



Chicago Chapter

BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

PROGRAMS

NEWS AND TRENDS

OPPORTUNITIES



ISACA Chicago Chapter

ISACACHI001



WELCOME NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear ISACA Chicago Chapter Members,

Welcome to the very first edition of our chapter's newsletter! As your chapter president, I am incredibly excited to launch this new platform for communication and connection within our spirited community.

This newsletter is designed to be a valuable resource for our esteemed members. We aim to keep you informed about the latest industry trends, upcoming events, training opportunities, and articles relevant to the fields of audit, risk, security, and governance. We aim to emphasize the remarkable talent within our local professional membership community and offer you 'information you can use' to boost your professional growth and remain competitive in our constantly changing environment.

In this inaugural issue, you'll find:

- Updates on upcoming chapter events and conferences.
- Spotlights on local professionals and their contributions.
- Insights into relevant industry news and best practices.
- Resources to support your career growth.

We believe that a connected community is essential for professional growth and success. This newsletter is one of the many ways we strive to foster that connection. We encourage you to reach out to us, share your feedback, and contribute your insights to future editions.

Thank you for being a part of the ISACA Chicago Chapter.

Sincerely,

ALLYSON ZOLLER 
PRESIDENT, ISACA CHICAGO
CHAPTER

About Us

JOIN OUR POOL OF
PROFESSIONALS



The ISACA Chicago Chapter serves individuals and organizations across the Chicagoland area who prioritize trust in IT audit and assurance, information and cyber security, governance, risk management, compliance, privacy, and emerging technologies. Our members include professionals from diverse backgrounds who share a common goal of enhancing trust and excellence in their respective fields.

We are driven by the mission to empower our members throughout their careers by providing comprehensive knowledge, skills, credentials, and access to a global community—ensuring they are well-prepared to meet today's challenges and drive tomorrow's innovations. We strive at all times to support our members in achieving professional excellence and advancing their careers in the fields of IT audit, assurance, information and cyber security, governance, and risk management.

Membership is open to individuals and organizations across the Chicagoland area who prioritize trust in IT audit and assurance, information and cyber security, governance, risk management, compliance, privacy, and emerging technologies. Our members include professionals from diverse backgrounds who share a common goal of enhancing trust and excellence in their respective fields.

Equip yourself with the knowledge, credentials, education, community, discounts and savings you need to advance both your career and digital trust in your field. Join an industry-leading, global community of more than 185,000 working IS/IT professionals and access a wide range of opportunities exclusive to members. Be part of what's next, now!

2025 Board of Directors



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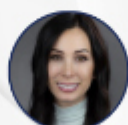
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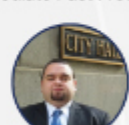
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REPRESENTATION AT THE GLOBAL COUNCIL FOR RESPONSIBLE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

On February 20, 2025, at the House of Lords (England), Ramona Ratiu, our Strategic Advisor, had the profound honor of taking an oath to become the U.S. Ambassador for the Global Council for Responsible AI (GCRAI). The Council convened over 60 distinguished leaders from around the world, united in a shared mission to shape the future of AI—ensuring that it remains ethical, secure, and a force for global good.

The GCRAI's core objectives include:

FOSTERING SECURE AI DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION

Championing responsible design, implementation, and integration across industries to safeguard ethical technological progress.

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE AI AWARENESS

Advancing education, training, and recruitment initiatives from entry-level roles to C-suite and boardroom leadership, ensuring ethical AI literacy at all levels.

UPHOLDING ETHICAL AI STANDARDS

Reinforcing transparency, fairness, and accountability to enhance business resilience and operational efficiency through responsible innovation.

DRIVING GLOBAL COLLABORATION

Harmonizing governance and regulatory frameworks to create a unified approach to responsible AI on a worldwide scale

ADVANCING RESPONSIBLE INNOVATION

Developing AI-driven solutions that empower workforces, benefit humanity, and proactively mitigate business risks

"It was a privilege to stand alongside visionary Ambassadors from across the globe to embark on this pivotal initiative."

