THE MIAMI BEAT


ISSUE NO. 7  OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2018

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40 New Members since last quarter!
Plus, a brand new flyer outlining all YOUR membership benefits!

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Marisa: Servant Leader in Action
Find out how Marisa Branch is shaping the future of internal audit

PRESIDENT’S LETTER
Happy New Year to all of our valued members!

I hope you were able to take some time off, recharge, spend time with loved ones and make some New Year resolutions. The start of a new year provides opportunities to reflect on where we’ve been and think about new goals, new experiences and new risks for the upcoming year. This is the time to reflect on upcoming changes – as individuals and as a profession. Change is very hard, for us, as individuals, and perhaps even more difficult for organizations. The status quo can be so much more comfortable, but it might be the most risky. As internal auditors, it is important we understand organizational risks and changes, especially in key areas such as processes, technology and people. This ties into our upcoming conference scheduled on January 25th, which will focus on risk and change in the organization. We will provide you with detailed tools and techniques to navigate emerging risks. As the New Year awaits us, here are 14 quotes to help inspire you to embrace change, adapt, grow, & win - for yourself and in your internal audit profession:

1. Change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous at the end. - Robin Sharma
2. It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive but those who can best manage change. - Charles Darwin
3. When you’re finished changing, you’re finished. - Benjamin Franklin
4. The riskiest strategy is to try to avoid risk altogether. - Frederick W. Smith

5. Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future. - John F. Kennedy
6. Your success in life isn’t based on your ability to simply change. It is based on your ability to change faster than your competition, customers, and business. - Mark Sanborn
7. One key to successful leadership is continuous personal change. Personal change is a reflection of our inner growth and empowerment. - Robert E. Quinn
8. The art of life is a constant readjustment to our surroundings. - Kakuzo Okakura
9. Adaptability is not imitation. It means power of resistance and assimilation. - Mahatma Gandhi
10. You can’t build an adaptable organization without adaptable people—and individuals change only when they have to, or when they want to. - Gary Hamel
11. People will try to tell you that all the great opportunities have been snapped up. In reality, the world changes every second, blowing new opportunities in all directions, including yours. - Ken Hakuta
12. All fixed set patterns are incapable of adaptability or pliability. The truth is outside of all fixed patterns. - Bruce Lee
13. The price of doing the same old thing is far higher than the price of change. - Bill Clinton
14. Each of us has the opportunity to change and grow until our very last breath. Happy creating. - M.F. Ryan

As always, the IIA Miami Chapter is here to support you throughout your career and your involvement in internal audit. We have insightful and educational seminars, forums and conferences coming up, as well as fun networking events to expand your professional relationships. Looking forward to seeing you at our January 25th conference on risk and change.

Cheers to a happy and healthy new year!

With much appreciation,
Hadas Mizrahi
President - IIA Miami Chapter
MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Did you know? As of December 2018, IIA Miami has approximately 790 members - that's an increase of 40 members since September 2018!

We welcome:
- New members from KPMG, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, Seminole Tribe of Florida, MasTec, City of Miramar, Nova, RSM, Perry Ellis and Magic Leap to name a few!
- Member renewals from companies such as Office Depot, General Cable Corp., Miami Dade County, Harris Corp., and Citibank!

Thank you all for your support!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS HIGHLIGHT

The Membership Committee has created the IIA Miami Chapter Membership Benefits flyer! It is your complete guide to all the national and local benefits included with your membership.

Click here to view our Membership Benefits flyer

JOIN US!

- Click here to become a new member
- Click here to renew your membership
- For questions, or to inquire about joining the membership committee, please email Membership@iiamiami.org
- For changes to email addresses, chapter affiliations, etc., please visit your member profile. Local chapters are unable to update individual's information.

Want to volunteer on one of our committees? Email president@iiamiami.org for more information

The Miami Chapter will serve as the host for the IIA International Conference in July 2020!

