In the CLASSROOM

Class Events

LSUCIA Mock Interviews and Kickoff Event

The LSU Center for Internal Auditing hosted mock interviews for all students at the Olinde Career Center in the LSU Student Union on January 22, 2016. More than 150 interviews were conducted throughout the day, as students were randomly paired with representatives from 20 companies for a 30-minute interview. This was a great opportunity for students to experience a real-world interview setting and receive feedback from the practitioners.

The annual kickoff event took place on January 23 at the Business Education Complex (BEC). The activities started with breakfast in the Rotunda, followed by a welcome from Senior Instructor Lydia Lafleur in the Auditorium. Throughout the day, students networked with representatives of more than 25 companies from across the United States. Students and practitioners participated in breakout discussions on topics including résumé reviews, speed interviews, and industry and consulting firm panel discussions. The kickoff event ended with closing remarks in the Auditorium by the LSUCIA staff. LSUCIA would like to extend its appreciation to the students and practitioners for participating in the 2015 LSUCIA Kickoff events.
Company Presentations

Throughout the semester, students heard from various consulting and industry representatives who recruit through the LSUCIA program. Each company presented on a relevant internal auditing topic such as fraud, data analytics, and technology. They also provided students with information about their organization and internship programs. The presentations were an hour long with Q&A, followed by an hour of networking and dinner in the Rotunda. These events gave students and practitioners a chance to meet and network prior to résumé submission and interviewing.

LSUCIA would like to thank the following companies for their time, effort, and participation in company presentations this semester:

The Breakers Palm Beach
Calpine
CB&I
CHAN
Crowe Horwarth
Deloitte
Ernst & Young
FedEx
Grant Thornton
Goldman Sachs
Halliburton
Hospital Corporation of America

KPMG
Macy’s
McKesson
Nestle
Postlethwaite & Netterville
Provit
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Synchrony Financial
Walmart

Second-Week Exam

In the second week of the semester, students began preparation for the Certified Internal Auditor Certification Exam in December with a preparatory exam. One of the goals of the LSUCIA program is to prepare students to take and pass all parts of the CIA exam.

New LSUCIA Cases

Over the years, the LSUCIA staff has developed 30 cases for other universities to use in their internal audit programs. This year, the staff produced the 31st case, which deals with interviewing skills, and plans on creating four additional cases throughout 2016 to bring the total to 35. One of these cases will include the use of technology and analytics and focus on data-driven decision making, reflecting LSUCIA’s goal to incorporate more technology in the program.

“What would I add to my curriculum if time and resources allowed? More analytics and technology.”

— LSUCIA Director Glenn Sumners

in the February 2016 issue of Internal Auditor
CISA Exam

Alysha Meadors (LSUCIA ’15, MS Finance) recently passed the Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) exam.

“I decided to take the CISA because I was interested in information technology while studying for the CIA exam,” Meadors said, regarding taking the CISA exam. “LSUCIA provided me with all of the study materials I needed to pass the exam. I learned many new things while reading through the content, but the practice questions were crucial to doing well on the exam. Studying for the CISA was not stressful after having gone through the LSUCIA program and having passed the CIA exam. I highly recommend taking the CISA after the CIA. The information you learn will be valuable in any business setting, since businesses are only increasing their reliance on information technology.”

Congratulations to Meadors on all of her accomplishments, and hopefully, she will seek her third certification in 2016!

GRC Sawyer Competition

Students in the Governance, Risk, and Controls (GRC) class this semester submitted manuscripts for the Institute of Internal Auditor’s 2016 Sawyer Competition. The Ester R. Sawyer Research Award, open to students from participating Internal Auditing Education Partnership (IAEP) universities, is presented annually to one student internationally for the top manuscript on the given topic.

“I had a great experience during the GRC class researching and writing about the many skills and competencies an internal auditor needs during his or her career,” said LSU student Camila Zimpel. “All of the reading and knowledge I gathered during the class helped me a lot when I was writing my essay for the Esther Sawyer competition. It was a great opportunity for me to deepen my knowledge about the internal auditing profession that I am about to enter.”

Top 40 Under 40

Two LSUCIA alums were featured as Capital Region rising stars in the Greater Baton Rouge Business Report’s Top 40 Under 40 of 2015. Allyson d’Aquin received three professional certifications, a Flores MBA, and a bachelor’s in accounting during her time at LSU. She went on to work in international management roles for ExxonMobil in the Netherlands and Hungary before returning to Baton Rouge in 2014 as chief financial officer of All Star Automotive Group, the largest automotive group in Louisiana. Laura Soileau has found continued success in internal auditing throughout her career. In 2014, the Institute of Internal Auditors selected her as one of 20 emerging leaders in the internal audit profession in the United States. In addition to her position as consulting director at Postlethwaite & Netterville, Soileau also serves as president of the Susan G. Komen Baton Rouge Board of Directors.

