

# Newsletter – Academic Year 2021-2022

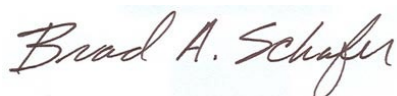
## Note from the IAC Director:

It is an joy to partner with amazing students and professionals to promote education for the Internal Auditing Profession. What a great year as we moved out of “the Covid year” and began to resume our vibrant programming. It was incredible to have Hailey Denney as my graduate student assistant (pictured with Anthony Pugliese, CEO of the IIA and me).



We had an incredible number of professionals give their time and talent to come to classes, provide mentoring, and participate in multiple student networking events. To make all of this possible, I thank all of our stakeholders who have made a financial commitment to the growth of the Internal Audit Center. We work hard to be good stewards of the financial resources provided by the KSU administration, The IIA Global Headquarters, The IIA Atlanta chapter, and the many corporate, professional service firms, and individuals.

The partnership of all the stakeholders of the Internal Audit Center (students, university, professionals, and IIA locally and globally) is vibrant. In the following pages, we provide an update of the many activities of the center during the 2021-2022 academic year. We divide this into sections of on-campus engagement, off-campus engagement, and impact.



Brad Schafer, Ph.D., CIA  
Director, KSU Internal Audit Center

# On Campus Engagement

## IAEP Certificates

Internal Audit and related courses are thriving at KSU. To earn the IAEP Certificate, students must complete five courses including Accounting Information Systems, Auditing and Assurance, Accounting Data Analytics, Fraud and Forensic Accounting, and Internal Auditing.

We issued 67 IAEP Certificates this year. In 2021-2022, 45 students successfully completed the necessary undergraduate courses to earn the IAEP Certificate awarded by the Institute of Internal Auditors. Additionally, 22 students completed the Master of Accounting specializing in Audit/Advisory and earned their IAEP Certificate.

## IA/Advisory Student Day

In October 2021, Kennesaw hosted the 16th Annual Internal Audit/Advisory Student Day and Career Fair as our first in-person event since the COVID-19 pandemic began. 20 firms and 60 students attended the event. 7 schools around Georgia were represented with students. Students had the opportunity to rotate between firms with the help of several MAcc students volunteering as moderators. Numerous employers commented on the professionalism of students in attendance. This event consistently serves as our largest event of the year, and this year was no exception. We hope to continue hosting this event in-person as well as increase the number of firms and students in attendance!



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## IA Awareness Day

Kennesaw hosted the 3rd Annual IA Awareness Day in March 2022 as another in-person event. This was an opportunity for KSU students (majoring in accounting, finance or information systems) to learn more about career paths in Internal Audit/Advisory. Over 50 students heard professionals share their experiences within Internal Audit, listened to former students promote the courses for the IAEP certificates and connected with over 18 professionals.

## Internal Audit Social

Also, in October 2021, the Internal Auditing Student Organization held the second Internal Audit Social. This was an informal opportunity for Kennesaw State undergraduate students to network with professionals in Internal Audit while learning about the IAEP Certificate. This was an interactive day where the professionals and students worked in teams to answer trivia questions. Along with networking with professionals, students had the opportunity to meet the professors who teach the courses required for the IAEP certificate. We felt this event was a great way to pique the interest of internal audit in students who are still trying to figure out which way they would like to go with their careers. We look forward to this event growing in the years to come!

We would like to give a special thank you to the following professionals for volunteering their time:

Jeremy Story - Genuine Parts  
Company

Crystal Bradbury - Genuine Parts  
Company

Isabelle Ding - KPMG

Matthew Santos - WestRock

Alonzo Horne - BDO

Steven Oxford - BDO

## Internal Audit Student Organization

The Internal Audit Student Organization has continued as a registered student organization on campus. This is an opportunity for students to explore, share, and develop their interest in Internal Auditing. Currently, our club consists of 18 members: Hailey Denney, Blake Wiles, Mallory Wilder, Amber Powell, Braylen Dixon, Denis Mustic, Isabella Swanson, Jane Sanders, Joseph Cooper, Kayla Smith, Kayone Forbes, Kinsey Neidhammer, Maddie Smith, Martir Machado, Michelle Decker, Nicholas Key, Reason Walker, and Stacy Lay. We have a minimum of one meeting per school year. This year our meeting took place in the

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Fall 2021 semester, as the second Internal Audit Social. The social was a terrific way to kick off the semester by getting students excited about Internal Audit, networking, professional development and much more!

