

FOOTNOTES

FALL '25
EDITION



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



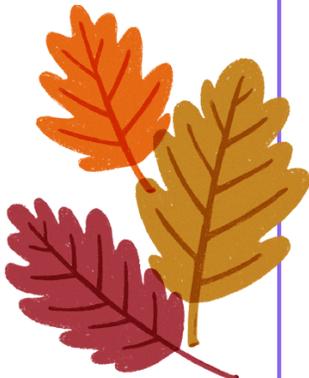
Serving as the president of our IMA Student Chapter / Accounting Club this year has been a rewarding experience. I am grateful to be part of such a dynamic club and to have connected with remarkable individuals, including inspiring guest speakers.

Our Accounting Club has experienced notable growth, with more students attending our events and meetings. This year, we hosted several virtual gatherings featuring outstanding speakers who provided valuable insights. We also organized impactful volunteer projects and career development events, including a Canned Food Drive, and participated in multiple career fairs with promising employers.

Being president has enhanced my skills and opened doors to numerous opportunities. I've had the privilege of connecting with enthusiastic individuals committed to excellence.

I encourage all students to get involved in the Accounting Club, as it offers incredible resources and opportunities waiting to be explored.

-Wykenna



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VISION STATEMENT

Perpetuate the IMA-gold standards of excellence for a world-class organization at both a national and local level.

MISSION STATEMENT

To create a vibrant organizational community for students that will provide them with the necessary tools to compete effectively in the professional business community through programs that create education and networking opportunities, community and university involvement, and build a framework of highly ethical behavior.

WANT TO JOIN THE ATHENS STATE ACCOUNTING CLUB?

- Three Easy Steps:
- 1) Be a student at Athens State enrolled in at least 6 hours
 - 2) Be a student member of the Institute of Management Accountants (www.imanet.org)
 - 3) Email your IMA member number to Professor Michael Phillips



MEETINGS! CLUB EVENTS

8/28 - New Member Orientation

On August 28th, 40 students and 5 professors attended the New Member Orientation Meeting held via Zoom. Professor Corzine and Wykenna Dickerson introduced everyone to the IMA (Institute of Management Accountants) and how membership benefits students. Students learned how to join IMA as student members and how to get involved. There are so many directions an accounting degree can take you!



10/16 - Machen McChesney

Mr. Austin Duran was the speaker on behalf of public accounting firm Machen McChesney. Mr. Duran highlighted challenges and trends in the industry such as the shift to advisory, staffing challenges and implementing AI in the firm's operations. He also gave students some advice on how to stand out and get your first job in public accounting by being proficient in Excel, sitting for the CPA exam as early as possible and thinking critically. 67 students attended!



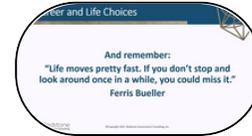
11/13 - Ethics

Speakers Dr. Diann Hammon and Amanda Tillman emphasized the importance of ethical leadership, internal controls, and long-term accountability in both corporate and agricultural contexts. Through varied case studies and discussions, participants explored how ethics, fraud prevention, and organizational culture shape the integrity and success of business practices.



9/25 - FBI

FBI Forensic Accountant Stephanie Fitzgibbons gave an overview of the Bureau's mission, priorities, and the wide range of investigations handled across its divisions. She highlighted student opportunities through the Honors Internship Program and the Collegiate Hiring Initiative, outlining eligibility requirements, key skills, and the pathway from internships to full-time careers. We also learned about the federal hiring process, resume expectations, and the qualifications needed for careers such as special agents and forensic accountants. 64 students attended!



10/30 - Redstone Government Consulting

We heard from Jonas Clem, director at Redstone Government Consulting. Mr. Clem spoke on many informational subjects concerning government contract accounting, touching on subjects like the responsibilities of the Defense Contract Auditing Agency (DCAA) and the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA). He also answered questions students had and gave informative tips on resume building, booking internships, what to expect and what companies expect from first time interns.



11/20 - ASCPA

We were privileged to hear from the Alabama Society of CPAs about all that is going on with the state society. Did you know that you can join the ASCPA and also the AICPA as a student member for free?

FUNDRAISING!

SEVERAL STUDENTS IN THE ACCOUNTING CLUB HELPED SERVE BOJANGLE'S AND COTTON CANDY AT THE ANNUAL FIDDLERS CONVENTION. THIS IS OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR, AND IT IS ALWAYS SO MUCH FUN! WE WERE ABLE TO MEET STUDENTS AND FACULTY ACROSS CAMPUS AND RAISE MONEY FOR THE UNIVERSITY!

TRANSFER DAY!



