

This Month:

IMA Student Leadership Conference



This year's SLC was a great success. Taking place in Charlotte, NC, this conference brought students together to network, and learn about how they can better themselves as leaders and individuals.

Throughout the three day event, students took part in seminars which explored different fields accounting students can explore and team as well as leadership building. More pictures and information from the conference can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/IMAnetORG>

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear IMA Chicago Chapter Members:

In the spirit of the season, I would like to take this time to thank you, our members, for your commitment to IMA and IMA Chicago. Your Board of Directors are dedicated to providing outstanding service to each of our many members. Every decision we make or event we host is for the growth of our chapter, which I am proud to say is made up of more than 575 accomplished members.

Both the IMA and Chicago chapter have had much to be thankful for this past month. IMA Global recently held their annual Student Leadership conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. This year's SLC boasted a record 550 students from all around the country. Our very own Lukasz Budolak, Secretary and Director of Newsletters was in attendance representing DePaul University. Just a day before the SLC, IMA Chicago held a successful event focused on resumes, social media, and career networking strategies. We were pleased to see many of our student members turn out to prepare for their future careers.

Looking ahead IMA Chicago has three more events before the 2013-2014 IMA year ends. In January, the chapter will host an annual corporate and personal tax update with details to come. We recently reached out to some of our members who represent accounting, audit, and tax firms regarding any interest in speaking. If we missed any of you please feel free to contact me should you wish to speak or know of anyone who would like to share their expertise.

Again, I want to express just how thankful the chapter is for each of our members. I know I have stated this many times, but we would be nothing without you. That said, if there is anything we can do to better meet your needs, I encourage you to reach out. No suggestion is too small in helping improve the service we provide.

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

Regards,

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

As event details are finalized, hyperlinks will be added to the event titles. Click each event to be taken to details including further event descriptions, date and time, location, cost, and CPE offered.

CHICAGO PROGRAM

JANUARY | Corporate & Personal Tax Update

Learn new and upcoming tax updates to prepare you for the upcoming tax season.

MARCH | Technology 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.

MAY | Young Professionals Event

Calling all Young Professionals for IMA Chicago's first-ever event created for Young Professionals and their unique needs.

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

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.

Classes begin in September — learn in the Chicago Loop and online.
scs.northwestern.edu/cma • 312-503-0714



SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES

Mid-America Council Leadership Training Seminar

April 24-25, 2014

NIU Rockford

Meeting & Conference Center
8500 E. State St., Rockford, IL

<http://midamerica.imanet.org/events.htm>

UPCOMING CPE

CMA Survivor 2013: Do You Have What It Takes?

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (EST) (UTC -5)

CPE: NONE

Presented by Lisa Beaudoin and Amy Ford.

Do you have what it takes to survive the CMA® exam?

Attend this interactive session to get hands-on experience with actual (retired) CMA exam questions. Learn about the exam content and process from an IMA expert, and then see if you have what it takes to pass by playing an interactive game with an accounting professor. To view webinar [click here](#) Note: CPE credit will not be offered for this webinar.

Coping With Change

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (EST) (UTC -5)

CPE: 1.5

Presented by V. Marcine Johnson.

Change is all around us – sometimes causing stress. Change cannot be escaped, but you can learn to handle change. This webinar is designed to increase your comprehension of change and its impact on individual lives. In addition, this webinar focuses on the development of techniques to better cope with the ever-present change occurring around you. To view webinar [click here](#)

Capitalizing on Disruptive Technologies to Drive Better Business Outcomes

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (EST) (UTC -5)

CPE: 1.0

CEOs indicate that technology is the single most important external force shaping their organization's future¹. Disruptive technologies such as mobility, cloud, social media, and big data and analytics are not just part of the infrastructure needed to execute a business strategy. They are what make entirely new strategies possible. This session will describe how Finance organizations should be thinking about these new capabilities to help the enterprise drive greater agility, business insight and better outcomes. To view webinar [click here](#)

Career Paths Improving For Women In Finance And Accounting

CFO Survey: Female Accountants Have More Opportunities Today Than 10 Years Ago

OCT 15, 2013

The career outlook for women in finance and accounting has improved over the past decade, suggests a new survey from global staffing firm Robert Half. More than four in 10 (42 percent) chief financial officers (CFOs) interviewed said the ability of women in the finance field to advance through the ranks is better now than 10 years ago. Just 4 percent of executives said there are fewer opportunities for women.

