

***Annual Tax Update from  
Plante & Moran  
Wednesday  
November 16, 2011***

***Damon's (4960 Towne Centre Rd, Saginaw, MI 48604)***

Dinner Speakers: Jennifer Heatwole and Gretchen Stuart from Plante & Moran will be discussing upcoming tax changes at the federal and Michigan level as well as year-end planning tips.

5:30 p.m..... Networking  
6:00 p.m..... Presentations  
7:30 p.m..... Dinner  
8:00 p.m. .... Board Meeting

**RSVP by Friday, November 11** to Courtney Schoch via e-mail  
[courtneyschoch@gmail.com](mailto:courtneyschoch@gmail.com) or telephone at 989-274-7176

# President's Message



I hope everyone enjoyed our plant tour of Mersen last month and the presentation on LinkedIn and LinkUp IMA. I thought it was a great kickoff of our year, although I am partial to my employer! I have also successfully Linked In to several fellow IMA members. As always, I think the Saginaw Valley Chapter's meetings are exceptional. The November meeting will be an annual tax update from our friends at Plante & Moran. I really enjoy attending our chapter meetings not only for the educational knowledge but also for the networking opportunity. We strive for a balance of students and accounting professionals in order to assist with career placement and advancement. Our past-president, Julie Goldman, is working with our Michigan Council representative to entice area business to continue or expand their support to their employees by offering IMA membership. In the current job market, many open positions are requiring either post-bachelor degrees or certifications; many times I see "CPA or CMA preferred" which in itself tells you the value the IMA can have on your career. I hope you join us this month at Damon's.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer*

Jennifer Rezler - President

***About our November speakers:***

**Jennifer Heatwole**

Jennifer has served on Plante Moran's Tax Service staff since 1999. She has experience in accounting and tax services in the following areas:

- Service organizations including physicians, attorneys, et al
- Employee Benefit Plans
- Corporate and individual tax
- IRS Protest and Appeals

Jennifer is a member of the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA), the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and Genesee County Habitat for Humanity

**Gretchen Stuart**

Gretchen has served on the Assurance and Tax staff at Plante Moran since 2006. She has experience in accounting, auditing, and tax services for profit and not-for-profit industries:

- Manufacturing and Development (including remanufacturing)
- Not for Profit (mainly focused on Human Services)
- Employee Benefit Plans
- Corporate and individual tax

Gretchen is a member of the AICPA, MACPA, and has been with the Institute of Management Accountants, Saginaw Valley Chapter since 2006.

### **The CMA Exam – Best Study Practices from Gleim**

Gleim (<http://www.gleim.com>) has offered a series of successful study tips to ensure that IMA Chapter members pass the CMA exam on their first attempts. While these tips are useful, it is equally important to know what study habits to avoid. Once a habit forms, it is difficult to break. Recognize bad habits so you learn to avoid them.

**Cramming** - While many people rely on the cramming method, it can be harmful to your physical and mental health due to the increase in stress and lack of relaxation that may result. Fix: Gleim's most successful candidates study for 6-8 weeks in advance! We guarantee that you will retain more knowledge with less stress if you study 10-15 hours a week for 6-8 weeks rather than 40 hours per week in 2-3 weeks. You will benefit greatly by adhering to a schedule in a manageable fashion.

**Environmental Concerns** - An uncomfortable study environment can prevent you from focusing, thereby minimizing your comprehension and retention. Distractions such as a creaky chair, a broken desk, or a cold room distract you even in the most serene study spots. In short, you will waste valuable time adjusting to the environment rather than studying in the environment. Fix: Try different sites until you find the best place for you. Remove any distractions before initiating your study session. For example, if the best place for you to study is the coldest room in the house or a cold library, dress in layers or bring a sweater so you can adjust. This is also good preparation for the actual exam, since you cannot control the testing center's temperature. Also, be sure you have an alternate location in case your primary study site becomes unavailable.

