

# Seattle Chapter



The Institute of  
**Internal  
Auditors**

## IN THIS ISSUE

1 - Meet Our Leadership

2 - Students

3 - IIA Volunteering

4 - Upcoming Events

4 - Quality Corner

6 - Certifications

7 - Your department strategy

## IIA Seattle Chapter Officers

**Chapter President**  
Caroline Pietrowski (GoDaddy)

**1st VP, Secretary**  
Kristina Wilson (Holland America Group)

**2nd VP, Certifications**  
Nira Kohli

**VP Treasurer**  
Nobi Konno (T Mobile)

**VP Data Intelligence**  
Viktor Mu (AWS)

**VP Conferences**  
Nick Meyer (Workiva)

**VP Communications**  
Stephen Hodges (Expeditors)

**VP Membership**  
Heather Klingele (Kaiser Permanente)

**VP Programming**  
Arushi Thakorlal (City of Seattle)

**VP Academic Relations**  
Priya Sall (WWU)



# MEET OUR LEADERS!!

## THIS MONTH - KRISTINA WILSON, IIA SEATTLE CHAPTER VP & SECRETARY

### How I Found Internal Audit (and Why I Stayed)

I discovered Internal Audit almost by chance and immediately felt at home. While I was a junior at the University of Washington, Tacoma, I was invited to an internal-audit event at Seattle University. The session featured short talks from practitioners, with a few “meet-the-firms” style tables for networking between speakers.

As I listened to auditors talk about the work, the risks, the controls, the data, and the way they partner with teams to strengthen processes, something clicked. This is what I want to do. I joined the IIA as a student member right away and started volunteering after graduation. Over the past five years, I’ve served in various roles, and today I’m honored to be President-Elect and Chapter Secretary for IIA Seattle.

### What I Love About Internal Audit

What keeps me in internal audit is the sheer variety of it all. No two days ever look the same. Some weeks I’m deep in understanding processes, data, and how everything fits together behind the scenes; other weeks I’m stepping into a completely different part of the business and learning something new from scratch.

One of my favorite parts of this profession is the people and the places it brings me into. Internal audit gives you access to corners of an organization most people never get to see. You learn how different experts think, how their world works, and then you piece together the bigger picture of what’s happening.

I’ve even been lucky enough to do this work in places I never imagined my career would take me, traveling on ships through the quiet, icy glacier passages of Alaska, and working across operations throughout Asia. Those experiences showed me just how much the environment around you can shape the work, and how diverse this profession can be depending on where you’re standing.

There’s something genuinely fun about stepping into a new area, asking good questions, piecing together the story, and walking away knowing you learned something completely unexpected. Internal audit never stops teaching you, and that’s a huge part of why it feels like such a great fit for me.

## Why the Chapter Matters

The IIA Seattle Chapter has been meaningful to me from the very beginning. After graduation, a few coworkers who were active in the chapter encouraged me to volunteer, and that became my first real glimpse into the IIA community in action. Working alongside the officers and other volunteers helped me meet professionals from across the region, build friendships, and feel connected to something bigger than my day-to-day job.

What I love most is how the chapter brings people together, experienced auditors, students, career-changers, and everyone in between. Over the years, I've especially enjoyed working with students and early-career professionals. Investing time in people who are curious about internal audit feels important to me, because I remember being in that same position and how much it meant to have someone welcome me in.

For me, the chapter is about community, growth, and opening doors. Helping the next generation of auditors find their footing, the same way others helped me, is one of the best parts of being involved.

## STUDENTS

### Scholarships:

*If you recently submitted an application for the 2025-26 scholarship program, applications are currently being reviewed.*

### Membership discounts:

*As students complete their academic studies and want to convert to being an individual member, the IIA offers a 50% discount for students transitioning to individual membership. If you are interested in taking advantage of this promotion offer, please reach out to our student team at the IIA ([Student@theiia.org](mailto:Student@theiia.org)).*

# IIA Volunteering

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## Volunteers and Local Chapter Opportunities:

We are actively looking for volunteers for the following roles. You can earn up to 12 CPE for your support as a volunteer. Please contact us for more information. Or if you have any other areas of interest, we are always looking for more volunteers.

- Social Media Content Manager
- Our Chapter EMT tool – help us manage membership and communication to all members!
- Programming volunteers to help coordinate monthly luncheons, identify speakers and help manage the events (approximately 5 hours each month between August – May)
- Fraud Conference volunteers to help coordinate and plan the event (approximately 5 hours each month between August – March)
- Content for newsletters (approximately 2 hours a month)
- Support the Treasury function (approximately 1-2 hours a month); this could include performing an annual financial audit
- Academic Relations (supporting with academic outreach and increasing our presence on campuses)

# Upcoming Events!!

## SAVE THE DATE!

The Seattle IIA's biggest live event of the year is the “must attend” training of the season - the Annual Fraud Conference.

