

Seattle Chapter



The Institute of
**Internal
Auditors**

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 - Meet Our Leadership
- 2 - 2025-26 Scholarship Program
- 3 - IIA Volunteering
- 4 - Upcoming Events
- 4 - Quality Corner
- 6 - Certifications
- 7 - Shape the future of SOX

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
Victor 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 - STEVE MAR, THE ACCIDENTAL AUDITOR

We are excited to hear from Steve Mar, Professor at Seattle University, who is coming to the end of his term on our Board of Governors.

Steve, we are all interested in how our leaders got into the profession: tell us how did you start out?

I got hired out of college into the Internal Audit Profession because I made a mistake. This is my story about how owning up to an error opened the door to my career in Internal Audit and transitioned me from lecture halls to the Boardroom.

During my senior year at the University of Washington, several company recruiters visited our campus. I was fortunate even to be interviewed by one bank recruiter. When I went to schedule an interview time, I discovered that all the slots were taken. So, I won't be getting an interview slot with this bank. However, as I was about to leave the campus career office very disappointed, a UW career advisor informed me that another interview list had opened for this bank. I immediately entered my name for the only remaining time, 11:00 AM. Feeling great about this opportunity, I left. That was the good news: I got an interview slot!

The bad news was that the interview was scheduled for 11:00 AM on the same day, which was a big mistake on my part. I thought the time was for the next day.

After my first class, I returned at about 10:45 AM the same day to drop off my resume in advance at the career office for the next day's interview. However, I was shocked when a bank recruiter called my name for the 11:00 AM interview now.

I was unprepared because I was not dressed for an interview, wearing a T-shirt and shorts. Worst of all, I did not even research the bank to learn about its history, culture, and business strategy.

Deciding it was better to explain my mistake and meet the interviewer, I walked into a separate office to meet with the bank recruiter. After speaking for about an hour, I left. I thought I would never get hired because the recruiter looked the part of a banker in his well-tailored suit, and remembered my T-shirt had a hole in one sleeve.

Amazingly, this interview was the start of my transition from the Lecture Halls to the Boardroom.

I was offered a job as a bank management trainee to become a loan officer!

My introduction to my internal audit career began after six months of bank management training. My bank trainee manager informed me that I needed to do a six-week rotation in Internal Audit. I made it clear that I was not seeking an audit career, as I was training to become a loan officer. Besides, everyone at the bank hated "The Corporate Auditors." They had a poor reputation.

After my six-week rotation was completed, I wanted out of Internal Audit. However, I was informed that the Chief Audit Executive (CAE) wanted me to stay for a brief period, as they liked my computer coding skills, understanding of quantitative methods, and statistics.

I was tricked and somewhat coerced into remaining with Internal Audit in the bank because the CAE told me I could leave at any time. It turns out that I never really left the Internal Audit. I was having too much fun and learning an incredible amount.

That is a great story Steve!

And you've learnt so much you went back to academia to teach - but that's another story for another time!

2025 - 2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Institute of Internal Auditors Seattle Chapter is pleased to offer up to five scholarships to students attending an accredited college or university in the state of Washington for the 2025-2026 school year. The application deadline is Friday, December 26, 2025.

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1. Be an undergraduate entering their junior year or higher in fall 2025, fifth year, master's, or PhD candidate. Community college transfers are also encouraged to apply. Students must attend an accredited college or university in Washington State.*
- 2. Be actively pursuing a career in Internal Audit.*
- 3. Have an active IIA Membership (IIA Membership is free for students).*

Scholarship Guidelines:

- Scholarship award is up to \$2,500 to be applied towards tuition or other expenses at the college or university.*
- Scholarship monies are paid directly to the accredited college or university listed on the application and cannot be paid directly to the student.*
- Scholarships are non-renewable.*
- Responsibility for ensuring that the monies can be used for the semester/quarter/year granted lies solely with the student.*

Scholarship application packet can found on the IIA Seattle Chapter website at: <https://www.theiia.org/en/chapters/united-states/Washington/Seattle/>

IIA Volunteering

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!!

The IIA Seattle Chapter is kicking off our new fiscal year with many trainings to inform, inspire, and elevate your internal audit game.

Join risk, assurance, and compliance professionals, educators, and students at Seattle University for a forum on the power of AI.

- [Session Title: Internal Audit and Data Analytics Conference \[AI in Action: Transforming Risk and Compliance Through Intelligent Automation\]](#)
- Date: October 23, 2025, 8am – 12pm PT (4 CPE)
- Location: Zoom Webinar (Link will be sent on October 22nd to all registered attendees via email.)
- Register here: [AI In Action: Transforming Risk and Compliance Through Intelligent Automation - Seattle University](#)
- Cost: \$125 / Free for students
- *IIA Seattle members will receive a 20% discount!*

Join this discussion to explore how audit committees can engage in more strategic risk oversight, ask better questions of management and internal audit, and ensure internal audit resources are directed where they matter most.

