

IIA-ATLANTA CHAPTER USES THE LURE OF COMPETITION TO ATTRACT STUDENTS



**The Institute of
Internal Auditors
Atlanta Chapter**

One chapter of The IIA has found an innovative way to grab the attention of students and local internal audit leaders alike. In 2011, the IIA-Atlanta Chapter partnered with the Georgia State University IIA-Student Chapter to organize an event that went beyond being informational and entertaining and gave students real world experience, immediate prizes, and perhaps the ultimate prize... connecting with leading employers within their area.



**Georgia State
University**

Internal Auditing Education Partnership
Foundation Program

The inaugural Internal Audit Case Competition was held in November 2011. It featured 10 teams of three internal audit students each making 15 minute presentations — followed by a question and answer session by the panel of judges — on their solution to the problems the case presented. At the end of the competition, each member of the winning team was awarded \$1,000 and each member of the second place team was awarded \$500.

Although that is a decent payday for the average college student, the bigger pay off was that the panel of judges consisted of internal audit leaders from around the state. Additionally, other leaders were invited to watch the competition and many expressed interest in potentially hiring the presenters.



Based on the success of the inaugural event, IIA-Atlanta Chapter held a 2012 competition and has set a date of Nov. 15, 2013, for its third. The competition continues to grow in popularity and provides an enticing reason for the IIA-Atlanta Chapter to reach out to colleges and universities

around the state to build awareness of the profession and of The IIA. The chapter hopes the program can grow regionally and nationally over the next several years and be replicated by other IIA chapters.

*“WE WANT TO BE IN CHARGE OF OUR OWN DESTINY BY
GROWING INTERNAL AUDITORS FROM THE GROUND UP,”*

says former IIA–Atlanta Board Chairman John Fuchko. “There’s an immediate payback to the chapter because the students give back and ultimately the profession benefits in the long-term in that we are helping to develop passionate, educated, and invested professionals for our future.”

For Additional Information About the Internal Audit Case Competition

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IIA–Atlanta Chapter

Annual Internal Audit Case Competition

2012 Review

Increasing Insight and Inspiration in Internal Audit

Atlanta Chapter of Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) & Georgia State University

Second Annual Internal Audit Case Competition

By Katrina Kiselincev

[The Institute of Internal Auditors \(IIA\) Atlanta Chapter](#) held their second annual Internal Audit Case Competition on Friday, November 16, 2012 with host and sponsor, Georgia State University at the Buckhead campus.

This event brought together the top 10 teams selected by a panel of judges from the fourteen teams that submitted cases. The Case Competition was open to all accounting students throughout the state of Georgia and these top ten teams represented seven of the best accounting schools in Georgia. “What was impressive is that we have had strong submissions from the students with significant deliberation from the judges”, said Paul Sobel, 2011 and 2012 Case Competition Judge and Vice President/Chief Audit Executive of Georgia-Pacific LLC. “It came down to the depth of thought supporting the answers of the case to support whether the students fully understood how to tie case facts to real-life solutions.”

As the role of internal audit continues to shift and becomes an integral partner of the business, the demand for professionals in the field will increase. Through events such as the Internal Audit Case Competition, the Atlanta Chapter of the IIA may increasingly increase insight in the profession, as well as inspiration of the value being a part of the profession holds. This is accomplished through providing students with a real-world case that simulates what internal audit executives deal with in the profession, as well as providing the exposure of presenting to prestigious executives in the field. Based on a 2011 survey released by The Intersect Group, 47 percent of Atlanta CFOs indicated that they were increasing finance and accounting staff. Of the 47 percent hiring, about 30 percent were hiring entry level positions. This indicates continued growth and opportunity in the internal audit profession.

The Institute of Internal Auditors and the Case Competition Judges, Paul Sobel, Vice President/Chief Audit Executive of Georgia Pacific LLC; Carley Ferguson, Vice President of Internal Audit of Mohawk Industries; and Sterling Roth, Chief Audit Officer and Director University Auditing and Advisory Services Georgia State University, were excited to see the Top 10 Teams who competed on Friday, November 16, 2012.