## Graduate Classroom Engagement

We thank all of the professionals, including many Chief Audit Executives (CAEs) for giving their time and talent to attend classes at KSU. These professionals elevate the classes to include the most relevant topics impacting the audit profession.

## MAcc Internal Audit Capstone Case Competition

In Fall 2021, five groups presented their internal audit reports for the Never Give Up Foundation case. The winning team impressed the judges with a broad list of value-added activities and issues for the charity to consider. These ranged from governance issues to ERM (Enterprise Risk Management) and specific internal control issues spanning from operational to financial and strategic initiatives to help the organization realize its mission.

Two teams tied for first place (Stella Mushimba, Claire Goran, Nick Key, Marisa Daniel, Lauren Goodrum, Jack Hipp. Not pictured: Morgan Pyle and Mallory Wilder) and took home merchandise from the Martin Truex Jr. Foundation, the charity organization in mind as the authors created the case.



## Undergraduate Internal Audit Class

The undergraduate class is now being offered all three semesters on the KSU campus! Thank you to Fred Masci for making this an important part of the electives offered in our program. Professional guests in these classes included: Annie Korty, Frazier & Deeter, Woodrow Kavanagh, FIS, Abmarie Martinez, Neenah, Carley Ferguson, Mohawk Industries, Shalim Matos, Serta Simmons, Josh Sorenson, Rausch Advisory, Taron Ragan, Deloitte, Aaron Gagnon, Apple, Mark Lyons, Deloitte

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## Mentoring / Coaching meetings

We initiated a mentoring program as part of the KSU MAcc program last year, students were given the opportunity to connect with a professional coach/mentor and were asked to meet throughout the school year. We had many professionals volunteer for this opportunity, with a total of 17 organizations represented. All students involved benefited from having conversations with leaders in our profession. The students and I thank all who volunteered and all the following who engaged.

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Brandi Thomas, GE  
Lori Kaczynski, Graphic Packaging  
Chris Arnone, Moore Colson  
John French, Axis Captial  
Brad Knight, BDO  
Joanne Sebby, Fiserv  
Dave Brand, Protiviti  
Barry Ballow, Coca-Cola  
Cory Crotty, EY

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Nataly Marks, KPMG  
Carley Ferguson, Mohawk  
Amanda Fiskell, Aarons  
Jason Sammons, Frazier & Deeter  
Carl Schulman, UPS  
Billy Boyd, Moore Colson  
Steve Jackson, EY  
Aaron Gagnon, Apple  
Jimmy Nakos, Delta Air Lines

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## Off Campus Engagement

As we continue to pivot from the COVID-19 pandemic, many off campus engagements that the Internal Audit Center would normally participate in were conducted virtually. These events include the IAEP Orlando Conference, The Atlanta Conference (TAC), and the 11th annual Bill Mulcahy IIA Atlanta Auditing and Advisory Case Competition. This year we had two strong teams participate in the case competition. KSU's undergraduate team of Sarah Fandrey, Kaylee Hogan, and Kayla Smith earned first place in the competition, defending KSU's title.



# Impact

## Research Rankings

KSU ranks 70 overall worldwide in the past 6 years in academic publications in the top 12 journals. Within the areas of auditing and education, KSU ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in education scholarship and 25<sup>th</sup> in auditing (source 2021 BYU rankings).

## Direct financial support in grants and Scholarships

The IIA Global Headquarters through the Internal Audit Foundation continued to financially support the program with an \$10,000 grant to support a student working in the Internal Audit Center for the 2021-2022 academic year. This grant allowed Hailey Denney to work with the center director to accomplish the many activities and functions listed in this newsletter. We appreciate her efforts and wish her well as she starts his career with Frazier & Deeter.

We continue to be blessed with scholarship funding for students by the generous donations of The IIA Atlanta Chapter, Rausch Advisory, Carr, Riggs & Ingram,

*The future is bright and the IAC is proud to engage in even more terrific opportunities with the stakeholders to continue the rise of the profession. Please continue to support the program as we continue to elevate the program and profession..*

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## Stakeholders 2021 – 2022



### IAC Advisory Board:

Steve Brown, Barry Ballow, David Brand, Darryl Butler, Carley Ferguson, Michael Hammond, Steve Jackson, Barbara Jesup, Nataly Marks, Greg Kirkland, Michael Lisenby (Chair), Paul McClung, Doug Mims, Jason Sammons, Carl Schulman, Delores White, Brandi Thomas

IAC and School of Accountancy: Mo Azam, Lori Kaczynski, Aaron Gagnon  
Brad Schafer, IAC Director

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