Athens State University held Transfer Day on September 20. Campus club representatives also met with the new students. Each table had information and the student representatives shared with the upcoming students about how to get involved. Our IMA Student Chapter engaged with students and handed out brochures and candies. It was an exciting day!



EVEN MORE CLUB EVENTS

NETWORKING!



Professor Emily Corzine attended the IMA Student Leadership Conference with students Riina Niemeyer and Nishtha Sathi.



COMMUNITY SERVICE



CANNED FOOD DRIVE

An equivalent of 280 cans, including monetary donations, were donated by the Athens State community and delivered by the Accounting Club to Community Table in downtown Athens in time for Thanksgiving. Thank you for contributing!

IMA STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE CLEVELAND, OHIO NOVEMBER 13-15

The IMA Student Leadership Conference in Cleveland offered an engaging and energizing experience, highlighted by an industry tour to the Progressive Headquarters that showcased Cleveland's dynamic corporate landscape. The visit to Progressive was eye-opening, as they have an impressive Accounting Rotational Program that provides young professionals with six-month rotations across four diverse accounting areas—ranging from treasury to claims—giving students a comprehensive foundation in the field.

The conference was enriched by inspiring keynote speakers, including Tim Naddy, CPA, CFE; James Tilk from BlackLine; and Ted Bozarth, founder of SetFire, who shared impactful insights on leadership, innovation, and personal growth, especially the crucial role that great mentors play in shaping successful careers. Throughout the conference, breakout sessions emphasized the need to stay adaptable in a rapidly changing industry driven by technology and AI. Speakers and facilitators reinforced the importance of continuous learning, staying curious, and building strong professional networks to thrive in modern accounting roles. The experience also included memorable social moments, including the opportunity to

enjoy dinner and explore the iconic Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Overall, the conference blended professional development with meaningful connections and unforgettable experiences, making it an inspiring event for future accounting leaders. - Riina Niemeyer

I am incredibly grateful to have attended the IMA Student Leadership Conference 2025 in Cleveland, Ohio. This event was an outstanding opportunity for professional growth, networking, and hands-on learning. The speakers shared valuable insights into both career and personal development, while students had the chance to connect with peers from other IMA chapters and professionals across the accounting field. Attendees also explored certification options and test prep resources (Becker, Gleim, UWorld), and engaged in interactive résumé-building experiences such as moderating speaker sessions or sharing chapter highlights in interviews. I had the privilege of moderating for Dana Whitted, CPA, who has over 25 years of experience across multiple industries, during her session on the importance of data analytics. Beyond the sessions, the conference offered memorable experiences like an IMA-hosted event at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and industry tours that introduced students

to internships, co-op programs, and rotational opportunities across different departments. I was proud to represent Athens State alongside another MACC student, and our university was recognized with the Award of Excellence, a distinction that reflects our chapter's commitment and involvement.

One of the most impactful sessions for me was led by Kenston Henderson, founder and CEO of Live with Lyfe. As the first speaker of the day, he energized the audience with his dynamic presentation and left us with a powerful reminder: YOU MATTER. This message resonated deeply, especially as the semester nears its end and students face the stress of finals and major projects. The conference also offered creative opportunities, such as a T-shirt design competition for participating schools, which may appeal to more artistic students looking to contribute in unique ways. Overall, the conference was both inspiring and practical, and I highly encourage fellow students to attend future IMA conferences to gain knowledge, build connections, and experience the unique opportunities each host city has to offer. -Nishtha Sathi



UPCOMING EVENTS

Graduation - 12/6
Next meeting - TBA in January!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!!

Spring 2025:

BS

Adams, Jacob
Bell, Keri
Craig, Aubrey
Glenon, Izayah
Green, Amber
Grisham, Nathan
Hussey, Daniel
Hutchins, Ashley
Jones, Tiffahne
LeCompte, Joana
Lee, Jessica
Niemeyer, Riina
Thornton, Tiffanee

Spring 2025:

MAcc

Clayton, Tabitha
Gray, Lauren
Hice, Karla
Hoffman, Emilie
Hudson, Brian
Maddox, MacKenzie
Price, Madelyn
Sebastian, Mary
Skinner, James
Smith, Nina
Stephens, Dylan

Summer 2025:

BS

Freeman, Abby
Guffey, Jaret
Hutto, Colby
Jacobson, Michael
Lee, Rashata
Plott, Jackson
Stolaas, Stephanie
Thomas, Shawantha
Trejo, Tonya

Summer 2025:

MAcc

Baugh, Tamica
Day, Tressie
Delk, Sonya
Hillman, Muriel
Holland, Donna
Jung, Chang
Scruggs, Autumn
Solomon, Devin
Todd, Michelle



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Financial Professionals
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