



The Institute of
Internal Auditors

Houston

Chapter Newsletter

October 2023



President's Message

What a turnout for our AI seminar and 75th Anniversary! I hope everyone had as much fun and learned as much as I did. Thank you to our panelists, volunteers, and to our special guests who came in from other parts of the country to make the event a success!

Our first Emerging Professionals Networking lunch was a resounding success, and we're looking forward to many more fun and educational sessions with our future leaders. We are also excited that two of our Chapter members were recognized in IA magazine as Emerging Leaders. Houston, as it has for the past 75 years, continues to be a leader in the profession!

We have many more great events coming up through year-end, including auditing digital transformations, enhancing critical thinking skills, our first ESG roundtable, and of course, ethics so that we all meet our certification requirements. Please continue to watch for upcoming announcements through our normal channels – emails, newsletters, website, and social media. Thank you to all our members for your continuing support and participation!

Regards,



Michael McManus, CIA, CRMA, CPA
Houston Chapter President
president@houstoniaa.org

Social Media

Follow our IIA Houston Chapter's Official LinkedIn site by logging into LinkedIn, searching for "The Institute of Internal Auditors - Houston Chapter," and clicking on the "Follow" button.



Chapter News



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Internal Auditors
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Congratulations to the IIA Houston Chapter Emerging Leaders!!!



Two of our Houston Chapter members, **Aimee Bhakthavachalam (Mufiz)** and **Joshua Castille**, were recognized as Emerging Leaders in the Internal Audit Profession by the IIA. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Upcoming Events

October Seminar – IA's Role in Digital Transformation

Virtual | October 12, 2023 | 12-1pm

Discuss topical Transformation Technology risks, challenges and the role Internal Audit has to play as it pertains to risks and controls. This will include risks relating to ransomware, data privacy and SOX controls.

[Register here!](#)

Emerging Professional Networking and Development Lunch

North Houston – Tomball

In Person | October 27, 2023

Join us for lunch to network with your peers and discuss how each of us is developing and applying their skills to improve audit quality. To learn more about the event and to register, please [click here](#).

November Seminar - Untapped: Teaching Auditors to be Better Thinkers

In Person @ Hilton Houston Westchase | November 7, 2023 | 1-5pm

Designed especially for auditors, this class is a practical call to action that provides auditors with the tools and inspiration they need to be better thinkers. You'll learn habits and strategies you can use every day to dramatically improve judgment and decision-making. You'll learn how to break down mental barriers and alleviate mental fatigue. You'll achieve new levels of mental clarity, flexibility, and resilience. You will also benefit from better overall mental well-being and be more resistant to stress and burnout. Attendees leave as more powerful and confident thinkers and better communicators and problem-solvers. [Register here!](#) Registration includes lunch from 12:00 to 1:00

Ethics Training – 2 Hours

Virtual | December 5, 2023 | 11am-1pm

Have you ever thought of these "7 Deadly Sins" in terms of ethics at your organization? Well, Jo did in her book, *Becoming The Everyday Ethicist*®. She can't wait to share her thoughts with you. [Register here!](#)

SOX Roundtable

In Person | December 2023

Job Postings

Oxy – Senior IT Auditor – [Apply here](#)

Oxy – Senior Internal Auditor – [Apply here](#)

Weatherford International – IT Audit Manager – [Apply here](#)

Volunteer Spotlight

Jay Qatato has volunteered for the chapter the last 10 years. He is currently serving as the Social Media Chair. During his tenure, he played a main role in enhancing our LinkedIn profile and improving our member engagement in social media. Jay has also served as the VP-Academic Relations and the VP-Finance. He currently sits on the Audit Advisory Board for Texas A&M, which is now an IA Center of Excellence. *Thank you, Jay* for your commitment to the chapter and our profession!



Call for Volunteers

Houston Chapter Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering is a great way to contribute to both your personal and Chapter's success – it expands your professional and personal network, provides development opportunities in skills such as project management, communication, and leadership, provides better job prospect, and adds fun to your years!! Many volunteer positions only require an hour or two each month, and some can be broken down into smaller tasks requiring even less!

