Notes from the Editor

It’s finally here folks!!!!!

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the first edition of our Bi-annual Newsletter to keep you informed of all matters pertaining to the IIA Guyana Chapter and where we are heading.

Our focus in this first edition is to make sure you have enough information on who we are, what we represent, what has happened over the past months and a small feature on the personalities behind making this organization such a great one.

Have fun guys, Do enjoy!

Shondelle Johnson

Editor
Message from the Chapter President

“*I never fail, either I win or I learn something new*” - Nelson Mandela

Greetings Fellow Colleagues and my wishes to each of you and your respective families for a rewarding Year 2017 filled with peace, health & prosperity. May your goals become a reality and may your faith strengthen day by day.

I extend gratitude for your support of Chapter activities over the years and we look forward to continued partnership and fellowship.

It is with much pride and pleasure that we proudly present the first publication of the Institute of Internal Auditor’s Guyana Chapter (IIAG) 2016/2017 newsletter. The Chapter’s first newsletter was introduced many years ago under the presidency of Mr. John Seeram AA, Past President / Founder Member and current Board member & Governor.

We hope that through this medium of communication, you will identify with Chapter values and join us in our efforts to improve and pave the way for the profession in Guyana. It is also a channel where we will keep you updated on Chapter events and outcomes.

The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Global celebrated its 75th anniversary in Year 2016 which saw many milestones being achieved and continued efforts being made for representation at the highest levels by the IIA Inc. Though internal auditors worldwide continue to face inimical challenges, we have to continue to invoke our dominant indomitable spirit to stay focused on our roles.

Globally, there continues to be a rise in Cybercrime with an increased awareness of Cyber Security counter measures. In Guyana, we are fortunate that our businesses are not as exposed and susceptible in this area as our counterparts in the developed world, albeit operating on the international stage.

(continued...)
As Auditors, we have to continue to meet our professional obligations and fulfill our pivotal role by continuously assessing our organisations’ IT Governance and Control framework in ensuring that adequate IT controls exist.

Within recent times in Guyana, there has been an increased trend of focus on forensic audits which presented internal auditors an excellent opportunity to advocate for strong governance, internal controls and risk management in the affected organisations.

Internal Auditors must endeavor to have a voice that counts at the table & in the Boardroom and over time our role will morph into one of partnership and trusted advisor.

Training is therefore quite critical to hone our skills and improve our competency levels as is required by the Code of Ethics and Audit Standards. Auditors must be knowledgeable of the Audit Standards, be aware of changes and how these will impact our approach as we solidify our careers in this field.

In closing, let’s all join together to strengthen the Internal Audit profession in Guyana by advocating and standing up for strong ethical behaviors, providing continuous assurance, being appropriately certified & trained on technical and soft-skilled areas.

I also extend thanks to the hard-working Team of the IIA Guyana Chapter as we continue our efforts to build focus, advocate for the profession and empower Internal Auditors.

Thank you and enjoy reading!

Jaishree Lam
## Chapter Officer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position held</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jaishree Lam</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Mandie Mickle</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Vidyawattie Nauth</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Ms. Arina De Cambra</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Jaigopaul Ram</td>
<td>Governor / Immediate Past President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. John Seeram AA</td>
<td>Governor / Past President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Deodat Indar</td>
<td>Governor / Past President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Goorwanti Devi Kaladeen</td>
<td>Governor / Immediate Past Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Mohamed Karimullah</td>
<td>Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Chandrawattie Samaroo</td>
<td>Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Chaitram Ramdial</td>
<td>Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Ajay Nathaniel</td>
<td>Governor</td>
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## Other Volunteers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position held</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Ramesh Dookhoo</td>
<td>Bylaws Committee Chairperson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Leyland Bacchus</td>
<td>Professional Development Committee Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Joann Chan-Niles</td>
<td>Nominations Committee Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Shondelle Johnson</td>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Tricia Niles</td>
<td>Exam Testing Centre Administrator</td>
</tr>
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Membership

The month of May has been designated “International Internal Audit Awareness Month” by the IIA Global.