This amazing event is expected to draw over 2,500 internal audit professionals from around the globe! Miami Chapter Board Members Justin Gwin (Associate Principal, Kaufman Rossin) and Steve Roth (VP of Internal Audit, Norwegian Cruise Lines) have been named Co-Chairs of the event. They are working closely with IIA Headquarters to make all necessary arrangements and are actively searching for those who are interested to assist with planning. Subcommittees are being developed over the following aspects of the event: Finance/Budgeting, Marketing, Educational Programs, Social Events, Sponsorships, Travel/Logistics, and On-site Volunteers. If you are interested in being part of this event in any way, please contact Justin jgwin@kaufmanrossin.com or Steve sroth@ncl.com.
CAE SPOTLIGHT

MARISA BRANCH
VICE PRESIDENT
INTERNAL AUDIT
CYXTERA TECHNOLOGIES

Marisa Branch has over two decades of experience in accounting and internal audit. She currently serves as the VP of Internal Audit at Cyxtara Technologies, a cybersecurity and data center company, where she is building the internal audit function while working with management on corporate governance, business process improvement, and system implementations. She previously worked as Senior Director, Internal Audit at Spirit Airlines, Inc. While at Spirit, Marisa established the internal audit function from the ground up and managed the SOX implementation. In addition to overseeing the SOX process, she was also responsible for performing internal audits, providing controls guidance on ERP system implementations, compliance audits, post-system implementation reviews, business process reengineering, risk assessments, and ethics investigations. Prior to Spirit Airlines, she served as a Director at Advisian, Internal Auditor at Royal Caribbean and External Auditor at KPMG. Marisa is a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Internal Auditor. She was also recognized as having the 6th highest score on the CPA exam in Florida. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking and cooking with her husband and three sons.

What is the greatest piece of advice Marisa tries to apply?
Be a servant- leader—someone who gets to know her team members at a professional and personal level to better provide support. A servant-leader focuses primarily on the growth and needs of the people around them rather than exercising power at the “top of the pyramid.” Marisa’s leadership pursuits include being compassionate, understanding, and always working alongside her team. These attributes she has been fortunate to learn from previous leaders. She believes it is important to remove obstacles that prevent her team from performing their best—pushing them to become leaders themselves, so she encourages them to take on more lead meetings, and take initiative.

How does Marisa approach risk-taking?
The most important thing Marisa considers when creating her risk approach is the “end game,” or what she is trying to accomplish. In doing so, she analyzes the different scenarios, the what-could-go-wrongs, the downstream effects, and how any action can reverberate across the different departments. By doing this, she can align the objectives and the different scenarios to the company’s overall risk appetite.

In what ways does Marisa ensure her team is kept focused and/or challenged?
From the beginning of her career at KPMG, Marisa recalls a strong emphasis on continuing professional development. This has stuck with her all these years, so she highly encourages her team to keep training, and not only to develop technical skills, but also soft skills. Whether it’s obtaining additional certifications or establishing a team with open communication, Marisa’s team is never short of opportunities for personal and professional growth. To keep focused, Marisa holds regular team meetings, where each team member presents to the group. One-on-one meetings are also conducted to address any impediments or concerns.

When did Marisa make a mistake in her career, but no one ever found out about it?
Early in her career as a manager, she didn’t make the most of her team’s individual strengths; sometimes pairing people to work on projects together without considering (or perhaps knowing) how their personalities came into play and simply assuming things would work out. As a result, Marisa quickly realized that grouping people solely based on their technical skills was not the best option. She learned that it’s crucial to understand each person’s personality and management style to create a better mix and a more productive team. Mistakes such as these are more impactful as one goes up in levels because one becomes more and more accountable to self.

What’s the most interesting thing Marisa has seen recently?
A few weeks ago, Marisa attended a Latinas in Tech event, where Sheryl Sandberg, the COO of Facebook, was a speaker. Sheryl gave advice from her book, “Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead.” This book was a revelation to Marisa, as it paints a different picture of career progression than what we are used to. Instead of seeing careers like ladders, where there is only one way up, career paths should be considered more like jungle gyms. Sometimes in our careers we have to take risks, in doing so we may be forced to move down or sideways before we can go up again, but this only allows us to build creativity and challenge ourselves.