"Day in the Life" Presenters (Multiple positions) Work with the VP of Academic Relations to discuss the internal audit profession with internal audit students

University Liaisons (Two position) Work with the VP of Academic Relations as liaison to local alma mater for student engagement

University of Houston Presentations Judge (Multiple positions) Evaluate student presentations at UH classes.

Visit our [LinkedIn page](#) for additional volunteering opportunity, or email us at membership@houstoniia.org if you would like to volunteer!

Global and National Advisory Council and Committee Opportunities

The IIA is also looking for members with a history of contributing to their local Chapters, enthusiasm and the ability to commit the time to supporting these critical initiatives. There is a short turnaround with nominations due by **October 13, 2023**, with additional information for requirements, open positions and the self-nomination form can be found at this [link](#).

Houston IIA Annual Conference Sponsor and Registration

Sponsor registration is now open for the IIA Houston Chapter's 2024 Annual Conference to be held Monday April 8, 2024. Registration and details are available at [this link](#). Remember that exhibit booth assignment priority as well as logo posting on the Conference website and use in Conference marketing materials are based on your sponsor level and the timing of payment receipt, so register early.

Welcome New Members!!

George Calhoun - CBIZ LLC	Jennifer Kandzer - American National Insurance	Brittany Risner - Texas Board of Criminal Justice
Kara Campbell - Ochsner Health System	Christopher Kinsey	Oscar Rivas
Raul Cardenas	Nicholas Kramer	Adam Scott - Calpine Corporation
Andy Choe - American National Insurance	Jennifer Le	Jennifer Shen - Westlake Chemical Corporation
David Clark	Eric Lisle - Forum Energy Technologies	Jeshica Shrestha - Harris County Auditors Office
Jonathan Corona	Alexander Lorenzo - Tokio Marine HCC	Xyaire Smith - Sysco Corporation
Carlos Davila - Texas Board of Criminal Justice	Mylene Lovag - Sysco Corporation	Anhtram Ta
Sabrina-Tham Mong Duong - Harris County Auditors Office	Carlo Malacon - Grant Thornton	Stephanie Thibodeaux - FirstBank
Miguel Galindo - Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union	James B. Miller	Ruthie Thompson - Motiva Enterprises LLC
Bianca Geyen	Elizabeth Nguyen	Kiara Wade - NCI Building Systems
Mark Gill - Motiva Enterprises LLC	Juan Orellana	Ellyse Wells - Calpine Corporation
Shirley Huang - Westlake Chemical Corporation	Mustafa Pervaiz - Occidental Petroleum Corporation	Justin Wilhelm - Calpine Corporation
Sarah Jameson - Veritex Community Bank	Shannon Pietrak - BP America	Lucie Wuescher
Brooke Jones - Flowserve Corporation	Vinash Ramtahal	Shery Zachariah
Belinda Joseph - Citigroup	Dionne Randolph - Archer Daniels Midland Company	Pavel Zavadskiy - Harris County Auditors Office
Michael Kamion	Mark Rigamer - Origin Bank	

Academic Relations

We look forward to IIA members helping students realize their potential and succeed by making presentations to students about internal audit career, communication, and leadership skills; being guest lectures; participating in career fairs; being a panel judge in student courses, case analysis and other competitions; and helping students with their communication skills. To volunteer send an email to John Lodde, Houston IIA VP Academic Relations, at: academic-relations@houstoniia.org

We would like to give thanks to Eric Suh for giving a “Day in the Life” presentation to students at Houston Christian University!

We would like to give a special thanks to Eric Suh for presenting to students at Houston Christian University about what it means to work in Internal Audit!



Student Memberships

Eligible students can join The IIA free of charge! Eligibility has also been expanded to include part-time students actively enrolled in a minimum of 6 credits. If you or someone you know is eligible, please have them apply here: <https://myiia.theiia.org/Student/Index>

Congratulations Newly Certified Members!

