Dear Fellow NCFIIA Members:

TWO WORDS!
Just two words for you this month: FRAUD FEST!

We have had a good response to this annual program, and even though the early bird special is now gone, we still have space for you. Please consider signing up today!

Bill Owens, formerly of HealthSouth (as is our governor) will be one of the more fascinating presenters. You may register at our website: http://www.theiia.org/chapters/index.cfm?cid=315

TWO WORDS!
THANK YOU!

I give thanks and kudos to the Program Committee, Michelle, Eileen, Choi, and Cheryl for their hard work in putting together this excellent CPE opportunity.

TWO WORDS!
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD!

Please remember that we have adopted St. Francis House which provides housing and food to the disadvantaged. Please bring non-perishable food for St. Francis House to the Fraud Fest.

Thanks for being a part of the Institute,

Ted Griswold, President
NCFIIA Chapter

Upcoming Events
March 23-24, 2011 Two Day FraudFest Conference
Topics/Speakers:
- Detecting and Reducing Supply Chain Fraud/ Norman Katz, CFE, Katzcan, Inc.
- Ethics Lesson: When Good Leaders Lose Their Way/ Mark Whitacre, Ph.D
- Accounting Fraud-Understanding the Key Elements/ William T. Owens, Professional Public Speaker
- Detecting Fraud using Data Magic and Tools/ Rich Lanza, CPA, CFE, President of Cash Recovery Partners, LLC

Time: 8:00 am - 4:45 pm (Earn 16 CPE for two day event)
Location: Paramount Plaza Hotel, 2900 SW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32608
Cost: $185 Members, $215 Non-member ($215 Members and $245 Non-members after March 1, 2011)

Register for meetings at http://www.theiia.org/NorthCentralFL
Volunteer and Reap the Rewards

Now is a great time to get more involved with our award winning Chapter. Just last year the NCF Chapter placed 2nd in the IIA’s Global (yes, GLOBAL) Membership Awards Competition and this year will be the eighth consecutive year that the Chapter will have attained Gold status, the highest status possible for the age of our Chapter based on a point system for chapter activities. These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of members like you. The NCF Chapter has been fortunate that it is comprised of such a great group of individuals who contribute their time and efforts to the Chapter and the profession.

Certainly, when one volunteers, he/she is benefitting the cause. In the case of the NCF Chapter, volunteers ensure that valuable training opportunities are provided to its membership and help to advocate the profession. However, there are plenty of other benefits from volunteering.

Do you have a skill that you would like to share? This could be a great opportunity for you to do more of something that you enjoy. If you like photography, you might make a good historiographer. If you like to write, how about being newsletter editor of *Audit Tales*?

Want to improve your leadership skills? Our Chapter Board members are composed of individuals from various organizations and this would be a good opportunity to coordinate and provide direction for Chapter events.

Do you like to plan parties? The Programs Committee may be the right fit for you. You will have the opportunity to organize Chapter meetings, including selecting the menu and arranging games for the annual holiday social.

If those benefits aren’t enough then how about attending an annual two day Leadership Conference hosted by the IIA? The conference usually takes place at a Disney World resort with members from the US, Canada and Caribbean IIA chapters in attendance.

So, go ahead. Volunteer yourself for one of these positions:
- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Board of Governor
- Advocacy Committee Chair*
- Communications Committee Chair*
- Membership Committee Chair*
- Nominating Committee Chair*
- Programs Committee Chair*
- Newsletter Editor
- Historiographer

*Our committees could always use your help, so join one today. Really, we would love to have you on board!*

If you are interested in getting more involved with the NCF IIA just speak to any of our Chapter officers.
Professional Speaker Series

Thanks to the persistence of John Byrd, past president, he secured our Chapter a spot in the UF Fisher School of Accounting’s Professional Speaker Series course. The course is designed to expose students to technical topics and emerging issues in accounting, business and in related professions such as law.

On February 10, 2011 several NCF Chapter members gave an informative presentation on the internal audit profession. Presenters ranged from a Chief Audit Executive to a student intern who provided insights from their experience in the world of internal audit.