As a longstanding advocate for governance, risk, and compliance, this mission deeply aligns with the ISACA community's commitment to advancing digital trust and responsible technology leadership. ISACA professionals play a critical role in shaping AI governance, ensuring security, privacy, and ethical considerations remain at the forefront of innovation. By championing responsible AI practices, we empower organizations to mitigate risks, enhance resilience, and drive sustainable, technology-driven growth. Through collaboration, education, and advocacy, ISACA members can be at the helm of creating AI solutions that uphold integrity and inspire confidence in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

RAMONA RATIU

US AMBASSADOR FOR RESPONSIBLE AI | CYBER SECURITY |
BOARD ADVISOR | ADJ PROFESSOR | MENTOR | SHELEADSTECH ADVOCATE





ISACA DEPAUL HOSTS THE NEXTGEN CYBER SUMMIT 2025

The DePaul ISACA Student Organization successfully hosted the "NextGen Cyber Summit 2025: Unveiling Security & Audit Excellence" on Friday, February 28th, 2025, at the DePaul Conference Center. The event provided participants with valuable insights into cybersecurity and IT auditing while offering networking opportunities with industry professionals. The summit featured rich panel discussions, and keynote presentations, culminating in meaningful connections between attendees and industry representatives.

R. David Moon, CISSP and founder of ArxNimbus, delivered the keynote presentation on Cloud Security and Auditing. The presentation highlighted the challenges organizations face when securing cloud environments and implementing effective audit controls. Moon discussed innovation trends shaping the future of cloud security and provided actionable insights for attendees interested in this specialized field.

The Summit continued with a Alumni Panel Discussion with insightful conversations from Ellis Dzakupasu (CISA), Jennifer Vander Loop, and Godwin Stephen Raj. The alumni discussions sought to provide career insights as students prepare to launch careers in the IT industry. The panelists shared their professional journeys and provided practical advice on breaking into the cybersecurity industry. The discussion focused on strategies for landing internships, securing full-time positions, and standing out in a competitive job market.

Panelists emphasized that success in the field requires a combination of strategic planning, continuous skill development, and persistence.

Security & Audit was also topical on the summit's agenda. There was a conversation by seasoned cybersecurity and audit experts including Jim Enstrom (CIA, CISA, CRISC), Ben, and Todd Haverkos from Cboe Global Markets. This session explored key topics in IT auditing, risk management, and cybersecurity best practices. The panel provided attendees with insights into industry trends and the evolving landscape of security and audit roles. Speakers highlighted the importance of maintaining current knowledge in this rapidly changing field and shared perspectives on what it takes to thrive as an IT audit professional.

On application security, Kriti Kharbanda, Application Security Engineer at ServiceNow, presented on Leveling Up in Cybersecurity: The AppSec Advantage. The session highlighted why application security is increasingly critical in today's digital landscape. Kharbanda discussed modern application security challenges, methodologies for addressing vulnerabilities, and career opportunities in this growing specialization.

The NextGen Cyber Summit 2025 successfully achieved its goal of connecting students with industry professionals while providing practical knowledge about careers in cybersecurity and IT auditing. The event showcased the DePaul ISACA Student Organization's commitment to supporting student professional development and creating pathways into the industry. This informal session provided valuable opportunities for students to make connections and discuss potential career paths with experienced professionals.

MANSI M. 
PRESIDENT
DEPAUL ISACA STUDENT ORGANIZATION





US CENTRAL CHAPTERS UNITE FOR A POWERFUL IWD EVENT



To mark International Women's Day (IWD) 2025, the US Central Chapters of SheLeadsTech came together to create a high-impact event, reinforcing their commitment to empowering women in technology and leadership. This event was an inspiring blend of thought leadership, personal development, and meaningful discussions, all designed to help women accelerate their journeys and amplify their presence. The theme for the celebration was Accelerate Action - calls for bold, decisive steps toward gender equity, leadership, and empowerment. The theme emphasized the urgency to move beyond conversations and into tangible progress, ensuring that women are not just included but are actively shaping the future.

