March 2020

Inside...

- February RPA Seminar Preview
- Membership News
- Member Profile: Larry Davis

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

Dear Chapter Members:

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year! It’s hard to believe that we are already halfway through our chapter year. We certainly wrapped up 2019 in a big way with our December 4th Fraud and Security seminar. Our Fraud and Security seminar is always a hit and this year was no different. The number of attendees that went out of their way to stop by the registration desk to compliment us on the quality of the event was pretty impressive! The networking event after the seminar was also a great success. It’s great to see our members get together and enjoy some social time and networking. We will continue to plan social events throughout the year. As a last word on the December seminar, I want to thank Citi for sponsoring the event. Their support was significant and really raised the bar for future seminars.

Our next seminar, Preparing for Robotic Process Automation, will be held Thursday, February 6th at ZooTampa. RPA is such a hot topic for auditors and this seminar will answer your questions on how to audit robotics and automated processes as well as the cost benefits. This seminar includes free admission to ZooTampa as well as an exotic animal interaction during the lunch break! This event is sure to be a hit! Registration is open so reserve your seat now.

In addition to our upcoming seminars we have been working hard to strengthen our academic relations at our local universities. We already have a visit planned to the University of Tampa and are in the works of scheduling events at USF. Our members represent a wide variety of careers within internal audit and we want to show students what internal audit is all about! If you are interested in getting involved in these efforts, please let us know.

Lastly, as a reminder, we are raffling off one conference registration (including travel expenses) to the IIA’s 2020 International Conference (held July 20-22) in Miami. Remember, you can earn multiple entries to the raffle by volunteering with the chapter. We will announce the winner during the April 16th seminar. For complete rules, please visit the IIA Florida West Coast Chapter website.

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
UPCOMING EVENT

ROBOTICS for AUDIT & ACCOUNTING

Thursday, Feb. 6th
1101 W. Sligh Ave.
Tampa, FL 33604
Breakfast 8 a.m.
Seminar 8:30-4:30
(CPE: 8 hrs A&A)

Register Now!

Getting to Know February Speakers

Several of our Feb. 6 seminar speakers (Jonathan Wolfe, Senior Director, Audit Services, AutoNation, Paul Marshall, Vice President, MIL Corporation, and Kyle Brooks, Assistant Vice President, MIL Corporation, shared a little personal/informal information for our members to get to know them better.

Q: Have you spent much time in the Tampa Bay area?
JW: I have been to Tampa many times. Great city!
PM: I have been a couple times for work, as well as to get on a cruise ship! I really enjoyed the Ybor City and Clearwater areas.
KB: This will be my first visit to Tampa, but my parents currently live near St. Augustine and I travel there often.

Q: What is the coolest thing you are working on right now?
JW: We are currently building predictive analytics, which is very exciting.
PM: RPA—Automating tedious, repetitive business processes and freeing up staff to focus on more interesting work!
KB: We just began working on our most ambitious RPA project to date. We estimate it will save the Department of State over 3500 hours per year.

Q: What is something you have really enjoyed reading lately?
JW: One of my favorite books is Executive Warfare by David D’Alessandro. It gives some great insights into corporate culture.
PM: I read mostly audiobooks, sometimes several at once, recently reading about Roman history - Mary Beard’s “SPQR” and Malcolm Gladwell’s “Talking to Strangers.”
KB: I love reading and learning about history. I am currently reading a book on General Patton and also listening to Dan Carlin’s Hardcore History podcast.

Q: What expression do your co-workers hear you utter most often?
JW: Think outside the box.
PM: “You can’t appreciate the sun if you’ve never experienced the rain.”
KB: Design processes that let robots do what they do best so people can do what we do best.

Q: What is something that someone has done to help you in your career that you would like to pay forward?
JW: One valuable piece of advice I received is patience. Take your time vetting issues, learning a process, thinking, communicating, etc. we need to take a little more time to think and understand the world around us.
PM: Active mentoring, introducing me to senior leaders in my mentor’s network and encouraging me to do the same for my staff.
KB: The importance of having confidence in yourself. I try to return this favor by empowering others to make decisions and grow.

www.theiia.org
In the more than 30 years Larry Davis has been an internal auditor, he has given a great deal to the profession as a volunteer and leader. However, Larry feels, his years of involvement have given much back to him as well. A member of the Florida West Coast chapter for the past four years, Larry joined the chapter’s board of directors at the beginning of the 2019-2020 year. Prior to that, he served on the Board of the Twin Cities IIA Chapter in Minneapolis.

Today, Larry is the Senior Vice President of Internal Audit for Old Republic National Title Insurance Co., leading the company’s 13-person internal audit department. In addition to performing internal audits across thousands of independent title agencies and owned offices that represent his company, Larry’s team works with KPMG to facilitate the firm’s external audit and additionally SOX compliance testing. In the midst of juggling those responsibilities, Larry says, “a large part of my role is developing our department’s associates and helping them learn and grow. That’s probably the best part of the job and what I enjoy the most.”

Larry understands well the value of having others invest in his development. After graduating from Virginia Tech’s accounting program, Larry worked as a controller for a small title insurance agency in Houston. In dealing with the internal auditors from the parent company, he took an interest in their work, and later jumped at an opportunity to be an internal auditor at a title insurance underwriter based in Houston. “Once into internal audit,” Larry says, “I progressed quickly and became the CAE of [that company] for around 30 years. It was a wonderful learning experience and I had several great mentors during that time, one of which was the CEO of the company, another was Steve Goepfert, CAE at Continental Airlines and later at United, whom I’d met thru the Houston chapter, and the third was Joel Kramer from MIS Training Institute. Everyone needs a mentor and I was so fortunate to have those three.”

