Audit Scope

April 2019

Taking Aim at the Future

April Speakers Target the Future of Internal Audit

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Providing dynamic leadership for the global profession of internal auditing
President’s Message

Dear Chapter Members:

It’s hard to believe we are approaching the end of our chapter year. It seems like only yesterday we kicked off our year at the October seminar at Steinbrenner Field. Our on making powerful personal and professional connections by Don Levonius was a hit! We received great feedback on the speaker, venue and food!

Our final seminar on April 18th, “The Future of Internal Audit” at TopGolf promises to be a grand finale to a great year of training. With speakers sponsored by Protiviti, April’s seminar will cover topics such as Top Risks for 2019 and Setting the AC Agenda, Third-Party Risk Management, Next Gen Auditing, and Auditing in a Digitalized World, to name a few. Immediately following April’s seminar, we are holding a social event to network and play golf. I hope to see everyone there. RSVP early and be sure to use the balance of your prepaid seats!

We have also been working hard to stay involved at our local universities to advocate for our profession and educate students about internal audit. In March a group of officers and board members visited an Internal Audit class at USF. The event was a great success and we are already working on scheduling more for next year.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for a very successful chapter year. We have accomplished a lot thanks to the relentless efforts of our Board of Governors and my fellow officer team, and we are already in planning mode for next year. In April, several of our board representatives will attend the IIA’s Leadership Academy, a national event with presentations by experts, round table discussions with peers, and sharing of best practices. When we come back we will apply this new knowledge as we plan our chapter year!

As always, if you have questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me or other members of our Leadership. I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Sincerely,

Kristina Simmons

Contact Us

For questions, comments, or submissions:

Wade Cassels
VP of Communications
VP-Comm@tampabayiia.org
Getting to Know April Seminar Speakers

We have a fantastic slate of folks from Protiviti speaking on a variety of interesting topics at our April seminar. Several of them took the time to share a little more about themselves so our members could get to know them better.

Q: What is the coolest thing you are working on right now?

Michael Lyons: The coolest work-related thing is a global implementation of security operations for a IoT company.

Martin Nash: Security redesign across 3 ERPs in addition to the implementation of a governance tool to manage security and SoD risks.

Brian Kostek: Redesigning the strategy and governance models for the risk and compliance functions of a major US financial institution.

Ana Amato: Culture Audits – it’s been a hot topic for the last couple of years, but it’s exciting to see organizations take action based on the results of that.

Q: What do you enjoy reading?

ML: Just finished Fire and Blood, the Game of Thrones prequel about the Targaryen Dynasty...bring on April 14th!!

MN: I recently enjoyed reading Give and Take.

BK: I don’t have time for books, but usually keep up with world news.

AA: I spend most of my reading time on current events and topics associated to the profession OR reading some Dr. Seuss to my 8 and 4 year old daughters.

Q: What do your co-workers hear you utter most often? Do you have a favorite quote?

ML: Don’t do what everyone else does to be successful; take parts of each person that fit who you are and make it your own to create your own version of success.

MN: Most likely, they hear me say ‘do as I say, not as I do’, which is not an ideal leadership characteristic. We are always talking about collaboration and contribution over competition; we lose more than we win, but in defeat there is growth, and we learn and become better.

BK: “The fact of the matter is…”

AA: I have a sign in my office that reads “Make Today Amazing” – it’s a good reminder to give every day your all, even if it’s a little bit cheesy.

Q: What is something that someone has done to help you in your career that you would like to pay forward?

ML: My first boss who gave me a chance in security when I had no experience.

MN: Providing honest feedback. It is sometimes tough to hear where we can improve, but this is critical to our growth both personally and professionally. If we can’t be honest with each other, how can we trust each other?

BK: Leadership has given me opportunities to run with things on my own, which has expedited my growth and I’m trying to push our teams to have the same opportunities to help them grow as well.

AA: I’ve been fortunate enough to have worked with folks that have encouraged me to take chances and get out of my comfort zone. Knowing that I had the support of my leadership team made all the difference.
Karen Robillard has been head of Global Finance Internal Audit for MetLife since July 2016 and a member of the IIA Florida West Coast chapter for the past eight years.

Karen has a diverse background of skills and expertise. After graduating from the University of Florida with a bachelor’s degree in accounting, she joined the audit practice in EY’s Tampa office. After eight years at EY, she has been with MetLife for 16 years and has held positions in a number of different areas, including Investments, Technical Accounting, SEC Reporting, and now, Internal Audit.

As the leader of MetLife’s Internal Audit team in Tampa, Karen and her team are primarily responsible for providing audit coverage over MetLife’s corporate Finance functions. This includes areas such as US GAAP/SEC and US Statutory Reporting; Embedded Value, Technical Accounting Practices, and the SOX Program. Karen says that her audit team is integrated to provide both business and IT coverage.

