya Baez  
*Board of Governors*

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of numerous volunteers, the 53rd Annual Seminar was a huge success! The Seminar Co-Chairs, Suri Musiri and Ken Shaw did a wonderful job carrying out the theme of Opportunity: Seek, Create, and Act. There was a great selection of speakers, sessions and topics to choose from to meet everyone’s professional development needs. There was a wonderful group of event sponsors with great raffle prizes. I thought the logistics change for the general sessions and lunch worked well this year.

Tim Gard started the seminar on a humorous note with his keynote address, “The Opportunity to Change the Game”, while encouraging us to reduce stress through humor. We all could use a laugh from time to time. Sharon Grant demonstrated her passion for the internal audit profession in her presentation on “Creating Opportunity through Thought Leadership in the Profession” and really energized the crowd!

The seminar is always a great opportunity to network with other colleagues and build your professional network. It is great to see all levels of professionals, from college students to veteran CAEs, engaged in discussions and sharing ideas. It was fun to interact with colleagues through social media too. I look forward to next year!
INTERNAL AUDIT SPOTLIGHT

Suri Musiri

Why did you volunteer as the Seminar Co-Chair?
I have been serving on committees for the past few years and last year I chaired the speakers committee. I really enjoy working with other IA professionals and am continually surprised by the magnitude of the IIA Annual Seminar and what we can pull together on sheer volunteer effort. Needless to say, when the opportunity to co-host was presented to me, I took it.

What did you like the most about being the Seminar Co-Chair and what was the biggest challenge?
It was definitely interesting eight months or so of planning, developing a team and working through the various tasks. I enjoyed working with all the volunteers and getting to know other professionals in Chicago. My co-chair Ken Shaw was great to work with and very hands-on, which helped greatly in the process. The challenge I personally struggled with is balancing between a consulting job and putting in effort for the annual seminar. There is a lot more that Ken and I would have wanted to do, but couldn’t just because we were limited by the amount of time available.

What do you think is driving the success of the Annual Seminar?
A very engaged member base, senior leaders in the profession who push their departments to attend the seminar for both training and networking as well as the involved Board of Governors and Officers of the IIA, who view this as a flagship event for the chapter and are deeply involved.

How did this year’s seminar vary from the last year’s one?
We incorporated some changes that we thought would board well, including some changes to the layout of the facilities, providing value to our sponsors and starting the day off with a humorous speaker. We are eager to see how the attendees liked the changes we made.

Any advice you would like to share with the future Seminar Co-Chairs?
It’s a lot of work! But totally worth it when you look back.

Ken Shaw

Why did you volunteer as the Seminar Co-Chair?
I believe in taking an active role in your community, personal and professional, and strongly support volunteerism in both. I’ve increased my involvement with the Chapter in the last few years, but was somewhat surprised when I was asked to Co-Chair the Seminar. I was both honored and intimidated, but I gave it some thought and accepted anyway. In hindsight, I realize that I should have been even more honored and even more intimidated. This was an amazing experience and allowed me to work with some great people.

What did you like the most about being the Seminar Co-Chair and what was the biggest challenge?
I enjoyed meeting and working with the wide variety of people who contributed to making this event a success. I’m continually amazed at the strength dedication and skill that so many of our volunteers brought to the work. My fellow Co-Chair, Suri Musiri, was great to work with. Our differing styles and common direction helped us lean on each other when the demands of our other responsibilities kept us from putting in the necessary time. The most challenging aspect of this process is perhaps also our greatest source of quality and innovation. As volunteers, our committee members actively choose to participate, despite the challenges of balancing their other family and work commitments. Our volunteers bring great energy and enthusiasm to this work, but we spend much of it on the simple communication coordination and logistics of getting things done.

What do you think is driving the success of the Annual Seminar?
There is a single reason for the continued success of the annual seminar, our people. Leaders come and go. Hopefully, they bring a bit of quality and innovation to the role, but the true differentiator is the foundation of stability that exists with our long-time committee volunteers. Without them, the Co-Chairs could not possibly get the work done. I was pleasantly surprised at how open our long-time committee members were to fresh ideas from first-time committee members. They provided great guidance and feedback on new possibilities, rather than simply dismissing ideas in favor of how it’s always been done.

