

Nationally Recognized Companies Scout Top Talent at Weekend Event

The IIA hosts invitation-only gathering of academia, employers and soon-to-be graduates from around the world
ORLANDO, Fla. – For those practicing and teaching in the field of internal auditing, securing the next generation of professionals is not only a passion – it’s a priority. Last week, The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) connected university professors and some of their brightest students with the decision-makers of internal audit departments at high-profile organizations. The goal for the weekend was to discuss the vast opportunities in internal auditing — a profession that in recent years has faced rapid growth and a shortage of qualified talent.

“I had my first real job interview with KPMG,” said Deng Bo, a student studying internal auditing at Nanjing Audit University in China. “I now have clearer perception of myself and who I am in the world, along with a vision of what I want to be.”

The invitation-only event held September 26–28 at Loews Royal Pacific Resort at Universal Studios Orlando was limited to educators and their top students at colleges participating in The IIA’s Internal Auditing Education Partnership (IAEP) program, which works with universities to develop and offer internal audit-specific curricula. Universities were represented from as far away as Italy, South Africa, Thailand, China, and the United Kingdom. In total, 66 students, 23 educators, and 21 professionals attended the event – twice as many as last year.

“It’s gratifying to see the results of our efforts and the excellent quality of students here,” said Greg Hill, chair of The IIA’s Academic Relations Committee and an internal audit practitioner with Pinnacle West Capital Corp. “This setting also allows us to get direct feedback from both educators and practitioners on how to further build and strengthen The IIA’s work with universities.”

The weekend included student development sessions on topics such as interviewing, networking, and personal image branding, as well as a student competition. An educators’ forum provided opportunities for professors to share their IAEP experiences, and discuss challenges and opportunities in shaping the next generation of internal auditors. Throughout the weekend, many of the students discussed possible internships and job openings with companies such as Chevron, Deloitte, Grant Thornton, KPMG, Microsoft, Pinnacle West Capital Corp., PRG-Schultz International, and Southwest Airlines.

“This weekend gave us the opportunity to actively help mold the future talent of the internal audit profession,” said Mark Salamasick, Director of the Center for Internal Auditing and IAEP program at the University of Texas at Dallas. “Educators learned more about the needs

of the market, while students had the opportunity to network with professionals who can recruit and groom them for leadership positions in their organizations.”

Traditionally, universities and business schools have offered accounting-focused programs with perhaps only a few classroom hours dedicated to the topic of internal auditing. However, internal audit-specific education programs are on the rise. Professional opportunities within the internal audit field have increased steadily over the past decade as a renewed focus on organizational governance and heightened regulations have required companies to ensure the integrity of their internal controls. Dramatic increases in The IIA’s membership, as well as a variety of independent employment studies, indicate continued demand for internal auditors. In fact, a survey as recent as May, 2008, found that a majority of organizations will continue to give salary increases to their audit staff despite a looming recession.

The 2008 IAEP Leadership and Networking Conference was made possible by donations from participating organizations to The IIA’s Internal Auditing Academic Advancement Fund (IAAAF), Inc, which collects and distributes funds to support the teaching of internal auditing in post-secondary educational institutions worldwide. During 2008, the IAAAF received \$50,000 from Chevron; \$100,000 from Deloitte; and \$100,000 from KPMG. IIA chapters also have provided active support for the program. IIA-Dallas contributed its second donation of \$50,000 in June of 2008.

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The IIA is internationally recognized as a trustworthy guidance-setting body. Serving members in 165 countries, The IIA is the internal audit profession's global voice, chief advocate, recognized authority, acknowledged leader, and principal educator.

The following photos are available as print quality, high resolution digital images. Contact Scott McCallum at scott.mccallum@theiia.org or 407-937-1247.



Students attending the 2008 IAEP Leadership and Networking Conference held in Orlando, Florida on September 26-28, take time for team-building during a scavenger hunt at Universal's Islands of Adventure. The invitation-only event connected university professors and their brightest students with high-profile companies for three days of learning and discussions about opportunities in the internal audit profession.



Students, university professors and professional internal auditors get to know each other over dinner at Mythos Restaurant at Universal's Islands of Adventure during the 2008 IAEP Leadership and Networking Conference, held in Orlando, Florida, September 26-28. The event gathered some of the brightest minds studying internal auditing from as far away as China, Italy, South Africa, Thailand, and the United Kingdom.