PRESENCE: ACCELERATE YOUR JOURNEY, AMPLIFY YOUR PRESENCE

One of the cornerstone discussions of the event focused on Presence - the ability to inspire confidence and credibility, not just in one's professional career but also in personal and community engagements. This engaging pane explored what presence truly means, why it matters, and how women can develop and strengthen their own.

Through practical strategies and personal insights, participants gained valuable tools to elevate their professional presence and create lasting impressions. Personal stories shared during the session demonstrated how an amplified presence can open doors of opportunity and drive career growth. The session encouraged women to step forward with confidence, reinforcing that presence is an essential ingredient to success.

WITH VONETTA WADE (MODERATOR), BELYNDA POUPARD, JILL KERNS, CHRISTINA MARKS

EXPERTISE: NAVIGATING THE ETHICAL LANDSCAPE OF AI

The Expertise pillar of the program centered on one of today's most pressing topics: Navigating the Ethical Landscape of AI: Balancing Innovation and Responsibility. With artificial intelligence advancing at an unprecedented pace, the discussion tackled critical questions such as:

- How do we ensure AI serves humanity responsibly?
- How do we balance rapid innovation with accountability?

Industry experts and thought leaders explored the ethical, security, and societal implications of AI, emphasizing the importance of responsible and inclusive AI practices. The panel provided key insights into global collaboration, leadership development, and technological accountability, reinforcing the need for ethical frameworks in shaping AI's future.

WITH RAMONA RATIU (MODERATOR), SHAFIA ZUBAIR, KAITLYN KIPLEY, KANIKA HAVELIA

RETREAT: THE POWER OF MINDFULNESS

Incorporating a moment of reflection, the event featured a 15-minute meditation session as part of the Retreat pillar, allowing participants to pause, reset, and be fully present. This session provided an invaluable opportunity to unwind and recharge, preparing attendees to engage deeply with the conversations ahead.

WITH DONNA HACHIYA

A COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO ACTION

By uniting under the shared vision of empowering women and accelerating action, the SheLeadsTech US Central chapters successfully created a transformative IWD event. Through engaging discussions, self-reflection, and expert insights, attendees left feeling inspired, equipped, and ready to lead with confidence in their careers and communities.

This event was more than just a gathering—it was a powerful movement to drive change, amplify presence, and embrace the limitless possibilities that come with stepping forward and taking action.

WITH ANAMIKA ROY, JENNIFER PANG, LYNDSEY JONES, MAURINE LEROY, MIREYA SANCHEZ, NOVE MADERADA, RAKHEE VAIDYA, REGINA SHELTON, BENJAMIN HARTZMAN, CHRISTINA MARKS, MELISSA SWARTZ, SABLE R. B., ISACA GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER ISACA CHICAGO CHAPTER ISACA CENTRAL OHIO ISACA MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER ISACA MADISON CHAPTER, INC ISACA GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER

OUR CHAPTER MEETINGS - JANUARY TO MAY 2025

1

JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING VIRTUAL EVENT [JAN 16TH, 2025]

The first session, Challenges of Auditing AI, explored the unique obstacles auditors face when evaluating AI-driven systems compared to traditional IT audits. Expert speaker Gustavo Perri Galegale provided deep insights into the ethical and governance implications of AI in auditing, emphasizing the evolving role of auditors in managing AI-related risks. Attendees gained valuable knowledge on best practices for effective risk management and strategies to ensure AI audits deliver meaningful value. The session highlighted the growing need for auditors to adapt to AI's complexities, ensuring transparency, accountability, and compliance in an increasingly automated world. Gustavo's expertise, shaped by over 25 years in IT and his leadership at ISACA São Paulo Chapter, enriched the discussion with real-world applications and innovative approaches to AI audit challenges.

The second session, Can ChatGPT Substitute Auditors? sparked thought-provoking discussions on AI's potential to redefine auditing practices. Speaker Jan Anisimowicz delved into AI technologies such as Large Language Models (LLMs), deep neural networks, reinforcement learning, and transformers, demonstrating how these innovations can augment audit efficiency. Attendees explored the concept of a "Turbo-auditor," leveraging AI tools like ChatGPT to streamline audit activities while assessing associated risks, particularly in data privacy. The session featured hands-on examples illustrating how AI can significantly reduce auditing workload—potentially by 80%. Jan encouraged participants to envision a future where AI and auditors collaborate rather than compete, setting the stage for a balanced integration of AI in auditing functions.



