Speaker Biographies
IIA Quarterly Event – August 2009

Jim Haggee

Jim Hagge is a subject matter expert on IFRS in the Finance Operations practice for Jefferson Wells, St. Louis. He has over 28 years of experience as a business and finance professional in industry, business consulting and public accounting. Jim is a CPA and has also recently assisted global clients with their conversions to IFRS from US GAAP.

Mauri Myers

Mauri Myers is the Interim Director of U.S. Ethics in the Global Ethics Office. Mauri joined Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. in 2002 as an Internal Staff Auditor in Tampa, FL. A little over a year after joining the team, she was promoted to a Store (Compliance) Auditor and also began assisting the International Audit team. As a store auditor, she helped create audits to test the effectiveness of internal controls throughout several areas of the company. She also completed testing and process documentation to aid the company in compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. To assist the International Audit team, she spent time conducting audits in Germany and Brazil. She also help train and develop audit personnel from Brazil, Canada, and Mexico.

In 2004, she was promoted to Senior Auditor, managing Wal-Mart’s Florida Internal Audit Office. In this role, she conducted regional training on compliance standards, led a team of six to conduct audits at over 200 stores each year, and served as the recruiting liaison for the southeast, recruiting several audit professionals into Wal-Mart. In 2006, Mauri moved to Wal-Mart’s corporate headquarters to take on the role of Ethics Manager in the Global Ethics Office.

In the Ethics Manager role, she primarily supported the ethics needs for Operations Divisions D & E, Merchandising, Marketing, Finance, the United Kingdom, and emerging markets. She also directed the revision process for the September 2008 release of Wal-Mart’s updated Statement of Ethics (Code of Conduct). Due to position shifts within her department, she is also serving as the Interim Director for the U.S. Ethics team, leading the staff to support all the ethics needs for the U.S.


Mauri is a proud alumnus of Florida State University, holding degrees in Finance & International Business and Marketing. She currently lives with her husband in Bella Vista, Arkansas, where they are active in their church and community.

Cythenia Russell

Cythenia Russell serves as the Director of Internal Audit for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. in Bentonville, Arkansas. In her current position Russell is responsible for the Global
Internal Audit Services audit plan for Sam’s Club operational, financial and compliance functions. This includes but not limited to a completion of targeted risk assessments, development of and adherence to controls for the corporation, and mentoring of internal audit staff. She is also charged with reviewing the process for Global Sustainability reporting.

Russell has more than ten years of audit experience specializing in financial, operational and compliance audits. Prior to joining Wal-Mart, she was a Compliance Officer for Affirmative Insurance Services in Dallas, Texas, the Audit Manager at The Horace Mann Companies, and she has held senior auditor positions at Brown Smith Wallace in St. Louis, Mo., Unitrin Services Company and AEGON Insurance Group in Dallas, Texas. She began her career as a Certified Financial Examiner (CFE) for the Missouri Department of Insurance located in St. Louis, Missouri.

Russell earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a member of The IIA member since 2002.

James Smith

James Smith is an IS Audit Senior Manager at Wal-Mart Stores Inc. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of Alabama and a Master's Degree in Accounting Information Systems from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Prior to joining Wal-mart in 2005, he worked in public accounting for 2 years before going to work at a Fortune 500 insurance company in the IT Audit department for 2 years. In his current role, James and his team support Wal-mart's Global Financial Transformation. He is a CPA, CIA, and CISA.

Chris Simpkins

Chris Simpkins is currently the Bank Secrecy Act/Office of Foreign Assets Control Officer for Arvest Bank, leading a team of twelve in monitoring for possible money laundering and other suspicious activity. Mr. Simpkins is a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Fraud Examiner. Before assuming his current title with Arvest Bank, Mr. Simpkins was the Internal Audit Manager for Superior Bank for twelve years. Throughout his career, Mr. Simpkins has participated in the resolution of approximately 100 internal fraud scenarios.