Over the course of her career, Karen has seen the internal audit profession change. Perhaps the most significant change, she believes, is the rise of automation, which has impacted not only the businesses that internal audit covers, but also the way internal auditors themselves perform the engagements.

“I think the shift towards automation both within auditing and within our company’s business as a whole has changed the game dramatically,” she says. “Having an understanding of not only the business risks and controls, but also the IT and data components is a requirement for effective audits. I also think the pace of change is so fast that we as auditors must stay in a continuous learning state. That is the only way we will keep up with the changing needs of the business.”

Being a member of the Florida West Coast Chapter has provided many excellent opportunities for Karen to grow professionally and engage other audit practitioners. In particular, she has enjoyed getting the chance to speak at seminars.

“I have had the opportunity to participate as a speaker in two of the chapter’s conferences,” Karen says. “These have both been great experiences. In fact, one of those speaking engagements led to us hiring a new team member, who I don’t think we would have reached otherwise. During the second speaking engagement, I had the privilege of sitting on a panel with the IIA president and CEO, Richard Chambers.

One of the key benefits of IIA membership is the guidance and support members receive toward earning industry certifications, and Karen, a CPA herself, encourages internal auditors to get at least one certification as early in their careers as possible. “While certifications may not make or break your career,” she says, “I think that they do legitimize you in the field and can absolutely open doors.”

Karen not only believes in the importance of the internal audit profession, but she is also appreciative of the opportunities it has given her in her work and personal life. “In addition to my work,” she says, “I am also a wife and mom. I believe that Internal Audit is a field that can really afford flexibility and balance for working parents, while still allowing you to build a rewarding career.”
Tampa Bay Chapter Sends Gift to SW Florida IIA

The Florida West Coast chapter was very fortunate this year, based on our budget, to be able to provide financial support to another Florida IIA chapter. We provided a $500 gift to the Southwest Florida (Ft. Myers) chapter, which was greatly appreciated and will be put to good use, according this message from president James Molenaar in the chapter’s newsletter:

“I am excited to tell you that Sunday, April 28, 2019 is Pay it Forward Day! Pay it Forward Day is a global initiative that exists to make a difference by creating a huge ripple of kindness felt across the world. Of course, the hope is that people pay kindness forward every day and make each day that little bit brighter. This year the goal is to inspire over 10 million acts of kindness around the world. The IIA Southwest Florida Chapter is certainly grateful for the Act of Kindness Paid Forward by the IIA Florida West Coast Chapter of a gracious contribution of $500.00. I have encouraged that these funds [be used] for an upcoming programming event. Thank you to the entire Florida West Coast Chapter!”

February Seminar Connects With Audience

Our February seminar at BayCare Health System’s Clearwater location drew a crowd of 78 attendees to hear Don Levonius speak about making meaningful personal and professional connections.

Our speaker garnered high praise from our seminar survey, with a 98% positive rating.

“Don held our interest with no struggle and I was actually a little sad it was over,” noted one attendee. “It was a very enjoyable seminar and Don was a fantastic speaker.”

Many thanks to Don, Sarah Reekstin, who organized the event, and our hosts at BayCare!
The Future is ... Going to Happen Later

AUDIT-ORIAL

Wade Cassels, CIA, CISA, CRMA, CFE
Senior Auditor Nielsen

The Big One is coming. Warren Buffett said so. When the CEO of Berkshire Hathaway and investor extraordinaire released his annual letter in February, he warned about the prospect of a major hurricane, earthquake, or cyberattack that he claimed would “dwarf hurricanes Katrina and Michael” and inflict severe losses.

Buffett called such a mega-catastrophe “inevitable”, but he also conceded that it could occur “tomorrow or in decades.” Such is the uncertainty inherent in disaster preparedness. Still, Buffett was not going out on a limb in his prediction. The Disaster Recovery Institute’s 2019 Predictions Report included:

- US financial meltdown
- State-sponsored cyberattack against the CNI of a G8 country.

- Terrorism attack on US target
- Major flooding on US East Coast

Whether fire, flood, drought, earthquake, hurricane, political unrest or cyberattack, there is no place that organizations can go to be completely safe from disaster. Meanwhile, the people internal auditors serve are asking more and more for internal auditors to provide forward-looking insight as opposed to just reviewing what has happened.

One way internal auditors can help meet this need is to determine if lead time is being considered in risk assessment alongside the traditional factors of likelihood and impact. According to research, two events may have equal likelihood and impact in theory, yet not be equal in terms of risk because one event gives the organization more time to prepare than another. Lead time, when it can be known or estimated, gives added dimension to likelihood that results in more robust and useful risk assessment—no crystal ball needed.


Connect & Contribute

Submit an “Audit-orial” of your own (200-300 words) to VP-Comm@tampabayia.org and we may publish it!

E-mail your favorite classic comics to VP-Comm@tampabayia.org

Respond to the “Audit-orial” via Facebook or Twitter