

Newsletter – Academic Year 2024-2025

Note from the IAC Director:

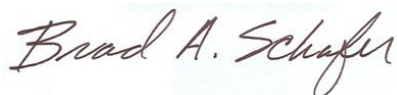
I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve the audit profession bridging academia and practice. We had another great year, and I am convinced that together we are building an even stronger profession.

We had an incredible number of professionals giving their time and talent coming to classes, providing career coaching advice, and participating in multiple student networking events. We continue to strive to elevate our “Center of Excellence” status on a local, national and international stage. I personally thank everyone who supports me and the IA Center as we engage on campus, off campus, and on the international internal audit stage, whether on a global IIA committee, student conference, or a local chapter meeting.



The partnership of all the stakeholders of the Internal Audit Center (students, professionals, KSU, and IIA locally and globally) is vibrant. In the following pages, we provide an update of the many activities of the center during the 2024-2025 academic year. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. Please contact me to engage in the upcoming year.

Cordially,



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 Internal Audit Educational Partnership (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 86 IAEP Certificates this year. In 2024-2025, 63 students successfully completed the necessary undergraduate courses to earn the IAEP Certificate awarded by the Institute of Internal Auditors. Additionally, 23 students completed the Master of Accounting specializing in Audit/Advisory and earned their IAEP Certificate.



(left to right) Keith Hinton, Izzy Ehui, Latona Thomas, Brittany Long, and Christen White.

Then, students had the opportunity to network with professionals in a career fair style format. The amazing 25 organizations included: Axis Capital, Americold, BlueLinx, Carters, The Coca-Cola Company, Genuine Parts Corporation, Graphic Packaging, The Home Depot, Inspire Brands, Mativ, Mohawk Industries, RaceTrac, Rollins, SmurfitWestRock, UPS, IIA Atlanta Chapter, KSU Internal Audit, Cobb County, BDO, CRI, Deloitte, EY, Moore Colson, Protiviti, and Rausch Advisory

IA/Advisory Student Day

In October 2024, Kennesaw hosted the 19th Annual Internal Audit/Advisory Student Day and Career Fair. 25 firms and over 130 students attended the event. Four schools around Georgia were represented. Students had the opportunity hear from a panel pictured



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IA Awareness Day



Kennesaw hosted the 6th Annual IA Awareness Day in April 2025. This was an opportunity for KSU students (majoring in accounting, finance or information systems) to learn more about career paths in Internal Audit/Advisory. Additionally, there were 4 other colleges represented at

this event. Over 230 students heard professionals share their experiences within Internal Audit, listened to former students promote the courses for the IAEP certificates and connected with 19 organizations including: Axis Capital, BlueLinx, The Coca-Cola Company, Delta Air Lines, Genuine Parts Corporation, Graphic Packaging, Inspire Brands, Mativ, Mohawk Industries, RaceTrac, Rollins, Southern Company, UPS, Cobb County, KSU, BDO, CRI, Moore Colson, and Protiviti.



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. We have a minimum of one meeting per school year. This year our meetings took place in conjunction with the IA/Advisory Student Day and the IA Awareness Day.

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Graduate Classroom Engagement



(Mohawk Industries), Doug Daley (UPS), and Keith Hinton (the Coca-Cola Company) (Left to right in the picture).

Courtney Howe, Ricky Lee, Moacir Dias Filho (UPS), Deston Francis (Mohawk Industries), Eric Aulbach (Not pictures), and Tyus Neal (The Coca-Cola Company) judged student presentations in the Seminar in Auditing.



In Fall 2024, the Seminar in Internal Audit included an all-star lineup of CAEs and Directors: Paul McClung, Carley Ferguson, Jay Thomas, David Underwood, Brenda Hofmann, Bill Stahl, Steve Brown, Aaron Gagnon, Mark Werner, Latona Thomas, Jennifer Dawson, Brenda Crawford, and Jonelle Vernor. Students finished the class presenting their internal audit reports for the Never Give Up Foundation case to Keith Hinton (Coca-Cola) and Jeremy Story (Genuine Parts). The winning team impressed the judges with a broad list of value-added activities and their professionalism. They strived to take what they learned in class about Internal Audit and the IPPF standards set by the Institute of Internal Audit and apply it in a competitive setting. There were two first-place teams, the first included Marleigh Neville, Hannah Corcoran, and Abby Ellie. The other first place team included Chad Morrow, Matthew Albazzatti and Chandler White.



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Undergraduate Internal Audit Class

Doug Mims finished his 1st year teaching the Internal Auditing course! Thank you to Doug for continuing to make this an important part of courses offered in our program. Many professionals shared their expertise with the students this academic year as guest to Doug's classes including:

Shannon Collins, EY,
 Carley Ferguson, Mohawk Industries,
 Alonzo Horne and Clayton Hemphill, BDO,
 Shayla Johnson, Moacir Dias Filho, United Parcel Service,
 Brittany Long, Deloitte,
 Awonda Luangphasombath, Lillian Duong and Ennis Ennuson, Delta Air Lines,
 Shalim Matos, Serta Simmons Bedding,
 David Mills, Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC,
 Jim Pihera, Southern Integrity Solutions, LLC,
 Taron Ragan, Microsoft, Inc.,
 Bill Stahl and Isabelle Ehui, Inspire Brands,
 Paul Zavitz, CRI Advisors, LLC

Mentoring / Coaching meetings

KSU MAcc 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. 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.

