President’s Letter

Fellow NCFIIA Chapter Members,

Hopefully we, friends and family, all returned safely from a long weekend. Personally, we had an extra long weekend or really the whole week plus the previous weekend. Fully taking advantage we took our chances with Carnival all the way to Aruba and back. We can go virtually unscathed to practically South America and back, meet people from literally all over the world, but it only took one (FSU) student to partially spoil the trip by rear ending us on the turnpike because she was not paying attention. Fortunately, I do not have to contact any “For the People” attorneys, but the moral of the story fits right into our topic for our December meeting this Thursday—“Value based Decision Making and Critical Thinking”. Making the decision not to pay attention to the road and more on the other 3 passengers on a holiday weekend was not the right one. We are a little shy on the sign-ups at this point so please do if you can.

If you do come to the meeting, in keeping with the holiday spirit, please feel free to bring canned goods/non-perishable foodstuffs and we will get them to charity.

We are within a month or so of becoming a gold chapter for FY 2013-14 (again). We are a platinum chapter because we have been gold for the past 10 years. Still have more work to do though.

The FraudFest program in March has been finalized and it promises to be great. Our Wednesday speaker Toby Groves has spent time behind bars and has started his own research efforts. Ex-fraudsters are not high on my list but Toby has some interesting insights-- visit http://www.viralethics.com for a taste of things to come. You will receive a flyer soon with more details. To follow him on LinkedIn and see his latest post-- http://www.linkedin.com/today/post/article/20131125023629-117825785-the-signs-of-a-leader-s-empathy-deficit-disorder?published=t. That was pretty interesting as well.

If you have not had enough of healthcare.gov, read Richard Chambers, IIA President’s take-- http://www.theiia.org/blogs/chambers/

We will be looking for a new leader or two. If you are interested in gaining great experience and learning more about the IIA, consider becoming the Vice President for next year. Shoot me an e-mail.

Finally, Christmas Island is located in the Indian Ocean and has 2,072 residents probably none of which are FSU students, so it is probably safe to visit this next holiday. An early SeasonsGreetings and hope to see you Thursday.

John Byrd
NCFIIA President
**Upcoming Events**

**December 5, 2013 Quarterly Meeting**
- **Topic:** Values Based Decision Making
- **Speaker:** Danita Gainer and Holly Cain, Shands Human Resource Development
- **Time:** 4:00pm - 6:00pm (2 hours CPE)
- **Location:** Paramount Plaza Hotel, 2900 SW 13th St. Gainesville, FL
- **Cost:** $25 members, $35 non-members

**March 12-13, 2014 Spring Conference—FraudFest**
- **Topics:**
  - **Wednesday:** Toby Groves, convicted several years ago of mortgage fraud, will present a full day session on the "Psychology of Fraud".
  - **Thursday AM:** Two IRS agents from the Tampa office will discuss ID theft.
  - **Thursday PM:** Tim Hungerford will present a fraud-mystery program.
- **Location:** Paramount Plaza Hotel, 2900 SW 13th St. Gainesville, FL
- **Cost:** $215 members, $245 non-members (early registration rate)

Register for meetings at [http://www.theiia.org/NorthCentralFL](http://www.theiia.org/NorthCentralFL)

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**September Quarterly Chapter Meeting**

*Cloud Computing and other Emerging IT Risks*

*John Byrd (center), NCF IIA President, introduces presenter, Joe Oringel.*
Now Is Not the Time for Distractions
By Melissa Leonard, Gleim, Chapter Coordinator

Undoubtedly, this is one of the hardest times of the year to study. With all of the holiday traveling, merry-making, and relaxing on your plate, how can you possibly think about preparing for the CIA exam?

I know you work hard and deserve a break. However, I thought it was important to provide you with a few reminders as to why you shouldn't become distracted as well as a couple of helpful tips on how you can remain focused.

There are many reasons why you should continue to focus on obtaining your certification, even now during the holiday season. Passing the CIA exam means more money for you because on average, certified professionals make 18% more than non-certified professionals. Additionally, being CIA-certified will open professional doors you may not have otherwise. With the high demand for internal auditors, employers may be willing to hire employees who have little to no experience if they have the proper educational training and certification. Furthermore, if you are looking to improve your standing with your current employer, passing the exam illustrates to your managers the commitment and drive you’ve taken to master a certification while balancing professional and personal responsibilities.

Stay focused by writing down your study schedule. I can't stress this point enough, especially with all the holiday travels and special events approaching. Consider your study time as an appointment with success, and write it in your calendar. You may have to make small adjustments because of travel times or last-minute invitations that you can't pass up, but if you already have it written in your calendar, you are more likely to reschedule your study appointment rather than just canceling it.

While you are attending your holiday networking events, ask those who are already certified what becoming a CIA has done for them. This will serve as a reminder of the importance of your commitment (even during this busy time of year) to set aside the time and focus on your studies.

Remember, as a North Central Florida Chapter member, you will receive a 20% discount on the Gleim CIA Review materials. Gleim has been helping CIA candidates pass the CIA exam since 1980.

Contact Melissa at 800.874.5346, ext. 131 or melissa.leonard@gleim.com to take advantage of your chapter discount or if you have any questions.

Are you a chapter member that just became certified? We would love to help you share the tactics you used and/or the benefits you are already experiencing with other chapter members. Email Gleim at iiachapters@gleim.com with your comments.

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Melissa Leonard
Chapter Coordinator
melissa.leonard@gleim.com
You can follow Chapter activities on Facebook and Twitter. Go to our website at www.theiia.org/NorthCentralFL, and click on the icons.

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I hope everyone enjoyed this issue of the NCFIIA Chapter Newsletter, *Audit Tales*. If anyone has suggestions or would like to submit an article for the next issue, please let me know. Feel free to e-mail newsletter article contributions to me at lreinhrt@ufl.edu. Please visit the Chapter website at www.theiia.org/NorthCentralFL which is updated often. I hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

*Lily Reinhart, Editor*