This will be on Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2026 on the University of Washington's main Seattle campus.

Keep your diary free - there will be fantastic sessions and speakers. Agenda and registration coming soon.

# Upcoming Conferences

## GAM: Great Audit Minds

March 9—11, 2026 | Las Vegas, NV

GAM delivers an advanced learning experience designed exclusively for senior audit leaders. Through strategy-driven sessions and candid, solution-focused conversations, attendees gain the tools to strengthen audit plans, elevate teams, and lead with impact. Leaders will be equipped to embrace innovation, navigate cybersecurity and fraud challenges, align with global internal audit standards, and thrive as trusted advisors shaping the future of the profession.

Register [Here](#).

## 2026 Global Student Conference

April 19-21, 2026 | Orlando, FL

Be a part of the momentum and consider sponsoring your local students and educators to attend! Learn more about sponsorship opportunities or contributing to the Foundation's GSC Travel Grants and [Talent Pipeline Campaign](#).

Check back soon for registration details. We can't wait to welcome you to Orlando next April!

## 2026 International Conference

This year at The Marina Bay Sands in Singapore: if you've never been you should go experience the wonders of South East Asia, especially the local food.

Information and registration [here](#):

# Analytics, Automation & AI

*Data into Direction*



Mark Your Calendar for AAAI 2026

April 7, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. ET | Virtual | Earn up to 9.6 CPEs

The future of internal audit is here, and it's powered by analytics, automation, and AI.

Join peers and experts on April 7, 2026 for the AAAI 2026 Virtual Conference, a one-day program designed to help audit professionals stay ahead of emerging technologies, strengthen oversight, and modernize assurance practices.

Mark your calendar now and be among the first to explore the strategies and tools shaping the next era of internal audit.

Register here: <https://www.theiia.org/en/events/conference/virtual-conferences/analytics-and-automation-virtual-conference/#register>

# Quality Services

IIA Quality Services helps validate and strengthen your internal audit activity and enhances your effectiveness, efficiency, and successful practice implementation.

As a trusted source in the profession, we have helped hundreds of organizations in various industries and around the world by providing qualified audit professionals, a global benchmarking database, and a repository of successful practices. We assist CAEs in gaining support from the audit committee, enhance understanding of why an external assessment is necessary and valuable, and describe the different approaches.

For questions about our services, please contact IIA Quality Services at [quality@theiia.org](mailto:quality@theiia.org) or read more [here](#).

# Certifications

**Congratulations to the following members who recently earned certifications:**

**CIA: Mary Santallo, Dalton Nield, Mirirai Midzi**

**IAP: Amanda O'Hara**



## **Boost Your Audit Career with the IAP Designation**

Looking to stand out in the audit profession? The Internal Audit Practitioner (IAP) designation is a cost-effective way to build credibility, gain recognition, and advance your career. If you've passed Part 1 of the CIA exam, you're already eligible. Get started today at the link below.

[https://lnkd.in/g7NN\\_3gJ](https://lnkd.in/g7NN_3gJ)

## **Earn Your CRMA- Certification in Risk Management Assurance**

Showcase your expertise in risk assurance with the CRMA designation.

At a Glance:

125 questions | 150-minute exam administered at test centers

No CIA required to apply

2 years to complete after application approval

Learn more: <https://lnkd.in/gA7JGRc8>

The updated CIA exams, aligned with the 2025 syllabi, will be available starting May 28. To ensure you're prepared, visit [theiia.org/CIA2025](https://theiia.org/CIA2025) for detailed information on the changes and to plan your studies. For further questions, please submit a case via the Help tab in your CCMS account. Prepare early to stay ahead in your certification journey!

Effective May 28, 2025, IIA Certifications testing has transitioned back to test center-only delivery. Online proctoring will be permanently discontinued. The last day to register for online proctored exams is May 1. For further questions, please submit a case in CCMS.

The new Global Internal Audit Standards are effective. It's a great time to refresh your knowledge by visiting the IIA's resources at [Global Internal Audit Standards](#).

IIA Partners With Becker Professional Education. The CIA Exam Review platform is transitioning to Becker's new CIA Exam Review course, which features updated content aligned with the new CIA syllabi and upcoming exams. For additional details, visit <https://lnkd.in/gSxQ-dCB>

- **Cybersecurity Topical Requirement Effective February 2026**

The IIA's mandatory IPPF requirement provides a consistent, comprehensive approach to assessing the design and implementation of cybersecurity governance, risk management, and controls. A companion user guide is available [Here](#) to assist with its application. <https://www.theiia.org/en/standards/2024-standards/topical-requirements/cybersecurity/>

- **Lead with Strategy**

Discover how to create a vision, set objectives, and implement initiatives for audit excellence. The IIA's new practice guide provides practical tools, examples for every audit leader, and a strategic plan template [here](#).