

Message from Our President

Dear IMA Chicago Chapter Members:

Recently, we celebrated a few of our members for reaching their 25-year mark as members of IMA. In celebrating their achievement I personally mailed each of them their certificates of appreciation, granted by IMA Global. I was touched to have received a thank you note from one of the members I sent a certificate to. It was comforting to know that we have such enthusiastic members who understand the value of IMA and being a member of such a distinguished organization. With that said, I would like to take this time to stress the importance of staying engaged with IMA and our local IMA Chicago Chapter.

There is no better way to stay up-to-date with what IMA is doing and how your fellow peers are using their membership with IMA to better their professional life, than to attend our monthly events. This year's program is sure to have events that appeal to each of our members in one way or another. IMA Chicago is constantly making updates to this year's program so I encourage each of our members to check back frequently and learn what our chapter has to offer.

On another positive note, I would like to announce IMA Chicago's partnership with Northwestern University to celebrate their newly launched CMA Certificate Program. As one of the nations most reputable schools, the program is designed to prepare students for the CMA exam while earning a Professional Development Certificate to help launch their career to the next level. For more information please see page 2 of our newsletter or visit our site by [clicking here](#).

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at the information below or any of our Board of Directors whose information is located on the last page of the newsletter.

Regards,  
 Chase A. Thompson  
 IMA Chicago Chapter, President & Webmaster  
 Phone: (616) 460-6462  
[president.chicago.ima@gmail.com](mailto:president.chicago.ima@gmail.com)

CHICAGO CHAPTER

THE ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTANTS & FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS IN BUSINESS



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September 2013

## CERTIFIED MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

### CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Certified Management Accountant (CMA) credential offers the vital knowledge and expertise needed to compete in today's business world. More than 30,000 professionals worldwide hold the CMA designation and can deliver the critical accounting and financial management skills demanded by top global employers.

Northwestern's CMA program provides comprehensive, instructor-led CMA exam preparation. The program's two courses — Financial Decision Making and Financial Planning, Performance and Control — mirror the CMA exam and provide students with the knowledge and tools needed to advance their accounting and financial management careers.

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Classes begin in September — learn in the Chicago Loop and online.  
[scs.northwestern.edu/cma](http://scs.northwestern.edu/cma) • 312-503-0714



SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES

## WANTED

Your Chicago chapter is looking for our new Director of Member Retention & Participation

We are looking for a motivated individual who wishes to help their IMA community. If you are looking for growth opportunities and increasing your networking circle for future career opportunities then you should consider joining our team.

As Director of Member Retention & Participation your duties would consist of:

- Encouraging retention and continuing participation within the chapter
- Indoctrinate and activate new members
- Maintain the interest of active members
- Contact past due and up for renewal members

For more information or to apply for the position please contact the IMA Chicago President at [president.chicago.ima@gmail.com](mailto:president.chicago.ima@gmail.com)



Your Chicago IMA has partnered with Gleim to ensure your success on the CMA exam! They will provide you the necessary study tools to prepare for this difficult exam.

Gleim has been the trusted name in preparing candidates for success with their extensive self-study course for the CMA exam for over 30 years. The Gleim Review System enables you to identify your weak areas so you know where to focus your efforts to pass each exam part the first time.

As a member of the chapter, you are eligible for significant discounts on any of Gleim's CMA materials, as well as Gleim CPE. To take advantage of the reduced prices, please contact our chapter representative, Melissa Leonard.

By phone: (800) 874-5346, Ext. 131  
By email: [melissa.leonard@gleim.com](mailto:melissa.leonard@gleim.com)  
By fax: (888) 375-6940, attn: Melissa Leonard

Please visit [www.gleim.com/IMChapter](http://www.gleim.com/IMChapter) for more information on the CMA and Gleim.



September 2013



## IMPROV FOR BUSINESS

Effective communication is key to any successful relationship. Join IMA Chicago for an eventful and unique workshop. This two-hour workshop provides a “no pressure” atmosphere for learning traditional Improv Games and Exercises based in the style of Chicago’s Second City.

A very successful class for people who are looking to be comfortable with off-the-cuff public speaking or for someone who really enjoyed being in their high school play but haven’t been on stage since; great for helping develop skills to make business relationships more personal and unrestrained. The curriculum is based on the games and exercises created by Viola Spolin (Improvisation for the Theater) and Keith Johnstone (Improv).

Our classes begin with a variety of non-verbal games that will help classmates become comfortable with physical expression. Group story-telling exercises help in learning to talk attentively, followed by various scene-based games that explore spontaneity and building trust in your scene partners. While the study of Improvisation was created for and by actors, it is useful in everyday business situations where communication needs to be at its peak.

