

Transition to Professional

By Amy L. Mings, CVA



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My IMA® experience began in 2006 while I was a student at the University of Southern Indiana (USI). The University had an active IMA student chapter, and my professors highly encouraged me to get involved to develop my teamwork, time management, and leadership skills. During my time at USI, I was fortunate to be elected a student officer and held various positions within the chapter. I helped plan and execute our student meetings by securing professional speakers and coordinated community service activities. By immersing myself within the student chapter, I had the opportunity to learn and grow in a diverse setting and prepare for the “real world.”

The student chapter also provided me with multiple chances to attend IMA's Annual Student Leadership Conference (SLC), where I explored career options firsthand while networking with experienced professionals and interacted with students who shared my interests. This also helped me develop new friendships.

In 2007 and 2008, I participated on USI's IMA Student Case Competition team. In 2007, we earned the status of “Final Four” and went on to host a session at IMA's SLC to share best practices regarding the competition. In 2008, we won first place. Through these experiences I learned invaluable life skills that I couldn't have experienced without getting involved.

While still a student at USI, I also served simultaneously as a liaison between USI accounting students and local professionals

when I was a student representative board member of IMA's Evansville Chapter. In that role, I helped plan and execute networking and social events for students, young professionals, and regular IMA members. This allowed me to further develop my leadership skills and explore new avenues in a safe environment. Being involved outside USI gave me a taste of what life would be like after graduation. Because of my level of service to the Evansville Chapter as a student member, I was awarded the Evansville IMA Outstanding Junior Scholarship in 2007.

The skills I learned as a student member helped me transition into a true professional in my career. I'm currently a senior advisor at Harding, Shymanski & Company, P.S.C. and have been with the firm since I graduated from USI in 2008. Last year I received my CVA (Certified Valuation Analyst) designation, and I lead our firm's fraud prevention practice.

I'm still very passionate about giving back to IMA. Currently I serve as president of the Evansville Chapter and vice president of the Lincoln Trail Regional Council. In November 2013, my abstract submission was accepted to be presented at IMA's 95th Annual Conference & Exposition in June. I'm looking forward to speaking at the Conference and connecting with several professionals I met years ago at the SLCs.

I'll be forever grateful for the experiences I've had with IMA so far in my career and plan to continue to serve in IMA to support our members, professionals, and community. **SF**