Certified Internal Auditor

Aftab Ahmed	Arlen Alanis	Jasmin Ambriz Avila
Linda Foster	Ryan Gruenzner	Hannah Kirk
Lauren Manning	Ann Miller	Claudia Orozco Gonzalez
Calah Sanders	Angelica Zavala	

Internal Audit Practitioner

Tuesde Cavil	Jonathon Gormey
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Why should you get CIA Certification?

As The IIA’s premier designation for more than 40 years, the CIA sets the standard for excellence within the profession. Earning the CIA is an important step toward demonstrating your core internal audit skills and knowledge.

Earning a professional internal audit credential is a critical step to being distinguished from your peers and will:

- Enhance credibility and respect.
- Sharpen skills and proficiencies.
- Increase your earning potential by as much as 51%*.
- Demonstrate understanding and commitment.

Click the following link to learn more about the benefits of obtaining your certification: [Certified Internal Auditor](#).

CIA Review Course

Prepare to Pass the CIA Exam With The IIA’s CIA Learning System

The IIA’s CIA Learning System is an interactive print and online self-study review program designed by CIA-certified industry experts to help you learn, review, and apply the key CIA content. For more information or to try a demo, visit <https://www.learnCIA.com>

Emerging Professional Networking & Development Program

The purpose of this program is to share best practices while developing connections with other audit professionals through luncheon and social event. Who should attend:

- Professionals with less than 7 years of audit experience looking to develop their capabilities and to expand their skillsets.
- Audit leaders interested in sharing their experience with motivated professionals.
- October 27th is the next networking and development lunch at Mo's Irish Pub at Vintage Park – see above for more information and link to register.

To volunteer or to learn more, send an email to Nathan Boudreaux, Emerging Professional Coordinator, at: Nathan.Boudreaux@aramcoamericas.com

To sign up please fill out the form: [Sign Up](#)

Register for the Upcoming IIA Conferences and Trainings

[2023 Data Privacy Assurance Forum](#) | Oct 12, 2023 | Virtual

[2023 Ignite Conference](#) | Oct 24 - 26, 2023 | Las Vegas, Nevada

[2023 AuditSphere: A Virtual Conference for Small Audit Teams](#) |
Dec 07, 2023 | Virtual

[Fraud Perspectives: ESG and Regulatory Reporting](#) | Oct 13, 2023 |
Virtual

[Developing Leadership Skills for Team Leaders](#) | Dec 6-7, 2023 |
New York, New York

[Fundamentals of Compliance Auditing](#) | Dec 06 - 07, 2023 | New
York, New York

Contact Us!

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Raymond Tran | VP Communications | communications@houstoniia.org

John Lodde | VP Academic Relations | academic-relations@houstoniia.org

Chad Cranford | Secretary | secretary@houstoniia.org

Membership Privileges

Membership with the IIA provides you with the tools and guidance needed to succeed and thrive in your career! Top benefits include the following:

- Complimentary Specialty Centers access
- Specialty and member-only webcasts
- Online testing for certifications
- Practice Guides, GTAGS, Thought Leadership, *Internal Auditor Magazine*
- Member-only discounts

Membership also includes access to career center resources and job postings (<https://jobs.theiia.org/jobseeker/search/results/>)

If you need assistance with your membership or would like more information on benefits provided, email the Chapter VP of Membership and Certifications, Craig Nishimura at membership@houstoniia.org

IIA Communication & CPE

All communications from the Houston Chapter will come from chapter23@theiia.org. If you do not receive our emails:

- Please be sure to have added these e-mail addresses to your safe sender list/whitelisted.
- Verify that you're listed as affiliated with the Houston Chapter. Check your profile on The IIA's website and ensure you are affiliated with the Houston chapter <https://myiia.theiia.org/Chapter/index>.
- Please visit your member profile on TheIIA.org to confirm your email preferences globally, and if you've previously unsubscribed from a chapter email, let us know at administration@houstoniia.org if you'd like to re-subscribe.

CPE certificates are sent within 5 to 10 business days for all events. If you have not received your CPE certificate within 10 business days of the event, please contact registration@houstoniia.org. All requests for replacement CPE certificates must be made within 30 days of the event.

**Thank you for
being a member of
the IIA Houston
Chapter!!**