IMA Chicago is teaming up with Anthony Whitaker at The Den Theatre for an evening of improv to improve business communication skills. Mr. Whitaker will host, facilitate, and instruct the workshop. The Den Theatre will be open 30 minutes before the event to allow for attendee networking. Bottled water will be served to our attendees.

To learn more, purchase tickets, or to RSVP visit our website by [clicking here](http://chicago.imanet.org).

**When:**  
**September 11**

**Time:**  
**6:00PM – 8:30 PM**

**Where:**  
**The Den Theatre**

**1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Floor, Chicago, 60622**

**CPE Offered: 1.5**



September 2013

## The World of Business Ethics

Ethics is a part of all areas of life spanning from our personal to professional lives. Learn how to make those hard decisions and practice ethical business decisions on and off the job. Joining IMA Chicago to speak on the Topic of Business Ethics is Tim McCormick, CEO of SOS Children's Village and Professor of Business Ethics at DePaul University. Tim McCormick is a true expert in the area of Ethics and provides interesting and upbeat presentations.

Be sure to join us September 26<sup>th</sup> at The Metropolitan Club to get your Ethics CPE in. Buy your tickets in advance to receive a \$5 discount. Pricing includes two drinks and a selection of appetizers. Networking prior to the event will take place at 6:00PM followed by Tim McCormick's presentation at 6:30PM.

**When:**  
**September 26**

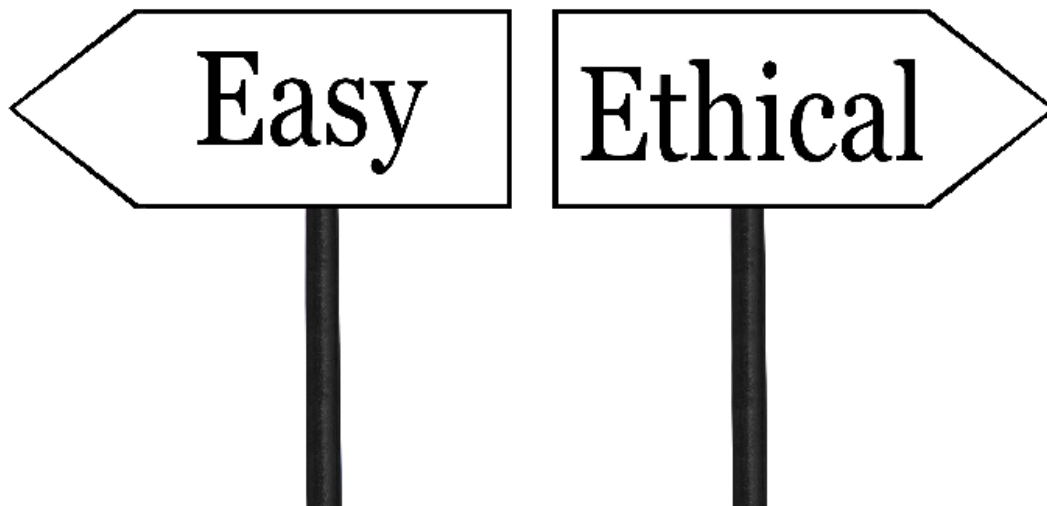
**Time:**  
**6:00PM – 8:30 PM**

**Where:**  
**The Metropolitan Club**

**233 S. Wacker Drive,  
67<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60606**

**CPE Offered: 1.5**

To learn more, purchase tickets, or to RSVP visit our website by [clicking here](http://chicago.imanet.org).





September 2013

## 2013-2014 IMA Chicago Program

Month	Event	Description	Speaker/Presenter
Sep	<a href="#">Improv for Business</a>	Effective communication is key to any successful relationship. Join IMA Chicago for an eventful and unique workshop.	Anthony Whitaker The Den Theatre
Sep	<a href="#">Business Ethics</a>	Ethics is a part of all areas of life spanning from our personal to professional lives. Learn how to make those hard decisions and practice ethical business decisions on and off the job.	Tim McCormick, CEO SOS Children's Village
Oct	Career Night	Are you looking for a new career or just trying to stay up-to-date on the most relevant resume and social networking strategies? Regardless of your motives, our career workshop has the ability to teach you the necessary do's and don'ts to give you a step ahead of your competition.	TBA
Nov	<a href="#">Mystery Fraud Event</a>	Join the NWS IMA Chapter for a night of fraud in the form of an interactive dinner theatre. Hosted by Mr. Timothy Hungerford of Hungerford Vinton, this event is sure to be one of excitement and mystery.	Timothy Hungerford Hungerford Vinton, LLC
Dec	Holiday Social	Join your fellow IMA Chicago members and board to celebrate the holiday season with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.	
Jan	Corporate & Personal Tax Update	Learn new and upcoming tax updates to prepare you for the upcoming tax season.	TBA
Feb	Annual Dinner & Board Election	Join the Chicago IMA for our annual dinner and Board of Director elections. Have your say in who governs the IMA Chicago while enjoying a night of food and networking.	
Mar	Tech. for Management Accounts	In an ever-increasing technological world it's imperative to stay up-to-date on tools available to leverage, making daily tasks as productive as possible.	TBA
Apr	Excel Tips and Tricks	Stop spending countless hours "Googling" Excel formulas and learn from the professionals. These tips and tricks will keep your Excel skills at their best.	TBA
May	Young Professionals Event	Calling all Young Professionals for IMA Chicago's first-ever event created for Young Professionals and their unique needs.	TBA