**Bed Time** - While beds may keep you cozy and care-free, they can make even the most disciplined of candidates drift off to dreamland. Fix: Avoid studying on or near a bed or sofa. Make sure your study spot is comfortable but not going to cause you to become sleepy, lose your focus, and cut your studies short.

**Music's In the Air** - Loud noises and music can interfere with the brain's ability to absorb information. It can also distract you from focusing on the material at hand. Fix: If you prefer listening to music while you prepare for the exam, make sure it remains in the background rather than the foreground of your studying environment. Find a specific type of music, and stick to that style and volume throughout your study sessions. It is better for concentration if the music you choose is void of lyrics.

Gleim is committed to helping you accomplish your goal of passing the exam and becoming a CMA. Your Saginaw Valley IMA Chapter has partnered with Gleim to ensure your success on the CMA exam! Working together, we will provide you the necessary tools to prepare for this difficult exam. As a Saginaw Valley Chapter member, you receive significant discounts on the Gleim CMA Review materials and Gleim CPE. Contact Melissa Leonard at 800.874.5346 ext. 131 or [melissa.leonard@gleim.com](mailto:melissa.leonard@gleim.com) to take advantage of the offer or if you have any questions.

Melissa Leonard, Chapter Coordinator  
[melissa.leonard@gleim.com](mailto:melissa.leonard@gleim.com)  
Gleim Publications, Inc.  
4201 NW 95TH Blvd.  
Gainesville, FL 32606  
800.874.5346 Ext. 131  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-7pm

## **EMPLOYMENT NEWS AND MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Open Positions**

The IMA Career website has 17 open positions listed in Michigan as of October 21.

Open Positions – Via Recruiter – RIO

Our client is a \$3 BB global, non-automotive manufacturing organization that is headquartered in the Metro Detroit area. They have tripled in size over the past six years and that growth has them looking for a Sr. Internal Auditor, Assistant Controller and a Sr. Tax Analyst

#### **Sr. Internal Auditor:**

- 4 - 6 years of audit experience specific to C corporations and manufacturing
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting
- CPA or CPA candidate preferred

#### **Sr. Tax Analyst:**

- Preparation of quarterly federal and state income/franchise estimated tax calculations.
- Preparation of quarterly and annual federal and state tax accruals in compliance with ASC 740.
- Research international tax issues for related foreign entities.
- 4-6 years of federal and state tax experience with background in C corps and manufacturing.
- Bachelor's degree in accounting or finance.
- CPA or CPA candidate preferred.

#### **Assistant Controller:**

- Manages staff – hires, trains, motivates and evaluates.
- Assists in managing day-to-day accounting activity.
- Assists in preparation of budgets: departmental operating, capital asset and cash flow
- Assists in preparing and reviewing schedules for monthly financial books.
- Ensures staff adherence to GAAP, Sarbanes-Oxley, internal controls, and company policies
- Bachelor's degree in accounting or finance.
- CPA or CPA candidate preferred.

#### **Mike McLean | The RIO Group**

Office – 734.414.9815 | Mobile - 734.646.7613

Website: [www.riogrp.com](http://www.riogrp.com)

Network with me: LinkedIn

The RIO Group: recruitment - intelligence – optimization

### **Member Looking for Position**

Martine Bouffard is seeking a challenging accounting career opportunity with a well-established organization where excellent analytical, organizational, and people skills can help to promote the company's success and profitability. Martine will welcome any leads and can be contacted directly at [mjbouffard@comcast.net](mailto:mjbouffard@comcast.net) or 248.328.0591 (home) or 248.238.7318 (cell).

### **Student Member Looking for Position**

George J. Voelker, a student member of our Chapter, is looking for either full-time (preferred) or part-time employment. He is in his last two semesters at Delta before transferring to Northwood for his final year. George will welcome any leads and can be contacted directly at georgevoelker@gmail.com or 989.545.9107. Also, I do have his resume and cover letter should anyone wish to receive it.