Congratulations to these honorees for the recognition of their hard work, and we wish them continued future success!

Alumni Update

Congratulations to LSUCIA alums Raul Gamez and Jinsong Liu! Gamez recently returned from working in Nigeria for several years to join CB&I in their Houston office. Liu is part of the Goldman Sach’s audit staff in New York and just received his Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) certification.
Alumni Spotlight

Nick Speyrer

LSUCIA alum Nick Speyrer was recently featured in two issues of the Greater Baton Rouge Business Report. In the December 2015 issue, he was one of three local executives chosen to give advice on boosting productivity in the workplace based on his experience and success. The January 2016 issue prominently featured Speyrer’s career and movement from internal audit to becoming founder and president of his own company, Emergent Method. Emergent Method is a management consulting firm that works alongside organizations experiencing periods of change, transition, or growth and helps them move forward through creative solution development and strategic planning. Emergent Method is based in downtown Baton Rouge.

Laura Soileau

Look out for two articles written by LSUCIA alumnae Laura Soileau — The Thing About Feedback in the December 2015 issue of Internal Auditor’s Emerging Leaders blog and Internal Audit Fundamentals, co-written with James Roth in the February 2016 issue of Internal Auditor. Soileau is a director in Postlethwaite & Netterville’s Baton Rouge Consulting Department and a contributing editor to Internal Auditor’s Back to Basics series.

Daniel Seghers

In the February 2016 issue of Internal Auditor, LSUCIA alumnus and former graduate assistant Daniel Seghers was featured in an article titled, Internal Auditing’s Future, for his role on the internal audit staff at Walmart. The article details his time in the LSUCIA program, which led to an internship and subsequent full-time job with Walmart. The article also talks about Seghers’ love for his job, particularly its variety and flexibility and the effects decisions can have on the organization internationally.

“I realized the role of the internal auditor aligned with many of my interests,” Seghers said about his time in the LSUCIA program. “I wanted to add value and bring a positive impact to a business while understanding how it operates, and internal audit presents opportunities not found in other roles with a company.”

CIA – Getting Started

On February 20 and 21, 32 students attended a weekend session to prepare for Part I of the CIA exam. During the eight-hour sessions on Saturday and Sunday, students revisited the chapters and material that would be covered in the Part I exam and learned study techniques for reviewing on their own.

Coffee Meetings

The LSUCIA program continues its 6:00 a.m. coffee sessions with students. Students meet in groups of about four or five, and the meetings last about an hour and a half. These meetings are designed as a mentoring session, where students can meet with their instructors in a more casual setting and discuss their opportunities and career goals.
Alumni Training

The fourth annual LSUCIA Alumni Shared Training Program was held October 15 and 16, the weekend of the E. J. Ourso College of Business Alumni Tailgate for the LSU vs. Florida football game in Tiger Stadium. The event took place at the L’auberge Casino and Hotel, and for the first time, was opened to all practitioners and friends of the program for training. It was a great success, with more than 50 alumni and friends of the program in attendance from more than 25 companies.

In addition, registrants are now eligible to receive Louisiana and Texas continuing professional education (CPE) for CPA hours. We hope to continue to expand this event in 2016. Please stay tuned for more information on the logistics of the event and how to register for the 2016 LSUCIA Conference on November 2-3, 2016. We hope to see you there!
2016 Graduate Assistants
This year, the LSUCIA program has eight graduate assistants that support the program:
Katherine Burley, Undergraduate of Economics
Danli Chen, Master of Business Administration
Yaqun “Amber” Dong, Master of Business Administration
Wagner Glod, Master of Business Administration
Ashleigh Jones, Undergraduate of Accounting
Nicole O’Bryant, Master of Accounting
Clay Tillotson, Undergraduate of Accounting/Finance
Fang Zhou, Master of Accounting

Update YOUR Information
Please visit the LSUCIA website to keep us updated about you:
business.lsu.edu/LSUCIAAlumniUpdate
You can update your position, contact information and more. We will provide career updates in later issues, so other alumni can keep up-to-date.

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LSUCIA Senior Instructor Lydia Lafleur at the Kickoff Event.