

Report of the President

By Chad Stefaniak



Greetings from Columbia, South Carolina!

I hope everyone is settling into the fall semester. Personally, I've always loved the start of fall more than spring—there's just a special buzz to it. Students are full of energy, faculty are hopefully well-rested, and the possibilities feel endless. This fall, I have the privilege of stepping into the role of President of the Auditing Section, and I'm excited to continue the great work we've been doing.

First, I want to thank Jennifer Joe for her fantastic leadership last year. Thanks to her efforts, we're in a great place to keep the momentum going. Our Executive Committee this year is stacked with some amazing individuals. Yi-Jing Wu, a long-time friend, is serving as VP Academic. Margot Cella has retired, but we're fortunate to have James Powell (KPMG) joining us as VP of Practice to help us stay connected to the profession. Steve Perreault remains our Treasurer, and Chad Simon will continue representing us on the Council. Both of them are just stellar people. And I'm thrilled that Marcy Shepardson is stepping in as Secretary, taking the reins from Ken Bills. I'm truly grateful for this incredible team and all they're doing to support the Section.

Beyond the Exec team, I've been blown away by how many members stepped up to serve on our committees. I'll admit, I wasn't exactly looking forward to filling all those spots, but it turned out to be way easier than I expected thanks to everyone's willingness to help out. A special thank you to those who took on roles outside their comfort zones. Your willingness to help out is inspiring!

I also want to extend my gratitude to the AAA and its leadership. I've worked with AAA in various capacities over the years, and I've never had better experiences than I'm having right now. Their responsiveness and support have made my transition into this role so smooth. Yvonne and her team have been incredible partners, and I couldn't be more appreciative.

Updates about the Section

The Auditing Section is in good shape overall. We have 946 members, which is a little lower than recent years (we've averaged around 1,075), but this aligns with the overall trend in AAA membership.

Financially, we're in great shape thanks to the AAA's new revenue-sharing model with the journals. We have some funds to work with, and I'd love to hear any creative ideas for putting that money to good use. Let's turn your ideas into reality!

Introducing PIPEline

One vision I'm thrilled to announce is a new initiative we'll be launching at AMY 2025—the Pathway into PhD Experience (PIPEline). This program is designed to introduce students and professionals interested in a PhD and academic career to the world of academia. If you didn't catch the email, here's what the program aims to do: After being nominated for the PIPEline program, approximately 10 to 15 individuals will be selected and given them the chance to attend the 2025 Audit Midyear Meeting in Charlotte, NC, with little to no cost. We want to connect these future academics with our community, expose them to cutting-edge audit research, and give them valuable insights into an academic career. We'll cover transportation, hotel, and registration so they can dive into the experience without financial worries.

Thanks again to everyone for your continued support of the Auditing Section. None of this would be possible without you. As President, I'm all ears for your ideas and feedback. Please don't hesitate to reach out—I'd love to hear from you.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in January. One last shout out, which will also hopefully encourage you to attend the 2025 Audit Midyear. Scott Vandervelde, a Past President of the Auditing Section and current Department Chair at UNC Charlotte, has generously arranged sponsorship of the Friday evening reception, which will be held at the NASCAR Hall of Fame (which is very close to our conference hotel). The reception will surely be one of the more memorable and interactive receptions in recent history (though I don't know if Portland's Bacon Bar will ever be topped)! See you in Charlotte!

Warm regards,

Chad Stefaniak
University of South Carolina