



## Hudson Valley Chapter January 2005 Newsletter

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## President's Message

Oh, It's cold!!

It wasn't so long ago that I had my feet in Schroon Lake, enjoying the Adirondack summer breeze. Remember that? Well, now I can't even get my feet through the ice and that pleasant breeze has turned into a bitter arctic blast!

Winter's arrival signals our Chapter's mid-year mark, which means that a lot has happened and even more is just around the corner.

We've had several lunch speakers, a fall conference, and a lively holiday luncheon with Sister Anne Bryan Smollin. We continue to plan two of our biggest annual events – the **Technology Conference** in January and **The Conference That Counts (TCTC)** in March.

February will also give us the opportunity to recognize our newly certified CISAs and CISM's. We'll be holding a special luncheon to recognize the hard-earned achievements of these individuals. If you were certified in the past year, we'll be contacting you shortly with the details.

In a short while, it will be time for our Chapter's annual call to arms. The Board will begin to put together a list of new candidates for positions within the Hudson Valley Chapter. If you've ever thought about becoming more active in ISACA, now is the perfect time to volunteer.

I know firsthand that you'll find working on the Board a rich and rewarding activity. Give it some thought, and if you're interested, please let us know.

*Bernie McHugh*

Chapter President

## Technology Conference

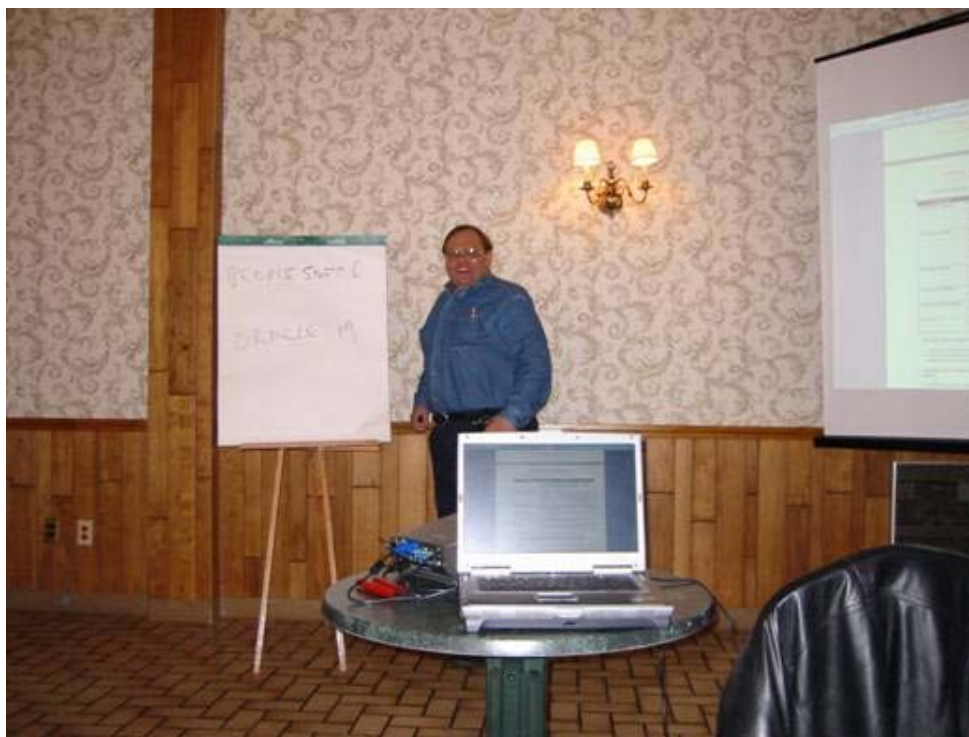
Mark your calendars! The January 2005 Technology Conference, which we co-host with the IIA and AGA, will be held January 25, 2005 at the Polish Community Center. The theme this year is Enhancing Productivity with Technology, focusing on using search engines, and anti-spam and anti-virus tools. The session will run from 8:30 to 4:30 and include lunch and breaks. The event will cost \$75 for members and \$125 for others. Early payment by January 19, 2005 will save an additional \$25.

## November Seminar

On November 3 and 4, 24 individuals representing both the public and private sector attended a training seminar at the Italian-American Community Center on control issues relating to PeopleSoft and Oracle Database products. The

seminar was presented by Gordon Smith, founder of Canaudit, and was both enlightening and informative. The participants spent the two days gaining an overview of the products, and discussing controls required for application design, construction, testing, and implementation.

Each participant received a volume of information covered during the presentation, as well as a copy of a series of risk/control tables and COSO compliant checklists. Gordon kept the sessions lively, and each participant was rewarded with appetizing meals of chicken parmigiana and traditional lasagna.