2

FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING IN-PERSON EVENT [FEB 20TH, 2025]

The first session, titled "Hiring and Retention," brought together an expert panel featuring Brent Ball, MJ McSheehy, and Sally Martin, moderated by Dave Gerleman. The discussion provided valuable insights into best practices for talent acquisition and retention in cybersecurity and IT, emphasizing strategies for streamlining hiring processes, fostering a security-first culture, and ensuring long-term employee engagement. With decades of industry experience, the panelists shared their expertise in governance, risk management, and recruitment innovation, offering attendees actionable tips for building strong teams and sustaining growth in competitive sectors.

The second session, "Career Development and Growth," was led by seasoned cybersecurity leader Sebastiaan Gybels. Focused on career navigation in IS audit, security, and risk management, the session explored various professional paths, essential skills, and development strategies for career advancement. Attendees gained insights into networking, mentorship, and leveraging technology for continuous learning, with practical takeaways on building resilient security programs and embracing innovation. Gybels' vast experience in global IT leadership provided a wealth of knowledge to those seeking to elevate their professional journeys in cybersecurity and risk management.



3

MARCH CHAPTER MEETING VIRTUAL EVENT [MAR 20TH, 2025]

The first session, Zero Trust in Cloud Environments, provided a deep dive into the evolving security landscape of cloud computing. Traditional perimeter-based models are no longer sufficient, making Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA) a necessity. Expert speaker Advait Patel broke down practical strategies for implementing Zero Trust in AWS and Google Cloud Platform (GCP), focusing on securing identities, enforcing strict access controls, and automating security policies. Attendees gained invaluable insights into real-world cloud attack scenarios and effective mitigation techniques. A highlight of the session was the live demo, where Advait demonstrated the configuration of Zero Trust IAM policies, network segmentation, and automated compliance enforcement. By the end, participants walked away with actionable steps to strengthen their cloud security posture using identity-centric security frameworks, policy-as-code tools, and micro segmentation techniques.

Following this, the second session, From Theory to Trust - The Blueprint for AI Governance, tackled the challenges of AI governance with a refreshing and practical approach. Speaker Chelsea Smith illuminated how organizations can navigate the complexities of AI regulations, cutting through vague frameworks to present an executable decision-tree blueprint tailored to different AI systems. The session covered critical governance frameworks such as NIST AI RMF, the EU AI Act, and ISO 42001, stripping away unnecessary complexity to focus on practical implementation. Attendees witnessed a live demo of a governance tool and left with take-home resources to scale AI compliance within their organizations. Chelsea's insights underscored the urgency of adapting AI governance strategies to the rapidly evolving technological landscape, ensuring businesses remain compliant and proactive in managing AI-related risks.

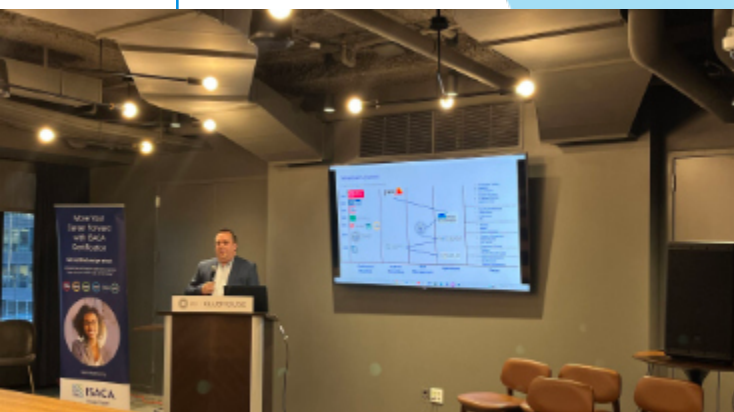
4

APRIL CHAPTER MEETING IN-PERSON EVENT [APR 17TH, 2025]

The first session, Advanced Strategies for Secure AI Integration in Data Governance and Cybersecurity, provided attendees with a deep technical overview of building a sustainable AI environment tailored to organizational needs. Ken Kimbel, a recognized AI innovator, guided participants through critical decision-making processes, ensuring AI solutions align with governance, cybersecurity, and privacy standards. The discussion highlighted techniques for safely using AI, emphasizing internally developed features that enhance security and compliance. Real-world use cases demonstrated how AI can streamline risk evaluation and assessment automation, offering organizations a strategic approach to AI-driven security. By the end of the session, participants gained

a structured framework for integrating AI without compromising security, making informed decisions that reinforce responsible AI practices.