In the Year 2016, the IIA celebrated 75 years as the global voice for Internal Auditors worldwide with local Chapters advocating awareness and promoting the internal audit profession in their respective countries. Presently the IIA serves approximately 180,000 members in over 190 countries.

Currently, the Guyana Chapter serves a membership base of 82 having started with 15 members when the Chapter received its incorporation papers in Year 2000 through Mr. John Seeram AA. While membership growth has not been marked over the period, we believe commitment to the cause and to the profession will garner more members, making the Chapter more sustainable.

Certification

All Internal Auditors are mandated to have a working knowledge of the Audit Standards enshrined in the International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF), Definition of Internal Auditing, Code of Ethics, Mission (new) and recommended to gain knowledge of the Practice Advisories and Implementation Guides.

Being IIA-certified demonstrates competence, knowledge and commitment to the practice of internal audit which distinguishes oneself in today’s competitive environment.

The Guyana Chapter is fortunate to have a PearsonVue Testing Centre with an on-site Administrator at the University of Guyana where IIA examinations can be taken.

Visit [www.theiia.org/certification](http://www.theiia.org/certification) for more information.
Bylaws Revision

The IIA Guyana Chapter Current Bylaws were in effect since the start-up of the Chapter operations in Year 2000.

In Year 2012, a Bylaws Committee was formed and chaired by Mr. Ramesh Seebarran, Governor / Board Member at the time. Two sections were subsequently changed at a special members’ meeting in September 2012 at Regency Suites Hotel, Georgetown.

Within recent years, the Chapter commenced a process to revise all of the Bylaws’ clauses. At present, Mr. Ramesh Dookhoo, another founder member of the IIAG, is Chairperson of the Bylaws Committee. A special members’ meeting was called and held in October 2016, at the Cara Lodge Hotel, Georgetown. Eight (8) members attended this meeting where a discussion of the Bylaws occurred.

On February 15, 2017, a special members’ meeting will be called to finalise revision of the Chapter’s constitution. Notice and agenda of this meeting will be circulated.

The Chapter requires your participation and we anticipate that you will recognize the importance of your role in this process.
“Progress through Sharing” is a motto we’ve embodied while planning Seminar & Workshops for Chapter Year 2016/2017.

1st Seminar: “Information Technology (IT) Audit for Non-IT Auditors & Practitioners”

The IIA Guyana Chapter held its first Seminar & Workshop in the Chapter Year 2016/2017 on September 1 & 2, 2016. Mr. Anthony Zamore from Price Water House Coopers (PwC), Trinidad & Tobago, facilitated the training.

Mr. Harry Parmesar, well-known Accountant, gave the feature address.

Mr. Anthony Zamore came with a wealth of experience in internal auditing, external auditing, forensics and Cyber Security spanning over 12 years. His presentation was impressively delivered, with favourable reviews being garnered by participants which approximated 60 persons from over 20 organisations.

Focus points covered:
- Theoretical aspects of IT auditing: definition and possible types of audits. A focus on practical execution, allowing participants exposure to real scenarios, how to plan and execute effective IT audits, as well as provide insights on how to overcome possible challenges.

- Topic was viewed as a critical one as for both public and private sectors, financial institutions, telecommunications, utilities or manufacturing as most business operate some aspects of information technology. Therefore it is imperative that auditors have updated knowledge and understanding of their role in this area.
Training & Facilitation

“Progress through Sharing” is a motto we’ve embodied while planning Seminar & Workshops for Chapter Year 2016/2017.

PHOTOGRAPHS - Seminar: “Information Technology (IT) Audit for Non-IT Auditors & Practitioners”
“Progress through Sharing” is a motto we’ve embodied while planning Seminar & Workshops slated for Chapter Year 2016/2017.

