

International Language

By Ian A. Bradley, CMA, CFM, CPA



Ian Bradley, CMA, CFM, CPA, ACMA, is controller & cost manager for T&S Brass and Bronze Works in Travellers Rest, S.C., and is a member of IMA's Greater Greenville Chapter. You can reach him at (864) 834-6725, ibradley@tsbrass.com, or www.linkedin.com/in/ianbradley.

I count myself very fortunate to have worked in accounting on three different continents. To me, the keys to my very mobile career have been my managerial accounting background, an ability to understand financial and accounting problems from the viewpoint of nonfinancial managers, and a belief in continuing education.

In 1992, I earned my accountancy degree from Newcastle Polytechnic, England, and immediately began work for a manufacturing company. At the beginning of my career, I knew that I would be required to pass the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants' (CIMA) qualification within two years. CIMA, the U.K.'s equivalent of the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA®), required members to pass eight separate exams to obtain its ACMA certification. It's amazing how motivating an ultimatum like that can be. I passed the qualifying exams within 18 months.

Milliken & Company hired me in 1996 and gave me the opportunity to work in the United States on a three-year assignment. My management accounting training proved indispensable, enabling me to quickly understand U.S. accounting and policies. As a result, I could provide value to the company, both as a cost manager and then as controller for one of its largest facilities.

In 2000, I returned to Europe for a three-year assignment at Milliken's U.K. divisional headquarters. There I led the European management accounting function, coordinating company initiatives on cost and

inventory reduction. In addition, I headed up the implementation of activity-based costing and profitability reporting systems across six countries.

Returning to the U.S. in 2003, I continued my professional education, studying for the Certified Management Accountant (CMA®) and Certified Financial Manager (CFM®) exams and earning both credentials.

A new episode in my career began as I moved to my current company, T&S Brass and Bronze Works, Inc. Here I'm the controller of the U.S. and Shanghai facilities, working closely with sales, manufacturing, and purchasing to help the company strengthen our brand to customers.

At the same time, I began getting actively involved in IMA, serving on the board of the Greater Greenville Chapter for five years and holding the roles of education VP, webmaster, and president. In addition, I have presented on international business and management accounting topics at both the regional and council levels. This involvement has proved deeply rewarding in terms of both the number of new friends I have made and new skills learned.

My IMA work has also led to my role as adjunct professor of accounting at Furman University, where I teach International Accounting, Accounting Information Systems, and Advanced Financial Accounting. There I look forward to the next step of my IMA involvement as I teach a CMA exam prep course using IMA tools in the fall of 2010. **SF**