A career-long affiliation with the IIA has afforded Larry many opportunities to contribute to the career growth of others. He was a member of the Houston chapter for more than 20 years, where he served as VP of seminars, as president, and on the board as well. “Making friends and building relationships is probably the most rewarding aspect of being involved in any chapter,” he says. “Also, in Houston, working on the IIA International Conference was very interesting and rewarding.” Although Larry’s employer in Houston outsourced the IA department, “in the end I landed at a wonderful company [in Tampa] and am working with great people,” he says. “Sometimes a negative turns into a really great positive.” Larry currently sits on the board for the Tampa Bay chapter of ACFE and enjoys golfing as many weekends as he can.

Larry has experienced many changes in the profession during his career, some of the most significant of which, he feels, are the growth in data analytics, the increased focus on adding value and working as a partner with the audit client to improve processes and controls, and dealing with SOX challenges. “IA is a constantly changing environment” Larry says, “which keeps it very interesting and challenging.” One of ways Larry encourages auditors to prepare to adapt to those changes is through professional development and certification. “I highly encourage my team to study and obtain multiple certifications such as CPA, CIA, CFE, CISA, etc.,” Larry says. “I know in my career it made a huge difference. It’s a sign of professionalism and commitment to your career and company.”
CHAPTER NEWS

Now is the Time to Join!

The Institute of Internal Auditors is providing new membership discounts to kick off 2020, using the following discount codes:

- Individual Professional Membership – BOY20
- Individual Government Membership – BOYGOVT20

These discounts are for NEW individual members in the US only, but if you know someone who is thinking about becoming a member, or should be, please share this information with them.

Take the IIA Member Needs Survey!

By now, all our members should have received a reminder e-mail (1/13) from the IIA to complete the biannual Member Needs Survey. The email includes a personalized survey link.

Your feedback is vital to the efforts of the IIA and the local chapters to meet the needs of its members, so we encourage all of you to take a few minutes to complete it. (Remember to indicate that your chapter is "Florida West Coast.") If you didn't receive the email, try the following solutions: (1) Check an alternate inbox: the email is sent to your primary email address on your member profile, not necessarily your business email. (2) Company firewalls may block the survey: check with your IT team. (3) Should you need to receive your personalized link, email ResearchInsights@theiia.org.

Online and self-study CIA training courses are also available, and IIA members receive a $100 discount on CIA Learning System materials. Visit: www.LearnCIA.com

The Florida West Coast Chapter home on LinkedIn is now:

“Tampa Bay IIA Chapter”

Follow our LinkedIn page to

Network with other chapter members
Receive news and updates
Join the conversation

The Institute of Internal Auditors
Florida West Coast Chapter
January 2020

www.theiia.org
Win a FREE trip to the 2020 IIA International Conference in Miami!

**Grand Prize**

One winner will receive a paid registration plus travel (limitations apply) to the 2020 IIA International Conference, July 20 - 22, 2020 in Miami, Florida!

**How to Enter**

Eligible chapter members may earn entries in the following ways:

- Attending Chapter Events
- Volunteering at Chapter Events
- Providing articles/interviews for our chapter newsletter, Audit Scope

This promotion is open from October 24, 2019 to April 16, 2020 for all Florida West Coast Chapter IIA members in good standing. The Winner of the Sweepstakes will be selected during a random drawing from among all eligible Entries. The drawing for the IIA International Conference registration will occur during lunch at the FLWCC IIA Total Quality Auditing seminar on April 16, 2020. Visit the IIA Florida West Coast Chapter website for complete rules.
“Is it safe?”

AUDIT-ORIAL

Paul Jerome, CIA, CISA
Owner, America’s Tax & Accounting Service

Sir Laurence Olivier probably wasn’t thinking about personal data when he uttered those famous lines in 1976’s Marathon Man, but in 2020, the protection of one’s personal data is one of the most prevalent topics that consumers face. It seems as if almost every day, a new data breach is announced—one of the more recent being Wawa gas stations. Personal data, including credit card information, is under constant attack.

The Federal Trade Commission has identified some rudimentary tips on protecting personal data, like not carrying your social security card with you to shredding all receipts and bank statements (after they’ve been reconciled, of course)! Installing anti-virus applications as well as utilizing a firewall are also helpful tools in combating unwanted intrusions on your personal devices.

However, as new threats emerge, consumers need more and stronger protections to combat data privacy issues. New data privacy laws are being proposed and enacted in order to ensure that companies prioritize the protection of personal data. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was enacted in Europe in May 2018. Under GDPR, companies must ensure that personal data is gathered legally and protected from misuse. Additionally, on January 1, 2020, the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) was ushered into law. Modeled on GDPR, CCPA requires companies that buy or sell at least 50,000 California personal records per year to now disclose what they are doing with the data and give consumers the right to request that the company not sell their data. Regulations such as these will ensure that companies continue to keep their privacy policies up to date as well as improve internal processes for collecting and retaining consumer’s personal information.

While the thought of Christian Szell performing a dental procedure on you without the use of anesthetic is surely terrifying, the thought of your personal data floating around cyberspace for anyone to use is almost just as frightening. Please make sure it’s kept safe.

Connect & Contribute

Submit an “Audit-orial” of your own (200-300 words) and we may publish it!

E-mail your favorite classic comics!

Chapter89@iia-chapters.org
FloridaWestCoastIIA@gmail.com

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

www.theiia.org