What makes Marisa excited to go to work every day?
What Marisa loves about internal audit is the exposure she gets to all the different parts of the business, the level of interaction she has with people across all departments, and the fact that no two days are the same. More recently, her position at Cyxtara Technologies provided her with the unique opportunity of venturing into the world of startup businesses. As CAE of Cyxtara, she has contributed to the initial stages of the internal audit department’s formation, the creation of policies and procedures, and the development of internal audit strategy. Every day brings its unexpected challenges, but this keeps her job interesting. Moreover, working with good team members, some of which are old colleagues, is why she looks forward to her workday. In her words, being a part of this startup has made her feel that she is “shaping the future.” And that she is. According to a study by the IIA Research Foundation, less than 40% of women are CAEs. With the technology industry still being male-dominated, she’s not just shaping the future of her company, she’s reshaping the future for women in internal audit.
PAST EVENTS REVIEW

IIA MEMBER NETWORKER
On Thursday, October 18th, the Chapter hosted an IIA Miami Members Complimentary Networking Event. The event was held at City Works in CityPlace Doral, FL.

See the "Photogenic Central" page 5 for more pictures of this event!

ARE YOU A CAE?
Our VP of Specialty Centers, Lindsay McEwen is currently working on the next CAE roundtable, to be held during Q1 2019. Please continue to watch for future chapter events that support the Audit Executive Specialty Center.

If you have any questions regarding these CAE-exclusive events, please reach out to:

Lindsay McEwen: vpspecialtycenters@iiamiami.org
Hadas Mizrahi: president@iiamiami.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

IIA CONFERENCE:
Risky Business:
Tools & Techniques to Navigate Emerging Risks

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER
Friday, January 25, 2019
FIU Kovens Conference Center
3000 NE 151 Street, North Miami, FL 33181

Registration links for the last two conferences of the 2018-2019 year will be shared soon!

TGIF: THANK GOODNESS IT’S FRAUDAY
March 29, 2019
Cybercrime and AI and Robots...Oh my!
May 17, 2019

Our sister West Palm Beach Chapter presents:
MYSTERY FRAUD TRAINING

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER
Friday, January 18, 2019
Hilton Palm Beach Airport 150 Australian Ave,
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Speaker: Tim Hungerford, CPA, CFE, CIA, CMA, CISA, CGAP, CGMA

Attendees will participate in evaluating the evidence, interviewing suspects, and working to resolve two live cases where they and their peers may be involved in the fraud! Who done it!
If you have any questions regarding these events, please reach out to Lindsay McEwen: vpspecialtycenters@iiamiami.org. 

Hadas Mizrahi: president@iiamiami.org

TAG YOUR PHOTOS WITH #IIAMIAMI ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED ON OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER!
Congratulations to our New CIAs!

We are proud to announce the following newly certified CIAs from our IIA Miami Chapter:

- Desiree Torres Santiago
- Faydeen Hart
- David Figueroa
- Klaudia Wito

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING CIA CERTIFIED? CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY.

Gleim Exam Prep is extending exclusive discounts to our members for CIA study materials and prep courses. To access your discount:

1. Navigate to the IIA Miami Chapter website
2. Sign in with your member ID and password
3. Click on the Gleim link shown on the Members only tab of the webpage.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018-2019 IIA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

Trevor Holden  
- FIU

Andrea Velazquez  
- UM

Kyle Stewart  
- UM

Victoria Lulciuc  
- Barry University
An early look at Internal Audit Priorities for 2019
Like the speed of risk, the end of 2018 is approaching very rapidly. That means many of you are putting the finishing touches on your 2019 annual internal audit plan. Take an early look at the priorities your peers are planning to address in the year ahead.

A Data Analytics Strategy For Internal Audit Effectiveness
Organizations embracing technology more often better aligned internal audit outcomes to their strategic plans – something that cybersecurity standards increasingly require.

Five things internal audit must provide in 2019
In a world where technology and globalization are changing most industries at a dizzying pace, internal audit is no exception.

Internal audit lags business in RPA adoption, poll says
Business operations may be adopting robotic process automation technology at a faster clip than internal auditors.

Internal auditors must embrace technology to stay relevant
Internal auditors must embrace technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotic process automation and advanced analytics to stay relevant.

10 Things Keeping Nonprofit Auditors Up At Night
The internal audit (IA) function is vital to the health of any nonprofit, regardless of mission or scope. Here’s a list of the top 10 challenges keeping internal auditors up at night, and possible remedies to help continue the critical work.

Click on the articles below to get smart on today’s hot topics.

Click here to check-out the IIA Miami website for new job postings.

Follow us on our social media platforms! #IIAMIAMICCHAPTER