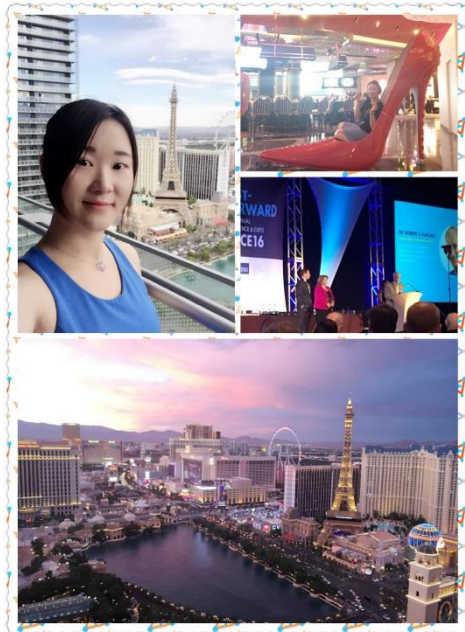


Networking Drives Success

My name is Rayne Xu (Rongyan). I am a graduate student from Eastern Michigan University (EMU) and major in Accounting Information Systems. I was a former president of IMA student chapter at EMU and scholarship winner for the IMA Ann Arbor chapter in 2016.



During the EMU College of Business Honor Banquet, I mentioned to Susan Bos, a former member of the IMA's Board of Directors that I planned to travel to Shanghai, China. She told me that a former EMU student, Rebecca Zhu, visited the IMA China office and had a good experience there. After I expressed my interest of going, she connected me with Jim Gurowka, the Vice President of International Development, and Sherry Ma, who is the IMA China Business Relationship Manager. Through several emails and calls, I was scheduled to meet the IMA Shanghai officer Ivy and Chris. We had a great talk about background, IMA events and discussed different ideas between the operations in the U.S. and China IMA chapter. Since my visit in Shanghai was only several weeks, I did not have the chance to meet with local students. At the end of the meeting, we exchanged contact information for future networking opportunities.

After coming back to U.S. from IMA Shanghai office visit, I attended the 2016 IMA Annual Conference in Las Vegas. This was my first time participating in such a professional event. There were more than 50 management accounting related sessions for this five-day event and participants could also earn CPE credit for each session they have attended. For the first timer, there is an orientation that gave tips on planning the agenda, navigating the conference and having the opportunity to meet other first-timers and begin building the professional network. There was a roundtable session that we can pick the topic that we were interested and sit with other professionals to discuss about it. During the conference, I have met professionals from various industries and learned many aspects on the current issues and future trends for the accounting field.



Networking has become one of the most important components in today's accounting world. It was very rewarding for me to join the IMA as a student member and make friends with other members in the IMA family.