

## Hard Work Pays Off

By Kevin San



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I can remember receiving e-mail after e-mail from IMA® (Institute of Management Accountants) about four years ago and deleting them one by one. Today, I look forward to reading them. During my undergraduate career at Rhode Island College, I was president of the Student Accounting Association, where IMA was first brought to my attention. Since then, I've participated in numerous events with the Providence Chapter and attended the past three IMA Student Leadership Conferences. The Conferences were tremendous opportunities where I learned a lot that I still rely on today and where I made lifelong friendships. The number of IMA members in Rhode Island has steadily increased the past few years, and I'll continue to be a member and promote IMA within the community.

An important aspect of the accounting world is networking. Without networking and meeting other students and professionals in the industry, I wouldn't be where I am today. As a hard-working and outgoing individual, I was able to obtain numerous internships in the public, private, and not-for-profit industries during college, and now I work in the government sector, which I enjoy. Throughout that experience, I've met and worked for many people I still connect with today. An imperative piece of advice I would tell other students is to network and not take it for granted.

Another piece of advice I have for students—and others—is to work hard and

study every day to reach your goals. During my sophomore and junior years of college, I interned at three different companies while attending school full-time. I'm a firm believer in the saying, "Hard work pays off." Remember, if you enjoy what you do, you'll never work a day in your life.

I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Rhode Island College last year. I'm currently enrolled in their Master of Professional Accountancy program and will finish in June 2013. I chose to major in accounting solely because I believed it could be beneficial in the long run.

I honestly didn't know very much about IMA when I joined, but it has broadened my horizons in many different ways over the years. As I've met other members—professionals and students—from across the country, I've found that their commitment and passion to achieve their goals is truly sincere, honorable, and the essence of their professionalism. They've, in part, inspired me to continue to strive and be an ambassador for the accounting profession and IMA. I'm proud to be a part of such an organization and privileged to have had the ability to share in its success over the past few years.

IMA has been significantly beneficial for me, as I know it will be for many others as well. To all the aspiring accounting and other business professionals around the world today, I wish you the best of luck in your endeavors. **SF**