The second session, Data Security and Governance Impacts of AI, featured an expert panel moderated by Xiaochen Zhang, alongside thought leaders Sandeep Maira, Wendy Betts, and Rahul Maheshwary. The discussion delved into the challenges and opportunities AI presents in data security, governance, and compliance across various industries. Each panelist provided insights drawn from their extensive experience in cybersecurity, risk management, and digital transformation. Topics included AI-driven threat mitigation, regulatory impacts, and strategies for balancing innovation with security protocols. Attendees walked away with a comprehensive understanding of how AI is reshaping governance practices, along with practical recommendations for ensuring AI implementations adhere to robust security and compliance frameworks.



5

**MAY CHAPTER MEETING
VIRTUAL EVENT [MAY 15TH, 2025]**

The May Chapter Meeting event featured two insightful sessions, each tackling critical aspects of AI security and compliance. The first session, *Securing Generative AI: Addressing Risks in the Age of AI-Powered Innovation*, explored the evolving cybersecurity challenges tied to the rapid adoption of generative AI. Guest speaker Adnan Rafique, a cybersecurity leader at Elevance Health, delved into issues such as data poisoning, model inversion, adversarial attacks, and regulatory compliance. He provided valuable insights into securing AI models, protecting data privacy, and mitigating misuse, offering security professionals actionable strategies to safeguard their organizations from AI-driven threats.

The second session, *GRC is Broken & Now Meaningless Except as a Sales Tool*, examined the unintended consequences of automation in compliance. Guest speaker Jake Bernardes, an experienced CISO, discussed how automation platforms have diminished the true value of governance, risk, and compliance (GRC), often reducing it to a mere checkbox exercise. Bernardes highlighted the pitfalls of the "SOC-in-a-box" approach and emphasized the need for a more meaningful GRC foundation. Through engaging analogies and real-world stories, he shared practical steps to reintegrate compliance as a cornerstone of an effective security program, helping organizations achieve genuine security maturity.



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Member Benefits Spotlight: Why Being an ISACA Chicago Member Pays Off As we move into another exciting quarter, it's a great time to revisit the exclusive value your ISACA Chicago membership brings across three key areas: **Savings, Access, and Knowledge.**



SAVINGS

Maximize your professional investment with exclusive member-only perks:

- Save up to 25% on globally recognized certification exams (CISA, CISM, CRISC, CGEIT, CSX-P)
- Free access to 72+ CPE hours annually through webinars, audit programs, and publications
- Discounted pricing on ISACA conferences, in-person training, publications, and online courses
- Participate in our Member Get a Member program for even more rewards



ACCESS

Get connected with the people, tools, and opportunities that matter most:

- Network at global and local ISACA conferences and chapter events
- Tap into hundreds of job postings and career tools via the ISACA Career Centre
- Join exclusive member-only online career fairs and volunteer opportunities
- Engage in real-time with industry experts in ISACA Engage communities
- Leverage advocacy initiatives and access to frameworks, standards, and audit programs



KNOWLEDGE

Stay at the forefront of the digital trust and risk landscape with cutting-edge insights:

- Access to ISACA Journal, webinars, whitepapers, and case studies
- Complimentary download of Implementation Guides
- Industry reports, surveys, and certificate programs to validate your expertise
- Curated content from Advantage Partners
- Monthly @ISACA e-newsletters to keep you informed on trends and tools

Whether you are looking to grow your career, expand your network, or stay sharp in the ever-evolving IT risk and assurance world, your ISACA Chicago membership delivers unmatched value.