The survey findings are being released in advance of the 2013 Accounting & Financial Women's Alliance (AFWA) Annual Conference, being held Oct. 20-23 in Indianapolis. Robert Half's Accountemps and Robert Half Finance & Accounting divisions are the Exclusive Staffing Visionary Partners of AFWA and have been alliance partners since 1996.

The survey was developed by Robert Half, the world's first and largest specialized staffing firm, and conducted by an independent research firm. It is based on interviews with more than 2,100 CFOs from a stratified random sample of companies in more than 20 of the largest U.S. markets.

CFOs were asked, "Compared to 10 years ago, in general, are there more or fewer opportunities for women to advance through the ranks in accounting and finance?" Their responses:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Significantly more | 12% |
| Somewhat more | 30% |
| No change | 53% |
| Somewhat fewer | 3% |
| Significantly fewer | 1% |
| Don't know | 2% |
| | 101%* |

*Responses do not total 100 percent due to rounding.

"Many organizations have made great strides in promoting female professionals in accounting and finance to the executive ranks, but there's more to do," said Paul McDonald, Robert Half senior executive director. "Ensuring a diverse staff and attracting and retaining top talent should be an ongoing priority. Offering work/life balance programs can be attractive incentives for employees with children, for instance."

"In partnership with Robert Half, AFWA is focused on increasing

diversity and gender equity at every level of the profession -- from entry-level accountant to CFO," said Lee K. Lowery, CAE, AFWA executive director. "We want all employees to feel valued where they are employed, while having access to networking opportunities, leadership development and education."

As part of AFWA's conference, Robert Half has assisted with planning for the Executive Host Tour portion of "Preparing for Your Future in Accounting & Finance," a day-long event for students. The Executive Host Tour will give college students an opportunity to visit a Big Four accounting firm and learn what it's like to work there.

Noteworthy sessions presented by Robert Half during the conference include "2014 Accounting and Finance Hiring and Compensation Outlook" and "Smartphones, Email, Social Networks – Oh, My! Effectively Navigating Protocols in the Digital Age." Free continuing professional education credit is available for attendees of these sessions.

Source: Robert Half Management Resources. For original article [click here](#)

CMA NEWS

The CMA (Certified Management Accountant) is the advanced professional certification specifically designed to measure the accounting and financial management skills that drive business performance. The CMA is tailor-made for finance professionals at all levels, for those that want to enhance their value to a current organization or expand career potential.

Earning the CMA will make you part of a network of over 20,000 credentialed peers worldwide. To participate in the CMA program, candidates must be members of the IMA.



Congratulations to our new CMA's

There were no new CMA's this month.

WELCOME NEW IMA CHICAGO MEMBERS

Qixiang Chen
Pak Ho Cheung
Andrew Daniels
Michael Doyle
Joseph Theodore Elberts
Stephan Mikel Erdelyi
Yuru Guo

Subei Han
Marc Hitchen
XIYING LI
Laura Pelissier
Michael L. Schillaci
Yovette Shaw
Yingwen Shi

Kyle Scott Steckel
Ying Wang
Yumeng Wang
Wenxin Xu
Lubing Zhang
Wandong Zhao
Bradley A. Foulk



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
By fax: (888) 375-6940, attn: Melissa Leonard

Please visit www.gleim.com/IMAChapter for more information on the CMA and Gleim.



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Your IMA Chicago Board of Directors is made of dedicated volunteers who constantly strive to add value to your membership. Feel free to contact any board member with questions, comments, or suggestions to help us improve our chapter.