Brecka Anderson and Eileen Marzak started the presentation by describing the differences between internal and external auditors. Then, Ted Griswold played bad cop to John Byrd’s good cop as they covered topics such as salaries and outlook for the profession. Brian Mikell and Mary Anne Norris described how they came into the internal audit profession and the projects they have worked on as internal auditors. Ted Griswold followed with "war stories" of the days when he was an internal auditor before "deserting" IA for management which showed that internal auditors are presented with opportunities for advancement into other professions. Jordan Gross described how he became exposed to internal auditing and how much he has enjoyed interning for Shands Internal Audit. John Byrd even gave the students an assignment. The students were presented with a set of financial statements and asked to identify anything that looked unusual.

Turns out that the financial statements were from WorldCom and it was Cynthia Cooper, an internal auditor at WorldCom, who identified a $3.8 billion accounting fraud. More exciting stories of fraud were to follow with Roger Frank’s telling of his past experiences, including the “stealing” of $4 million from a bank...no worries, he was just doing some audit testing.

Student Earns CIA Certification

Congratulations to Jordan Gross for passing the CIA exam! It should be noted that the IIA requires two years of internal audit work experience before awarding the certification. This did not prevent Jordan from taking and passing the exam after only working in internal audit for a short time. Jordan started interning at Shands Internal Audit in May 2009 when he was introduced to the office after attending a student event co-hosted by the NCF Chapter. Jordan still works for Shands but is now an internal auditor trainee. His tasks include quarterly Sarbanes Oxley testing, purchasing cards and working on the financial audit. Jordan is a University of Florida student majoring in Accounting.
New Year, New Beginning

By Melissa Leonard, Gleim, Chapter Coordinator

This year, I took the first weekend in January to decide what I am going to do with 2011. Some of the goals I set are adventurous, while others are a means of self-improvement.

I am sure many of you started your new year off by saying, "In 2011, I will become a CIA." Or, like others, decided there was no point because you never keep resolutions anyway. A negative attitude will make it difficult to succeed. In the spirit of the new year and its new beginnings, here are my tips on how you can make a resolution and keep it!

1. Think positive. From the beginning, tell yourself what you plan to accomplish, set your goal, and do it!

2. Make your goal realistic. Thinking you are going to take and pass both parts of the CIA in two months is very unrealistic, and you will be discouraged when you aren't able to meet such high expectations. On the other hand, don't set your goal to take one part this year and one part next year; such low expectations will lead to procrastination and ultimately failure to accomplish your goal.

3. Write it down. Put your goal on paper, and map out how many hours a week you are going to devote to studying. Sacrifices will need to be made. On a calendar, write out how many study units a week you should complete based on your time available.

4. Share your plans. Tell your friends or family that you may need to sacrifice time with them so that you can pass the CIA exam. Remind them that a CIA certification will lead to more job security and the likelihood of a raise, and I guarantee most will gladly let you off the hook. Friends and family also make a great cheering section!

5. Schedule your exam early. By registering for and scheduling your exam well in advance, you will have (1) a testing date that is convenient for you and (2) a finish line that forces you to focus throughout your study schedule.

6. Reward yourself. Candidates have shared stories of rewarding themselves with an ice cream or a small treat, while others have a night out with friends. Any reward will do, but it works best to determine what the reward will be before the week starts so you have something to look forward to.

7. Stay Motivated. Remember, after you pass the exam, you will make more money, it will be easier to find a job or get a promotion, and you will gain a sense of accomplishment and pride for passing this difficult exam. In the area where you study, keep a picture of the car you want, your dream vacation spot, or your family as a reminder of what will be accomplished once you pass the exam. When you grow weary of studying or making sacrifices, look at these and find the motivation to continue on with your preparations for passing the CIA exam.

I would like to hear from you. How was your exam experience? Do you have any tips or advice to provide to fellow exam takers? What advantages of being certified have you experienced? Email Gleim at iiachapters@gleim.com with your questions.
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*