Stay connected. Stay informed. Stay ahead.



Certified Information
Systems Auditor.



Certified Information
Security Manager.



Certified in Risk
and Information
Systems Control.



Certified Data Privacy
Solutions Engineer.



Certified in the
Governance of
Enterprise IT.



Certified Cybersecurity
Operations Analyst.



MENTORSHIP

Mentorship Matters: Grow Together with ISACA Chicago

- Whether you're an experienced professional or just starting your career journey, mentorship through ISACA Chicago is a powerful way to connect, learn, and lead.



JOIN OUR MENTOR ADVOCATES LINKEDIN GROUP

We're excited to launch the ISACA Chicago Mentor Advocates LinkedIn group – your go-to space for mentorship insights, community stories, and exclusive resources.

- **Interested in becoming a Mentor Advocate?** Join the conversation and help champion mentorship within our chapter. Details will be shared in the group soon!

Past Program Participants – Reactivate Your Chronus Profile!

If you participated in a past cohort of our mentorship program, your profile has been migrated to ISACA Global's platform.

- Please take a moment to log in to Chronus and update your information to ensure you're visible and ready to match with potential mentors or mentees.

CALL FOR MENTORS & MENTEES

We're always looking for passionate professionals to enrich our mentorship community. Whether you're:

- A mentor looking to give back and refine your leadership skills, or
- A mentee seeking guidance, support, and professional growth...

there's a place for you in our ISACA Global Mentorship Platform. Learn about the full benefits and register today!





SheLeadsTech TM CHICAGO CONFERENCE 2025

On May 16, 2025, ISACA Chicago hosted its annual SheLeadsTech Conference in person at the iconic London House. This year's theme, "SheLeadsTech 2025: Resilient Leadership in Action," centered on exploring resilience through a multifaceted lens—from executive leadership to cross-functional collaboration and personal empowerment.

The program featured dynamic sessions including:

- The CISO Mindset: Leading with Resilience in a Complex Cyber Landscape
- Operational Resilience in Financial Services: Beyond Compliance
- Cross-Functional Strategies for Building Organizational Resilience
- Interactive Workshop: Building Resilience in Audit, AI, and Cybersecurity
- Personal Resilience: Thriving in High-Stakes Leadership

This event served as an inspiring catalyst for advancing women in technology and leadership. We deeply appreciated the presence of allies in the room who actively champion diverse perspectives and share our commitment to shaping a more secure and inclusive professional landscape.

SheLeadsTech is an expertise program initiated by ISACA Chicago. This pioneer initiative aims at elevating the representation of women in technology leadership roles and the tech industry. The program's overarching purpose is to empower women and provide them with the necessary knowledge and support to excel in their careers within the ISACA curriculum.

Respectfully,

Ramona Ratiu- ISACA SheLeadsTech Central US Advocate

BLOG POST

TECHNOLOGY AS A TOOL FOR EMPOWERMENT, NOT EXCLUSION

ISACA Now: What does winning the Technology for Humanity Award mean to you personally and professionally?

Receiving ISACA's Technology for Humanity Award is both an incredible honor and a profound reminder of why I do what I do. This recognition is not just about my work—it represents the collective effort of so many who are driving change in cybersecurity, opening doors for underrepresented voices and ensuring that technology is a tool for empowerment, not exclusion.

For me, this award is a symbol of possibility. It reinforces my belief that with the right support, mentorship, and advocacy, we can break down barriers and create meaningful opportunities for individuals who may have never imagined a future in cybersecurity. It fuels my passion to keep pushing forward—to innovate, to educate and to lift others as I climb.

More than anything, this award belongs to the communities I serve, the women I mentor, the underprivileged professionals I've supported and the next generation of cybersecurity professionals. It's a call to action to continue this mission, ensuring that technology truly serves humanity by being inclusive, ethical and accessible to all.

ISACA Now: This is not the first time the ISACA community has recognized your leadership with an award. What does being part of the ISACA community mean to you?