2nd Seminar: “Fraud & Forensic Auditing” & “Report-Writing”

Our second Seminar & Workshop instalment was hosted on November 24 & 25, 2016 and explored the topic, “Fraud and Forensic Auditing” coupled with “Report Writing” and facilitated by Mr. Stephon Grey, Senior Manager, Forensic Services, Trinidad & Tobago.

Mr. Grey is a well-known fraud and forensic expert, Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Internal Control Auditor and a Forensic CPA Educator. He is no stranger to Guyana as he has done several speaking engagements for the IIA-G in recent years. His delivery focused on practical situations and as always, was well-received by the participants.

Participants were afforded the opportunity to: explore the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities; evaluate audit evidence; understand and apply tools and techniques used in fraud examination; and reporting results for various audiences. This seminar well attended by approximately 58 participants, representing more than 20 organisations from across the different sectors in Guyana.

Like IT auditing, this topic is critical to every auditor and business personnel, who need to be knowledgeable about fraud schemes. We believe auditors need to be competent, possessing the necessary knowledge and skillset on all aspects of the business environment in order to be effective and add value to their organisations.

As we look ahead to the final seminar for this Chapter Year and all other seminars to come, we hope to continue to deliver value-based, practical seminars and workshops, in an effort to empower Internal Auditors, thus strengthening the profession in Guyana.
“Progress through Sharing” is a motto we’ve embodied while planning Seminar & Workshops slated for Chapter Year 2016/2017.

PHOTOGRAPHS - 2nd Seminar: “Fraud & Forensic Auditing” & “Report-Writing”
Chief Audit Executive (CAE) Roundtable Meeting

The IIA Guyana Chapter hosted its first CAE Roundtable breakfast meeting on July 1, 2016 which was attended by twenty (20) representatives from 10 (ten) organisations.

Organisations who supported the event were:


The meeting was chaired by the Chapter President, Mrs. Jaishree Lam. Mr. John Seeram AA & Governor, Mr. Mohamed Karimullah and Mr. Ramesh Dookhoo gave meaningful contributions.

This meeting enabled Chapter Administrators to develop a training plan for the Chapter Year and to become aware of training needs of larger organisations’ audit shops.

Discussions were free-flow, fruitful and we were able to improve our understanding of the need for more practical training sessions. Attendees articulated the effects of training on their respective organisations, and how practical sessions would add more value. They explained the difficulties in implementing new knowledge, as seminars were predominately attended by junior staff compared to those with the authority to initiate change.

Topical areas arising from discussions:

- Information Technology Audit
- Fraud & Forensic Auditing
- Report Writing
- Enterprise Risk Management
- IPPF Standards Revision
- Ethics
- Internal Controls
- Accounting and Reporting
- Auditing of Organizational Cultures

Continued....
Chief Audit Executive (CAE) Roundtable Meeting cont’d

Topical areas arising from discussions:

- Non – Routine audits such as Health and Safety

- CEO Roundtable Discussions with the view of explaining CEO’s role in Internal Controls and Internal Audit Activity. Further sessions should be held to sensitize other personnel within the organization about Internal Audit and more so the responsibility for governance and an effective system of Internal Control

- Assist with in-house Training

- Certification for Internal Auditors

Scenes from the event
Donation to the IIA Research Foundation

The Chapter contributed to funding the efforts of the IIA Research Foundation and donated towards their worthy cause in August 2016.

The Research Foundation, now renamed Internal Audit Foundation exist to help audit leaders, practitioners, students, and academics experience continuous growth in their careers to propel them to become respected as trusted advisers as well as thought leaders within the industry.

Chapter Blood Drive

The Chapter ventured into its first altruistic venture and held its inaugural Blood Drive on September 22, 2016 at the Blood Bank or National Transfusion Service, Lamaha Street, Georgetown.

A total of 7 units were donated which equated to saving 21 lives.

The Chapter is indebted to the volunteers who contributed notably to this cause.