November Seminar Presenter Gordon Smith, CANAUDIT

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## From the Desk of Membership

By Lisa LeBlanc, CISA

We would like to introduce seven new members of the Hudson Valley Chapter:

- Fausto Franco joins us from the New York State Insurance Fund.
- Tai Lee, CPA joins us from The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in Ewing, NJ.
- Angelo Martyn joins us from Oneida, NY.
- Ulf Mattsson joins us from Protegrity Corporation in Cos Cob, CT.
- Joseph Naughton, CIA joins us from CCH Tax and Accounting in Monsey NY.
- Michelle Nolette joins us from PricewaterhouseCoopers.
- Ling-Ling Xu joins us from Guilderland.

Please join me in a warm welcome to all of them!

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## Member Survey

As a way to better serve the needs and interests of our members, the Chapter's Board will be using the monthly newsletter to solicit feedback on a variety of topics. To accomplish this, each month we will have a survey question and request each of you to submit a reply to the question. To help encourage feedback, a random response will be selected each month, and that individual will receive a free admission to one of this year's monthly luncheons. Please take a few seconds to provide your views.

[Please follow this link to this month's survey.](#)

Please join us in congratulating Uzma Qureshi as the winning selection from the November survey. Uzma will be entitled to a free attendance at the next monthly luncheon. Also, a thank you to everyone that submitted their preference regarding marketing ideas for the Chapter. There were several favorite suggestions, but the greatest number of submittals were in favor of polo shirts for members. The board will consider this feedback at their next meeting.

## **CISA and CISM<sup>®</sup>**

### **CISA and CISM are "Hot" Certifications, Study Says**

**Rolling Meadows, Illinois, USA (December 10, 2004)**— The CISA and CISM certifications are among the hot certifications to watch over the next 12 months, according to a recent study conducted by Foote Partners LLC.

CISA is also listed in the study as a strong certified skill and was named by the Foote Partners in September 2004 as the certification that gained the most value in the past 12 months.

Several trends have contributed to this increase in value. "IT decision makers have lately become somewhat less inclined to play the off-shoring or outsourcing card when under pressure," said David Foote, president and chief research officer for Foote Partners. "They're looking instead for ways to keep go-to 'A team' players from jumping ship and, according to our research findings, that is showing up in premium skills pay increases that are being paid in base pay adjustments or straight cash bonuses and sometimes both."

Results of the study, published in "IT Insider Compensation Benchmarks and Employment Trends," were compiled from direct interviews with 45,000 North American and European IT workers in 1,860 private and public sector organizations.

Registration for the 2004 CISA exam exceeded 14,000, a record high for the eleventh consecutive year. More than 35,000 professionals have earned CISA since inception. The CISM certification also achieved a milestone when the 5,000th professional earned the designation within its first two years.

#### **2005 CISA and CISM Exam Information:**

For persons interested in sitting for the upcoming CISA and CISM exams, a copy of the 2005 *Bulletin of Information* for each certification can be downloaded from ISACA's web site ([www.isaca.org](http://www.isaca.org)) or requested from the certification department at [certification@isaca.org](mailto:certification@isaca.org).

Early registration deadline: February 2, 2005

Final registration deadline: March 30, 2005

Exam date: June 11, 2005

[Register online today](#) and save \$35.

#### **2003 CISA Audit**

The audit for documentation of 2003 continuing education activities has recently begun by ISACA. A randomly selected group of CISAs has been sent an audit letter requesting written support documentation for 2003 continuing professional education hours. If you should have questions about the 2003 audit request, please contact the certification department at [certification@isaca.org](mailto:certification@isaca.org) or via telephone at (847)253-1545, ext. 471, 403 or 474.

## **ISACA International News**

### **ISACA Updates Auditing Standards to Meet New Challenges and Expectations**

**Rolling Meadows, IL, USA (December 10, 2004)**—To help information systems (IS) auditors worldwide increase value in today's competitive and rapidly changing business environment, ISACA has updated the IS Auditing Standards, revising existing standards and adding four more. The new standards are:

- § IT Governance
- § Use of Risk Assessment in Audit Planning
- § Irregularities and Illegal Acts
- § Audit Evidence

The IS Auditing Standards, which define mandatory requirements for IS auditing and reporting, help increase quality, functionality and ease of use; decrease delivery time; and lower costs related to IT delivery. Each standard has been expanded to include an introduction and commentary section to clarify key points. Available as a complimentary download at [www.isaca.org/standards](http://www.isaca.org/standards), the standards are effective January 1, 2005.

Before revising or adding standards, ISACA's Standards Board, chaired by Sergio Fleginsky, CISA, issues drafts for worldwide public comment and seeks expert advice on the topics under consideration. Comments and suggestions to help identify emerging issues are always welcome and can be sent via e-mail to [standards@isaca.org](mailto:standards@isaca.org).

### Journal Update

The *Information Systems Control Journal*<sup>®</sup> is seeking articles for volume 3, 2005, to be issued in May 2005. The copy deadline for volume 3 is February 1, 2004, and the theme is the **Value of IT**. For more information, please view the 2005 editorial calendar at [www.isaca.org/journal](http://www.isaca.org/journal) or e-mail [jblader@isaca.org](mailto:jblader@isaca.org)