Being part of the ISACA community has been an incredibly fulfilling journey. The recognition I've received, including the recent Technology for Humanity Award, along with the ISACA Inspirational Leader Award and the Outstanding Chapter Leader Award, serves as a powerful reminder of the shared dedication and collective effort that drives our community forward. These awards reflect not only my personal growth but the unwavering commitment of our entire ISACA family to advancing innovation, diversity and professional development.

The recognition from ISACA inspires me to continually aim higher and pursue even greater aspirations. It's truly motivating to be part of an organization that acknowledges the hard work of its members, driving us to achieve more and create a greater impact. After all, who doesn't appreciate being recognized for their efforts, especially when it fuels a passion for doing even more?

This support from ISACA propels me to continue working toward meaningful change, not just for our members but for the cybersecurity profession as a whole, with the goal of leaving a lasting and positive impact.



ISACA Now: As the newly appointed U.S. Ambassador for the Global Council for Responsible AI, what does this role mean to you, and how do you envision it advancing your work in promoting ethical AI and responsible technology leadership?

On February 20, 2025, at the House of Lords, I had the profound honor of taking an oath to become the U.S. Ambassador for the Global Council for Responsible AI (GCRAI). The Council convened over 60 distinguished leaders from around the world, united in a shared mission to shape the future of AI—ensuring that it remains ethical, secure and a force for global good.

The GCRAI's core objectives include:

- Fostering secure AI development and adoption – Championing responsible design, implementation and integration across industries to safeguard ethical technological progress.
- Promoting responsible AI awareness – Advancing education, training and recruitment initiatives from entry-level roles to C-suite and boardroom leadership, ensuring ethical AI literacy at all levels.
- Upholding ethical AI standards – Reinforcing transparency, fairness and accountability to enhance business resilience and operational efficiency through responsible innovation.
- Driving global collaboration – Harmonizing governance and regulatory frameworks to create a unified approach to responsible AI on a worldwide scale.
- Advancing responsible innovation – Developing AI-driven solutions that empower workforces, benefit humanity and proactively mitigate business risks.

It is a privilege to stand alongside visionary Ambassadors from across the globe as we embark on this pivotal initiative.

As a longstanding advocate for governance, risk and compliance, this mission deeply aligns with the ISACA community's commitment to advancing digital trust and responsible technology leadership. ISACA professionals play a critical role in shaping AI governance, ensuring security, privacy and ethical considerations remain at the forefront of innovation. By championing responsible AI practices, we empower organizations to mitigate risks, enhance resilience, and drive sustainable, technology-driven growth. Through collaboration, education and advocacy, ISACA members can be at the helm of creating AI solutions that uphold integrity and inspire confidence in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

ISACA Now: You've often emphasized the power of collaboration as a key factor in advancing the industry. In that context, how do you see the role of local ISACA chapters and leaders in driving the global impact of the organization?

I believe that ISACA chapters and leaders play a critical role in sharing the organization's mission and vision. We are the veins that propel ISACA's mission, translating its global objectives into local action. As ambassadors of ISACA, we ensure that its values are reflected in every community, fostering growth, education and collaboration. By empowering leaders at the chapter level, we amplify ISACA's impact on a global scale, ensuring that its core principles—responsible governance, digital trust and ethical technology leadership—remain at the forefront of the cybersecurity and technology sectors. I am also deeply grateful that ISACA recognizes the efforts and dedication of its leaders through awards, as it not only highlights the hard work of individuals but also inspires others to contribute to the greater good of the community and the industry as a whole.

CAREERS & CONVERSATIONS

Our monthly Careers & Conversations sessions create a dynamic space where professionals connect, learn, and grow together through guided discussions on essential workplace skills. From mastering the art of storytelling and navigating office dynamics to building resilience and leveraging AI tools, each session tackles real-world challenges that shape successful careers. These interactive networking events combine meaningful conversations with practical skill-building, covering key areas, from stress management and positive thinking to social media strategy and mentoring the next generation. The first half of 2025 featured the following topics;

- March 11, 2025 • Leveraging Social Media for your Career*
- April 1, 2025 • The Power of Positive Thinking and Listening*
- May 6, 2025 • Staying Current with AI Skills*
- June 3, 2025 • The Art of Storytelling*

Whether a participant is looking to expand professional network, sharpen your soft skills, or stay ahead of industry trends, Careers & Conversations offers a supportive environment where every interaction becomes an opportunity for growth and connection. Special thanks to Anamika Roy, Rakhee Vaidya, and Juilee Shinde for volunteering their time and expertise to make these enriching sessions possible.