The Chapter will host another Blood Drive in the month of May and it is our hope that we will donate more units to the Blood Bank so as to help save more potential lives. Come donate with us!
Christmas Cocktail & Social

On December 21, 2016, the Chapter continued the tradition of hosting its annual Christmas Cocktail & Social at the Le Meridien Pegasus, Kingston, Georgetown.

Invitations were extended to members, volunteers and organisations who supported the Chapter during the year 2016.

An evening of soft music, sumptuous finger foods and cocktails, commenced at 18:00 H and attracted a presence of over 60 invitees who mingled and networked throughout the evening to 22:00 H.

Some members, volunteers & guests
**Inspiration:** I believe a person can choose a career or a career can choose you, sometimes through divine inspiration. My story fits into the bracket of the latter; in 1999 I walked into the Audit Office seeking a job, seventeen years later auditing has become a vocation I enjoy. Whether you chose a career or a career chooses you, good success is dependent on one adopting an attitude of commitment while avoiding complacency. My High School’s motto is Labor omnia vincit a latin phrase meaning “Steady work overcomes all things”

We can have one of two things in life; excuses or achievements, reasons or results, but reasons don’t count. The choice is yours!

**IA profession in Guyana:** There is a growing awareness of the recognition and value of auditors, especially the role of Internal Audit. This holds well for the future of this profession in Guyana. Auditors should continue to focus on assessing controls over key business risks, particularly those related to technology. Further, added value will come; as we become business partners, utilize technology to aid in continuous monitoring and recommending process improvement opportunities. Auditors must remain committed to continuous learning, both self-directed and otherwise to ensure we escape the fate of the dinosaur.
The Audit Standards were revised and approved in October 2016 and are presently in effect.

The revisions include the addition of two new standards, alignment of the Standards to the Core Principles, and updates to existing standards.

**IG1100**—Independence and Objectivity

**IG1110**—Organizational Independence

**IG1111**—Direct Interaction with the Board

**IG1120**—Individual Objectivity

**IG1130**—Impairment to Independence or Objectivity

**IG1200**—NEW! Proficiency and Due Professional Care

**IG1210**—NEW! Proficiency

**IG1220**—NEW! Due Professional Care

**IG1230**—NEW! Continuing Professional Development

**IG2500**—Monitoring Progress

**IG2600**—Communicating the Acceptance of Risks

*Become familiarized with the changes in the Audit Standards today!!!*

Visit: [https://na.theiia.org/standards-guidance/recommended-guidance/Pages/Practice-Advisories.aspx](https://na.theiia.org/standards-guidance/recommended-guidance/Pages/Practice-Advisories.aspx) for further details.
## Upcoming Events

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapter Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>Free Webinar on “Advanced Critical Thinking” by IIA District Advisor, Ms. Raven Catlin</td>
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<td>(completed)</td>
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<td>February 10</td>
<td>Free Seminar on Microsoft Excel - <em>how to use data to improve reporting</em></td>
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<td>February 15</td>
<td>Special Members’ Meeting - Chapter Revised Bylaws</td>
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<td>February 17</td>
<td>Participation in University of Guyana (UG) Career Day</td>
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<td>March 30 - 31</td>
<td>Seminar &amp; Workshop to be facilitated by Mr. Larry Kowlessar, IIA District Representative, Caribbean East</td>
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<td>March / April</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting (AGM) &amp; Election of Chapter Officers for Chapter Year 2017/2018 <em>TBA</em></td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Internal Audit Awareness Month Activities <em>TBA</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Charity Drive</td>
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<td>- Blood Drive</td>
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*TBA = Dates To Be Announced*
Joke of the Week

“It’s safe to come out - the auditors have gone.”

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS?

Email us! iiag_guyana@hotmail.com or iiageditor@hotmail.com

Call us on 1-592-603-4040!

Like & follow us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Institute-of-Internal-Auditors/43046323190

IIA Guyana Chapter

“Progress through Sharing”