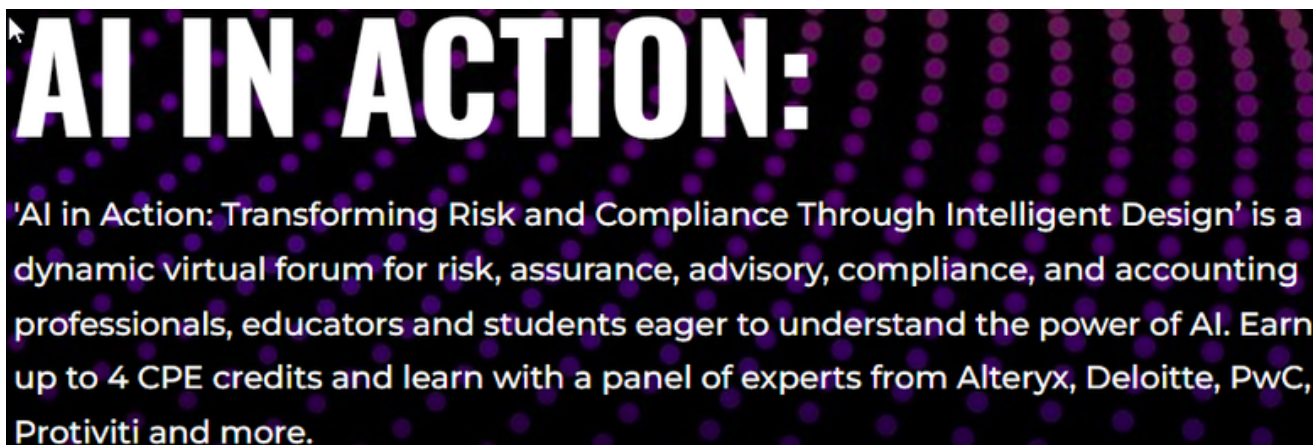
- [Session Title: The Audit Committee Briefing: Risk in Focus 2026](#)
- DATE: Nov 13, 2025 : 12:00 PM-1:00 PM ET
- This online session is FREE to members!
- Register here : <https://www.theiia.org/en/products/learning-solutions/webinar/the-audit-committee-briefing-risk-in-focus-2026/>

Seattle University 2025 Fall RSKA Forum

SEATTLE
UNIVERSITY

We warmly invite you and your colleagues to the 2025 Fall RSKA Forum, hosted virtually by Seattle University on Thursday, October 23, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. PT. IIA Seattle members register with a discount [HERE](#) using the Promo Code **iia20**

'AI in Action: Transforming Risk and Compliance Through Intelligent Design' is a dynamic virtual forum for risk, assurance, advisory, compliance, and accounting professionals, educators and students eager to understand the power of AI. Earn up to 4 CPE credits and learn with a panel of experts from Alteryx, Deloitte, PwC, Protiviti and more.



Upcoming Conferences

2025 Financial Services Exchange Participation in the Exchange

affords auditors in banking, credit unions, insurance, asset management, and more, the opportunity to network, discuss key issues with policymakers, and gain unprecedented access to industry insights. Nov 03 - 04, 2025 | Washington, D.C

Register here: [FINANCE](#)

2025 RISE Virtual Conference

The IIA's RISE Virtual Conference is the premier online internal audit leadership event, designed for current and emerging leaders. Dec 05, 2025 | Virtual, Only.

Register here: [RISE](#)

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!

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 or [read more here](#).

Certifications

Congratulations to the following members who earned IIA certifications

CIA: Shelby Campbell & Jenelle Stinson

CRMA: Austin Bailey

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

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 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](https://www.theiia.org/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>

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF SOX!!

The IIA's Advocacy Team has monitored growing congressional interest in making potential changes to the landmark Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) Act. Two recent developments, over the past six months, have placed this intent in sharper focus:

- A proposal, originally included in budget reconciliation legislation, to eliminate the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and consolidate its functions into the Securities and Exchange Commission – the proposal ultimately failed to pass.
- The U.S. House Committee on Financial Services held a hearing on concerns about the costs of SOX compliance, signaling the start of a broader review of the law.

Because internal audit has a unique role in relation to SOX, The IIA wants to be prepared to provide specific recommendations to Congress, should lawmakers move forward on legislation at any point in the near future. Therefore, we recently established a SOX Working Group comprised of diverse representatives of the profession who review and discuss the law and will make recommendations to The IIA.

We also would like your help and input! If you have thoughts on SOX, please click [here](#) to share your views on how the role of internal audit could be strengthened and clarified in the law. **The comment period is open until Friday, November 14th at 5:00 PM.**