### **Member Announcements**

We are always interested in hearing about any new roles or accomplishments of our members. Please let me know of your new announcements to share in upcoming newsletters.

Adeline M. Wicker  
Team Leader Employment  
989.891.1017 Ext 102  
[amwicker@craftcastcompanyinc.com](mailto:amwicker@craftcastcompanyinc.com)

### **Earn CPE with IMA Webinars**

Did you know that you can earn CPE with IMA Live Webinars? Each month, the IMA's *Inside Talk* series allows you to earn one hour of FREE NASBA-approved CPE! Check it out at: [http://www.imanet.org/programs\\_events/webinars.aspx](http://www.imanet.org/programs_events/webinars.aspx)

### **Upcoming Meetings in 2012**

Chapter Economic Forecast  
Wednesday, January 18, 2012  
Damon's Saginaw

Chapter Annual Awards Night  
Wednesday, March 21, 2012  
Northwood NADA, Midland

***Be sure to mark your calendars!***

*IMA Benefits for*

# Employers

*Enroll your staff in IMA—and strengthen your organization. Our Staff Enrollment Program offers major savings off the regular member rate for our portfolio of benefits:*

## **CMA® Certification**

Earning the CMA (Certified Management Accountant) credential, available only to IMA members, will help your team members increase their mastery of professional disciplines such as:

- » Financial Planning
- » Financial Management
- » Internal Controls
- » Risk Management
- » Cost Management
- » Performance Management
- » Decision Analysis
- » Professional Ethics

## **Continuing Education**

- » NASBA-approved CPE courses covering relevant accounting, finance, and business topics, such as:
  - Planning
  - Budgeting
  - Forecasting
  - Ethics
- » Topical and timely webinars

## **Peer Networking**

- » *LinkUp IMA*, our exclusive online professional network
- » Global conferences and events
- » Local chapter activities

## **Publications**

- » *Strategic Finance*
- » *Management Accounting Quarterly*
- » *IMA Educational Case Journal*
- » A range of e-newsletters:
  - *IMA Online News*
  - *Strategic TechNotes*
  - *CMA Connection* (for CMAs and candidates)

## **Research**

- » Statements on Management Accounting (SMAs)
- » IMA Research Center of Excellence
- » Research Library

## **Job Connection**

- » Specialized page on *LinkUp IMA* connects employers with qualified candidates, many with CMA certification
- » An excellent venue for targeted job postings in accounting and finance

## **Discounts**

Exclusive offers are available to your organization from quality brands such as Bank of America, FedEx, Hertz, and Liberty Mutual on a range of business and professional services, including:

- » Insurance
- » Office Supplies
- » Travel
- » Employee recognition programs

For details on all of our Employer Membership Benefits, contact IMA Customer Service at (800) 638-4427 or [ima@imanet.org](mailto:ima@imanet.org).

### **Are you LinkedIn?**

LinkedIn is an online professional networking site with several million members worldwide. LinkedIn members can connect to professional associates either directly or through groups based on: geography; academic associations; professional certifications or business interests. Members use the site for keeping up to date with colleagues, old and new, regarding industry best practices; IT developments; referrals; employment opportunities; and focused business news. There is no fee for a basic user account and members may control how much they wish to disclose publicly and/or within their networks. There are several LinkedIn groups for accountants, auditors, financial managers, etc. The IMA sponsors an official LinkedIn group called CMA® Connection which has over 10,000 members to date. To learn more or join, see [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com).

## **2011-2012 IMA Saginaw Valley Chapter Board of Directors**

President	Jennifer Rezler	jennifer.rezler@mersen.com
Treasurer	Mary Smith	marysmith@stevensworldwide.com
Secretary	Larry Kickham	lkickham@svsu.edu
Team Leader—Administration	Julie Goldman	jagnow0805@att.net
Team Leader—Membership	Gretchen Stuart	Gretchen.Stuart@plantemoran.com
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Team Leader—Employment	Adeline Wicker	amwicker@craftcastcompanyinc.com
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