North Arkansas Chapter

Newsworthy: Midwestern Regional Conference

2011 Midwestern Regional Conference
September 25 – 28, 2011
Hilton Milwaukee City Center
www.theiia.org/mrc2011

Milwaukee is the place to be to “Make a Splash and Spread Audit Knowledge” for the Midwest’s most in-demand training event.

Optional pre-conference teambuilding events on Sunday include the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and a Milwaukee Brewers baseball game with reserved seating for IIA conference guests. Visit the Website for details and to register.

On Monday, IIA President and CEO Richard Chambers will kick off the conference with the first of a record-breaking 8 general sessions on “Internal Auditing in 2011: Trends, Opportunities, and Challenges.” Then you can hand-pick your concurrent sessions from 18 available in tracks focusing on governance and ERM; technology auditing and emerging issues; legal and regulatory compliance; leadership; communication and people skills; Excel; and CIA exam preparation.

Tuesday will feature a panel discussion on world-class internal audit as well as a general session by Susan G. Komen for the Cure executives Vanessa Hewitt and Mark Nadolny. Eighteen additional concurrent sessions will be offered on topics including:

- Managing the Risks and Rewards of Social Networking Websites
- Audit 2020: The Direction of Internal Audit Over the Next Decade
- The Risk Intelligent Auditor: Surviving and Thriving in Uncertainty

Three general sessions on Wednesday concludes the event featuring recognized speakers who will educate and inspire you to exceed expectations... Abdue Chowdhury from Marquette University; Rich Meeusen, a CEO and Audit Committee Chair; and John Blumberg, a motivational speaker and author.

Other conference benefits include:

- A CIA review track that will prepare you to pass the exam by using The IIA’s CIA Learning System.
- An exclusive track focusing on issues critical to CAEs.
- Pre-conference workshops on auditing financial services and automating audit with IDEA, and CIA review.

Visit www.theiia.org/iia-training/conferences/2011-mrc-about/ or call +1-407-937-1111 for further details and to register now to save your seat (and don’t forget your running shoes for the race and your foam finger for the baseball game).

Register today for The IIA’s Midwestern Regional Conference!
Vanessa Johnson joined the North Arkansas IIA Chapter in September 2010 and currently serves on the Board as Secretary. In addition to her roles with the IIA she is a member of the Institute of Management Accountants, the National Association of Black Accountants, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity Inc. Vanessa is a 2007 Honor graduate of Magnolia High School from Magnolia, AR. She graduated Cum Laude from Southern Arkansas University with a BBA degree in Accounting and received her MBA degree with an emphasis in Taxation from the University of Arkansas, Little Rock in 2008.

Vanessa was a Tax Analyst for Alltel Corporation (now Verizon Wireless) before transitioning into an analyst role with Walmart Stores, Inc. Her current role is working on the General Accounting International Corporate II Team in Financial Shared Services. In addition to this position she supports the Puerto Rico Finance Team, Sam’s and Walmart Marketing groups, and leads the Training and Development project Team within her group. Other positions held include Jr. Auditor with S.F. Fiser and Company in Springdale, AR and Senior Accountant at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, AR.

Vanessa is currently preparing for the CPA and CIA examinations and has returned to the University of Arkansas to obtain a second bachelor’s degree in Spanish/Latin American Studies.

**Fun Fact:**
Vanessa won the title of Miss Jacksonville in 2009 and Miss Frisco Springs in 2010. Both contests are a preliminary pageant for the Miss Arkansas Competition. Vanessa went on to compete at the state competition where she had the experience of a lifetime.

**Special Recognitions: Who’s in the News?**

- Kweku Richardson
- Kevin Thomas
- Kimberly Hale
- Shane Giebel

Send your achievements to the editor at: Patty.Marcum@Western.org
What's Hot? IIA on LinkedIn

Did you ever have a question that you could not find the answer to? Do you ever think to yourself, “man, I wish I had someone to bounce this question off of”? You are not alone.

The IIA has many networking tools and LinkedIn is just one of those resources available to you.

LinkedIn is a social networking site for professionals. This site is the “Facebook” for business people. The site allows you to create a professional profile where you can list your past and present employment, and link up with former and current colleagues. You can also stay in touch with clients, vendors, suppliers and other business contacts.

Here is an example of a recent discussion:

**What are the most important soft skills an auditor must possess to be successful?**

Internal auditors need to know a lot more than debits and credits and how to perform risk assessments. Interaction with people as well as other types of “soft skills” is so important. As I continue to hone my Internal Audit Soft Skills Course, I would like to get feedback from those of you on the front line every day.

**Feedback:**

I Think that any knowledge will always add value and enhance performance in a way or another. However, in my opinion I think that the most important and should have soft skills for auditors are the following:

1. Business writing and communication skills
2. Facilitation Skills & Presentation Skills
3. Time Management
4. Dealing with difficult people or persons
5. Minimum Marketing skills
6. Quality Management

Having the above skills will increase the auditors ability to deliver the message and sometimes will differ the auditor from the police by creating the “We or Us” between the auditor and the auditee.

This is just one of the many valuable discussions posted by the IIA Global group. If you want to “stay in the know”, I strongly recommend this networking tool to all of my auditing colleagues.

~Patty Marcum~

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**CAP Report: 69.24**

**Targets:**

Bronze 685.00  
Silver 1060.00  
Gold 1560.00

**CAP status is currently pending**
Upcoming Events: Webinars offered

Can’t get away from the office? Check out these webinars:

1 Hour Webinars
- Aug. 25 – Quality Assurance Reviews
- Sep. 29 – Negotiation skills for auditors
- Oct. 27 – Financial transactions and fraud schemes
- Nov. 24 – Interpersonal skills and Interviewing
- Dec. 29 – Fraud challenges in purchasing, contracting and marketing

2 Hour Webinars: $50ea.
Richard Cascarino & Associates
- Sep. 15 – Risk assessment process
- Sep. 22 – Operational auditing
- Oct. 13 – Continuous monitoring tools and techniques
- Oct. 20 – Effective presentations to groups and senior management

IT Auditing Series:
Richard Cascarino & Associates
- Aug. 29 – Fundamentals of IT Auditing
- Sept. 26 – Auditing Database Structures
- Oct. 31 – Audit use of CAATs
- Nov. 24 – Auditing Contingency Planning
- Dec. 12 – IT Fraud and Countermeasures

The cost for the entire series is $250. The series consists of 5 monthly sessions, each session 2 hours in length.

Editor Inbox:
Send your articles of interest, column ideas & special recognitions to the Editor at Patty.Marcum@Western.org

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