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How did this year’s seminar vary from the last year’s one?

The most obvious change was the physical layout of the facility. Our goal from the beginning was to increase the value for everyone; attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors alike. We expanded the exhibit hall and arranged it to allow for more networking. We moved the luncheon upstairs to encourage attendees to re-enter the exhibit hall, spend more time with exhibitors, and continue networking. We moved the luncheon upstairs to encourage attendees to re-enter the exhibit hall, spend more time with exhibitors, and continue networking. We added a dedicated Social Media booth and large projection screen to encourage live participation. The jury is still out on how well it all worked and whether or not people liked the changes, but I believe that at a minimum it freshened things up a bit.

Any advice you would like to share with the future Seminar Co-Chairs?

I would advise the future Co-Chairs to trust their instincts, listen to their committees, use the BOG, Officers, and staff as resources, and continually ask questions. Challenge everything, as you would in your role as an internal auditor, but don’t hesitate to be pragmatic about where, when, how to make changes. Be realistic in your expectations and honest in your ability to commit. Above all, try to relax and enjoy the ride.

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Career Assistance Program

The Career Assistance Program (CAP) Committee would like to thank the 180 individuals that stopped by the CAP Booth at the Annual Seminar. Attendees were able to learn about the CAP group’s efforts, see a video on interviewing tips and enter to win a gift card. We are pleased to announce that the winners of the gift cards were Janice Harden and Odetta Pumphrey.

The IIA Chicago Chapter Career Assistance Program (CAP) Committee assists members during career transitions in three ways: by providing access to training and networking events, by communicating available job opportunities, and by offering scholarships to attend educational sessions. 2013 CAP objectives include:

• Encourage job postings and communicate employment opportunities on an ongoing basis through the Chicago Chapter IIA LinkedIn Group.  
• Partner with the Education Committee to provide and communicate training opportunities at a discounted price to maintain current skills. 
• Facilitate educational and networking opportunities by partnering with the Illinois CPA society to leverage their networking and educational opportunities. 

CAP uses LinkedIn as the main forum to communicate information from employers and recruiters to members who are in career transition. The Chapter established this LinkedIn group (IIA – Chicago Chapter) to facilitate networking and discussions, resulting in over 900 current members and an average of 75 jobs posted each month over the last 12 months.

For additional information, please contact a member of the CAP Committee.

Sincerely,

The Career Assistance Program Committee

Ken Clow  
Peg Koenigs  
Angela Maslovskaya  
Steve Randall  
Paul Weinstein
2013 IIA Chicago Chapter Annual Golf Classic  
RUFLLED FEATHERS GOLF CLUB in Lemont, IL  
Monday, June 24, 2013

7:00 AM Registration/Breakfast – 8:30 AM Shotgun Start

We are excited to announce that this year’s IIA Chicago Golf Outing will be returning to Ruffled Feathers Golf Club in Lemont, Illinois! This year’s event promises to continue the tradition of great golfing, great networking and great fun.

The cost of the event is only $130 per golfer. There are also great sponsorship opportunities available.

For more information on the event (including sponsorship), please visit the event’s website at: http://www.cvent.com/d/fcqfm3

Sponsorships and registration are now open. We look forward to your support!

Event Co-Chairs: Laura Benhart, Brooke Enburg, and Rick Kokoszka
Golf Committee: Darlene Drab, Theo Sokolovic, Lisa Stephens

Your Day Includes:
- Continental Breakfast starting at 7AM
- Golf Driving Range
- 18 Holes of Fun Scramble Golf
- Golf Cart with GPS
- Lunch w/Beverage
- Beverage/Snack Cart throughout the round
- 19th Hole Open Bar (starts at 2 PM)
- 19th Hole Awards Dinner
- Team Flight Awards
- Longest Drive Contests & Prizes
- Closest to Pin Contests & Prizes
- Longest Putt Contests & Prizes
- Great Networking...
  and much much more!
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