MONTHLY SEMINARS

ISACA Chicago's monthly technical seminars deliver comprehensive, full-day workshop experiences designed to keep professionals at the forefront of rapidly evolving technology landscapes. These intensive sessions provide hands-on learning and deep-dive expertise across critical areas of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, cloud technologies, and emerging digital risks. Each workshop combines theoretical knowledge with practical applications, featuring industry experts who share real-world insights and specialized tools for modern IT and audit professionals. These immersive learning experiences foster technical skill development while addressing the complex challenges facing today's digital-first organizations, ensuring participants leave equipped with actionable strategies and cutting-edge knowledge they can immediately apply in their professional roles.

Special thanks to our dedicated volunteers, Ramona Ratiu and Anamika Roy for sourcing exceptional speakers and expertly managing these comprehensive technical sessions. Topics covered from January 2025 till date are;

- | | |
|----------|---|
| January | • <i>Cyber Impact and Strategy Analysis</i> |
| February | • <i>Securing the Cloud</i> |
| March | • <i>Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI 101</i> |
| April | • <i>Artificial Intelligence and Information Security</i> |
| May | • <i>AI Board Responsibilities & Risk Workshop</i> |
| June | • <i>Generative AI for IT and Cyber Auditors</i> |



**ISACA Advanced
in AI Audit™**



AI AUDITING NEEDS LEADERS. BECOME ONE.

ISACA®, the leader in IT audit, introduces the first advanced audit-specific artificial intelligence certification designed for experienced auditors: the Advanced in AI Audit™ (AAIA™). Building on the skills validated by ISACA's CISA® or those of qualified CIA (IIA), or CPA (AICPA) holders, the AAIA certification empowers auditing professionals to stand up to the challenge and become leaders in the emerging AI future.

SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS AND YOUR RESUME WITH NEXT-GENERATION EXPERTISE

ISACA's new certification goes beyond standard audit credentials. It connotes the leading-edge skills to assess risk, identify opportunities and ensure compliance in three key domains:



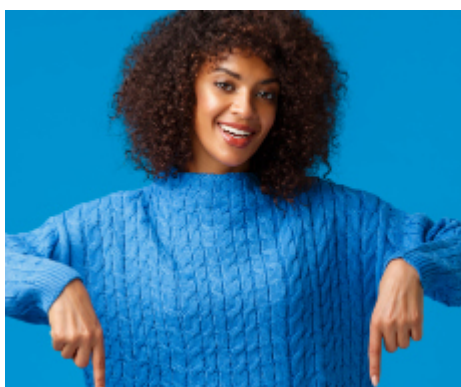
**AI GOVERNANCE
AND RISK**



**AI AUDITING TOOLS
AND TECHNIQUES**



AI OPERATIONS



WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM AAIA?

ACTIVE CISA, CIA (IIA) OR CPA (AICPA) HOLDERS

PROVEN EXPERIENCE IN IT AUDIT OR IT ADVISORY ROLES

SOME EXPERTISE AUDITING, ASSESSING, IMPLEMENTING
AND MAINTAINING AI SYSTEMS

SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS!

Know someone who has not joined our Chapter yet? Now is the perfect time to get them on board—join by the end of July and snag a membership at half the cost! Don't let them miss out on the connections, knowledge, and community that make us stronger together.



ISACA CHICAGO CONVERGENCE 2025

Up to **12** CPEs

**RISK AND REWARD: GOVERNANCE
FOR THE FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY**

AUGUST 12 & 13
8:00AM - 5:00PM

SCAN HERE FOR MORE DETAILS
AND REGISTRATION








 **The Peninsula Chicago**
108 E Superior St

**Conference & Rooftop
Networking Reception**



ISACA Chicago is grateful to the Communication
Committee for spearheading the newsletter initiative

 Anurag Sharma  David Gerleman
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