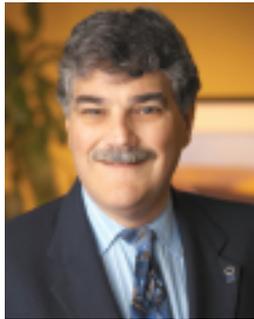


Message from the Chair



Thank You for Your Help and Hospitality

BY CARL SMITH, CMA, CFM, CPA

This is my last Perspectives column as Chair of IMA. Next month, Bill Brower will start his Perspectives columns. Time flies when you're having fun.

It has been a year of advancement for IMA. New research, professional education courses, and webinars are delivering value to IMA members. We held our first global conference in Dubai last month. We have launched

some overdue actions in an effort to see that our councils and chapters begin to rejuvenate because they are a key to IMA success and growth. We have implemented our new governance structure for the Board of Directors and have approved significant changes in our committee structure. We have new logos and brand messaging to carry us forward and get the word out about IMA. A first-time, three-year strategic plan was adopted and is now well on its way to being implemented. Our staff in Montvale is committed to and involved in the fulfillment of the Board of Directors' goals and strategic direction.

Although we have done a great number of good things, there are still many others that need to be accomplished. To me, the most impor-

tant of these is to enhance the image of our organization and profession (management accounting) among corporations and universities. We need to be recognized by all stakeholders as the global leader in management accounting thought and practice. Upon leaving their colleges and universities, students need to look beyond the public accounting firms. They need to know that there are corporate employers with jobs they can perform at pay rates that match the public accounting sector. IMA needs to assist members' employers in this effort. Large firms already have their human resources departments looking at colleges in their area, but many others don't have that level of support within their organizations. Many companies that employ IMA members are

smaller companies. They are the ones that we need to help. I have always believed that if you get a job for a student, they will be grateful for the opportunity.

IMA needs to get going on this process quickly. We have the greatest opportunity that we have had in recent years to attract bright students into our profession, companies, and IMA. I don't know how much longer this will be, so we need to act quickly.

As I mentioned at the start, this is my last column. I would like to thank all of you I have met over the past year. It has been an exciting year and—without a doubt—the most interesting in my professional life. As many of you know, I have been on sabbatical this year from the University of Hartford. I start my duties again in August when our classes begin. I plan to keep attending IMA Board and committee meetings and also visit some of the award-winning chapters in the fall. If our paths haven't crossed, I hope they do in the future. I think IMA is heading in the right direction, and I know that Bill Brower and his team will continue our success.

If you have any questions, please contact me at csmith@imanet.org. ■