The teams represented Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, Augusta State University, Georgia Southern University, Georgia College & State University, Mercer University and Valdosta State University. Each team will also be supported by a faculty advisor and mentor to help aid in their success.

At the end of the competition, a first, second, and third place prize were awarded to the Top Three Teams in the amounts of \$1,000, \$500, and \$300 per student respectively.

Top Three Teams	Team Members
<p><u>First Place \$3,000:</u> Georgia State University Presented by Sponsor, Ernst & Young</p>	<p>David Posada, Leah Hunt, Yves Amani Advisor: Larry Ashmore Mentor: Michael Deckert</p>
<p><u>Second Place \$1,500:</u> Valdosta State University Presented by Sponsor, Atlanta Chapter of IIA</p>	<p>Tochukwu Nwokike, Maureen Pritchett, Anthony Combs Advisor: Tanya Lee Mentor: Curtis Fields</p>
<p><u>Third Place \$900:</u> Georgia College & State University Presented by Sponsor, Inclusivitie</p>	<p>Ashton Lea, Akwai Agoons, Jamie Potteiger Advisor: David McIntyre Mentor: Stephen Rosenthal</p>

This IIA event would not be possible without the support of all its 2012 sponsors such as Ernst & Young, SunTrust, Inclusivitie, Georgia State University, The Intersect Group, and the IIA Atlanta Chapter.

The 2011 First Place Prize was awarded to the team from the University of Georgia. Members of the team included Alexander Pirie, Eugene Kim and David Barker; Dr. Dennis Beresford, Professor of

Accounting, advised the team. The second place prize of \$500 per student, presented by the IIA Atlanta Chapter was awarded to one of the three teams representing Kennesaw State University. The team consisted of Laura Moltzen, Anusha Pallamreddy and Aaron Eakins. Dr. Richard Clune, Associate Professor of Accounting and Director of the Internal Audit Center, advised the team.

The IIA is excited about the Internal Audit Case Competition as an ongoing event with aspirations of increasing insight and inspiration into the field and potentially growing the event regionally or even nationally in the next few years.

2012 Sponsors



2012 Participating Teams

Georgia State University – [Internal Auditing Education Partnership Foundation Program](#)

Team – David Posada, Leah Hunt, Yves Amani Advisor: Larry Ashmore

Mentor: Michael Deckert, SunTrust

Team – Benjamin Barry, Nathan McCain, Venkata Vuyyuru Advisor: Dr. William Robinson Mentor:
Bruce Lindemann, Georgia Pacific

Augusta State University

Team – Erica Playford, Megan Frazier, Lacie Irvine Advisor: Pamela Jackson

Mentor: Chris Fugate, North Star

Kennesaw State University – [Internal Auditing Education Partnership Comprehensive Program](#)

Team – Natasha Slaven, Brittany Lipford, Cecerine Warner-Copeland Advisor: Rich Clune

Mentor: Lamar Barnett, Aflac

Team – Brandy Tunnell, William Helstowski, Damien Johnson Advisor: Rich Clune

Mentor: David Lee, The Intersect Group

Team – Stuart Spetseris, Inna Konovalenko, Kayla Peavy Advisor: Rich Clune

Mentor: Jeffrey Mayhue, SunTrust

Georgia Southern University

Team – Christopher Cherek, Allison Jansen, Jeremy Stor Advisor: Eddie Metrejean

Mentor: David Petrisky, AT&T

Georgia College & State University

Team – Akwai Agoons, Jamie Potteiger, Austin McAdams Advisor: David McIntyre

Mentor: Stephen Rosenthal, Aaron's

Mercer University

Team – Eric Bruder, Tanya Leclair, Adam Moody Advisor: Julie Petherbridge

Mentor: Bill Mulcahy, Mulcahy Consulting

Valdosta State University

Team – Tochukwu Nwokike, Maureen Pritchett, Anthony Combs Advisor: Tanya Lee

Mentor: Curtis Fields, NCR