**Click each event to be taken to details including further event descriptions, date and time, location, cost, and CPE offered.**

**NOTE: This year IMA Chicago has enabled payment through our website and is currently offering discounts to those who pay early. Should you choose to pay at the time of event no discount will be given. At the event location we will be able to process cash, credit, and checks.**

September 2013

## Are You Prepared For The 'Specialist Economy'?

Research Examines Specialized Workforce Trend, Identifies Skills in Demand

By Marilyn Bird, District President, Robert Half International, based in Chicago

June 6, 2013



MENLO PARK, Calif., June 6, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- Jacks-of-all-trades, masters-of-none, beware: Companies increasingly require specialized talent, and professionals with niche skills in fast-growing fields are often receiving multiple job offers.

To view the multimedia assets associated with this release, [please click](#):

A just-released downloadable [white paper](#) from [Robert Half](#), *The Specialist Economy: How Businesses and Professionals Can Prepare for the Trend Toward Specialization*, highlights the increasing demand for workers in professions requiring both a college education and specialization in areas such as healthcare, accounting and finance, information technology, marketing, and law.

"Firms have a critical need for laser-focused professionals who can help them grow their most lucrative service areas and maximize efficiencies," said Max Messmer, chairman and CEO of Robert Half International and author of *Human Resources Kit For Dummies*<sup>®</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.).

"Full-time and temporary workers with education and concentrated knowledge can help a company operate more efficiently and competitively — top priorities in today's business environment."

Messmer added, "Some professionals have specialized skills but fall short when it comes to marketing themselves. Emphasizing specialty areas in application materials and during interviews can help job candidates stand out from their peers."

Robert Half offers six tips to help job seekers succeed in the [specialist economy](#):

1. **Create a specialist resume.** Your resume should highlight your unique specialty areas and interests. For example, if you're an accountant who has worked in the healthcare industry, emphasize not only your accounting skills but also your healthcare expertise. Add a "Summary" section that describes your specific attributes and experience.
2. **Build a name for yourself online.** Brand yourself as a specialist through professional networking and social media sites. Add keywords to your profile that reflect your specialization, and participate in groups in your areas of interest.
3. **Know yourself.** If you're just beginning your career, choose a niche that strongly interests you, and acquire additional skills and training in that area. A career focus that you are passionate about is more likely to lead to long-term success.
4. **Acquire more education.** The unemployment rate for professionals 25 years or older with a bachelor's degree or higher is roughly half that of the general unemployment rate. Depending on where you are in your career trajectory, consider completing a degree or certification in your field that you never finished — or never pursued.
5. **Fish where the fish are.** If you're in a competitive field, specialization is even more important to your career success. For example, if you're a marketing professional, specializing in a hot area such as cloud computing, mobile marketing or natural search can help you become more attractive to potential employers.
6. **Work with a specialized staffing firm.** A staffing company that specializes in your field can help you accurately highlight your strengths and specialty areas.





# CHICAGO CHAPTER



THE ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTANTS & FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS IN BUSINESS

September 2013

Your IMA Chicago Board of Directors is made up of dedicated volunteers who constantly strive to add value to your membership.

Please feel free to contact any member of our Board of Directors with any questions, comments, or suggestions. Your input is greatly appreciated.

## 2013-2014 IMA CHICAGO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Position	Name	Email
President & Webmaster	Chase A. Thompson	<a href="mailto:president.chicago.ima@gmail.com">president.chicago.ima@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Cathi Suhling	<a href="mailto:treasurer.ima.chicago@gmail.com">treasurer.ima.chicago@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Lukasz Budolak	<a href="mailto:secretary.ima.chicago@gmail.com">secretary.ima.chicago@gmail.com</a>
VP, Membership	Stephen Craig	<a href="mailto:vp.memberships.ima.chicago@gmail.com">vp.memberships.ima.chicago@gmail.com</a>
VP, Administration & Finance	Jim Wilber	<a href="mailto:vp.admin.finance.ima.chicago@gmail.com">vp.admin.finance.ima.chicago@gmail.com</a>
Director, Education Meetings & Seminars	Joel VanderWeele	<a href="mailto:dirmeetings.ima.chicago@gmail.com">dirmeetings.ima.chicago@gmail.com</a>
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