<u>Mentor</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Mentor</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Aaron Gagnon	McKinsey	Kayla Brown	Forvis Mazars
Bill Stahl	Inspire Brands	Keith Longacre	Forvis Mazars
Brenda Hofmann	Coca-Cola	Latona Thomas	Cobb County
Brittany Long	Deloitte	Pat Noll	Delta Air Lines
Carley Ferguson	Mohawk Ind.	Paul McClung	WestRock
Doug Daley	UPS	Steve Brown	Booz-Allen Ham
Jennifer Dawson	Genuine Parts	Thomas Sherril	The Home Depot

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Off Campus Engagement

IIA Atlanta

Students attended the November 2024 IIA Atlanta Chapter meeting at Inspire Brands including Antoine Hibbert, Kierra Hughley and Jared Wilson (pictured left to right). Their day included a personal tour of the headquarters of Inspire Brands. Four Kennesaw State University students volunteered at The Atlanta Conference (TAC) 2024. The student volunteers included Payal Patel, Sarai Sanchez-Castillo, Jeremy Suber, Steven Tam (left to right in picture).



IIA Atlanta Case Competition

KSU students competed at the Bill Mulcahy IIA Atlanta Auditing & Advisory Case Competition. The case addressed the topic of the election process in the State of Georgia. We are very proud of the Graduate and Undergraduate KSU teams for



placing 1st and 2nd. The members of the Graduate team pictured with Dr. Schafer were Sydni Farmer, Payal Patel, and Jared Wilson.

The members of the Undergraduate team pictured With Doug Mims and Lavonne Rashad were Jessica Chapple, Christy Filarski, and Cy Schultz.



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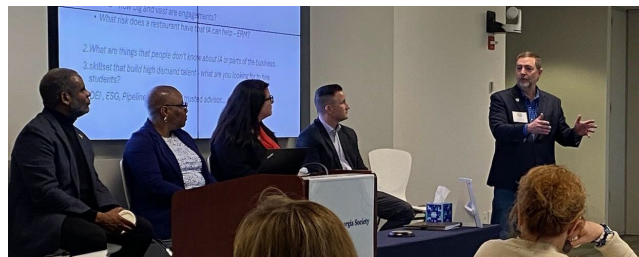
2025 IIA Global Student Conference

Five Kennesaw State University students attend The IIA Global Student Conference held in Orlando, Florida including Jared Wilson, Sydni Farmer, Payal Patel, Jessica Chapple, and Kristi Filarski pictured with IIA President and CEO, Anthony Pugliese. The students learned, networked and competed at GSC. Each KSU student was placed separately on one of 18 teams with students from universities across the world. With four teams in the final top 6, Payal Patel's team placed 3rd, and Jared Wilson's team placed 1st!



GAAE 2025 Annual Meeting

The KSU Internal Audit Center sponsored the Georgia Association of Accounting Educators 2025 Annual Meeting in Atlanta. The educators attended various presentations on research or projects they implement within the classroom. Our panel presentation on the internal audit sector of accounting was headlined by Doug Daley (UPS), Latona Thomas (Cobb County Government) Christen White (Protiviti), and Bill Stahl (Inspire Brands) along with Dr. Schafer, the moderator.



National and Global Prominence

In addition to continued student competition performance, Dr. Schafer accepted nomination to the IIA Global CREA Committee (term 2025-2027). During 2024 he served on the Global CIA Exam task force setting the passing performance and the IAEP Global Curriculum task force revising the IIA model audit curriculum.

Aaron Gagnon received the prestigious AACSB Alumni Award with the nomination of KSU Coles College, Dean Robin Charamie.

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Impact

Research Rankings

KSU ranks 75 overall worldwide in the past 6 years in academic publications in the top 12 journals. Within the areas of auditing and education, KSU ranks 3rd in education scholarship and 27th in auditing (source 2024 BYU rankings).

Direct financial support in grants and Scholarships



We are grateful for the IIA Global Headquarters and Internal Audit Foundation's grant for \$8,500 awarded for the year 2024-2025. Payal Patel has been selected for the Graduate Student Assistant position. Payal did a great job in all aspects of the position. She is pictured with Kierra Hughley, a fellow MAcc student, at the 2024 Scholarship awards banquet. Upon graduation, Payal will join the profession at Bennett Thrasher.

Thank you to the many individuals and organizations who financially support our program at KSU!

John French, Axis Capital
Latona Thomas, Cobb County
Brenda Hofmann, Coca-Cola
Doug Mims, CRI
Brittany Long, Deloitte
Pat Noll, Delta Air Lines
Brenda Crawford, KSU - IA

Brad and Jennifer Schafer, KSU
Aaron Gagnon, McKinsey
Carley Ferguson, Mohawk Ind.
Christen White, Protiviti
Steve Lameier, Rollins
Doug Daley, UPS

In addition to donations to the KSU Internal Audit Center, we thank the IIA Atlanta Chapter for their support through the Bill Mulcahy Internal Audit Memorial Scholarship, Michael Harrington/Rausch Advisory, Lori Kcazynski, and CRI for their named scholarships.

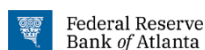
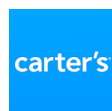
The future is bright. Please support the program as we continue to elevate the program and profession.



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Stakeholder Corporations



Stakeholder Firms



Stakeholder Government



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