

## Road to the Good Life

By Roland Madison, CPA



**Roland Madison, CPA, Ph.D., is a member of IMA's Cleveland East Chapter. You can reach him at [HuskerFan78@aol.com](mailto:HuskerFan78@aol.com).**

I earned my bachelor's degree in accounting, with an economics minor, from West Virginia Institute of Technology. That summer I started my M.S. in Accountancy degree at Kent State University but ran out of funds after completing three classes.

So for two years I taught at Cannelton Middle School. From that experience I learned that I definitely wanted to teach, but not at that level. After returning to Kent State and earning my master's in 1971, I taught financial accounting for the next five years. I dearly loved teaching intermediate and advanced financial classes.

During the summer of 1974 I started my DBA with a specialization in accounting at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). After two years, I moved my family to begin full-time doctoral studies there. I wrote my final paper for Seminar in Managerial Accounting on the subject of transfer pricing, which my professor recommended I submit for publication.

The following year, while I was all but dissertation from UNL, I joined the faculty at the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO), where I taught cost accounting. When you cross the state line into Nebraska, a sign reads "Nebraska—the Good Life." When I completed my degree in 1978, I knew exactly what the sign meant. It is the good life, and the people there are wonderful.

One of my colleagues at UNO was the manuscript director for the National Association of Accountants (now IMA) chapter in Omaha. He asked me to join NAA and the

chapter and submit my transfer pricing paper to *Management Accounting*. My article was published in June 1979.

I returned to Marshall University and stayed there for four and a half years. Eventually I took a job at John Carroll University near Cleveland, Ohio. Since I had a doctorate in the field and had published 14 articles in four years, I was offered a position as a tenured full professor and made chair of the nine-person accounting department.

After teaching financial accounting for more than 10 years, I completed my 40-year teaching career by teaching cost accounting, graduate managerial accounting, and seminars in controllership. During that time, I published more than 150 articles in more than 16 business, academic, and professional accounting journals.

Teaching wasn't my only interest. I was a member of IMA's Chapter Operations Committee, served on IMA's Ethics Committee for nine years, and helped write the new IMA Code of Ethics in 2005 (*The IMA Statement of Ethical Professional Practice*). I also graded the CMA® (Certified Management Accountant) paper/pencil exam from 1990 to 1997. I presently serve on three editorial boards, including *Strategic Finance* and *Management Accounting Quarterly*. Although I have been "retired" for four years, I'm having a lot of fun making a contribution to our profession. Please encourage your colleagues to join IMA and become active members—they won't regret it! **SF**