

IMA Boston Bulletin

A Publication of the IMA Boston Chapter

<https://boston.imanet.org>

May 2023



Welcome to the May edition of the IMA Boston Chapter's Newsletter! As we enter the second quarter of the year, we are excited to share news and updates on upcoming professional development and community events hosted by the IMA Boston chapter, the NorthEast Regional Council, and IMA Global. This month, we highlight the importance of professional development in the ever-evolving accounting and finance industry. Our newsletter includes a variety of topics, from upcoming virtual networking opportunities to insights from industry experts. We hope you find this month's newsletter informative and engaging as we continue to provide valuable resources to support your professional growth and development.

The Value of Professional Development

Professional development (PD) is essential for you to stay up to date with the latest trends and developments in your field, acquire new skills and knowledge, and improve your performance on the job. PD will enhance your personal and professional growth and advance your career.

Here are five reasons why you should invest in professional development.

1. New skills add value to your professional and personal development, allowing you to expand your knowledge, abilities, and potential opportunities.
 2. Engaging in professional development activities can boost one's confidence and self-esteem.
 3. Participating in professional development enables you to stay current with the latest trends and research in accounting and finance.
 4. Professional development can help maintain motivation.
 5. Professional development can enhance your productivity in the workplace.
- Stay connected with the chapter on [LinkedIn](#).

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Member Spotlight!

The IMA Boston chapter has been fortunate to have had exceptional leadership in the past two years. Dr. Khondkar Karim, DBA, CPA, has been the driving force behind the chapter's achievements during his tenure as the president. Under his leadership, the chapter was awarded the Chapter of Excellence, Gold Award, which is a testament to his dedication and hard work. As Dr. Karim's term is coming to an end, we are excited to welcome the incoming president, Zafereh (Zoe) Alam, CMA, who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. We look forward to seeing how the chapter will continue to thrive under her leadership.



Khondkar Karim is a distinguished academic who has been serving as the Chair of the Department of Accounting and Director of Research at the Manning School of Business since 2013. With extensive administrative experience, he has established himself as a prominent figure in the field. Karim's research contributions include publishing over 80 articles in prestigious journals such as *Accounting Organizations and Society*, *Behavioral Research in Accounting*, *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*, and more. Karim's dedication to collaboration is evident through his passion for

working with faculty across various departments and research interests. He has successfully mentored faculty worldwide, fostering fruitful collaborations. Furthermore, he has played a crucial role in establishing ties with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), a global professional accounting body.

Notably, Karim led the endorsement process for the accounting programs at the Manning School by the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA). He was also involved in a group effort with The Massachusetts Society of CPAs (MSCPA) to launch a new early college academy. His leadership has facilitated partnerships with the University of Massachusetts Commonwealth Collegiate Academy and Community Teamwork (CTI) of Lowell.

Karim's commitment to community engagement is demonstrated through initiatives like the ITA program, which enables UML accounting students to assist mid- and low-income families with filing income taxes in collaboration with Community Teamwork of Lowell.

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Zafereh (Zoe) Alam is a highly accomplished accounting and tax expert who is set to assume the role of president at the IMA Boston Chapter. Zafereh holds an MBA from the University of Leicester and recently completed a master's program at Boston University Law School, where she further enhanced her skills in accounting and taxation. She obtained her CMA Certificate and became an IMA member in 2018. Her professional career began at Deloitte, where she specialized in international taxation. Currently she is serving as an international tax consultant in one of the prominent accounting firms in Boston.

In July 2020, Zafereh joined the IMA Boston Chapter Board and has since served as V.P Membership and Director of CMA programs for three consecutive years. Her dedication to the chapter led to her election as the next president, where she will lead the upcoming IMA's Boston Chapter Board. Zafereh brings a unique blend of technical expertise, strategic thinking, and a genuine passion for making a difference. As a visionary, she is poised to introduce new ideas and initiatives that add immense value to the chapter members, fostering growth, knowledge sharing, and professional development.



David Levine, Webmaster of the IMA Boston Chapter, is graduating from the Manning School of Business at UMass Lowell with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with a concentration in accounting. He also received the 2023 Chancellor's Medal for Student Service. David is a member of the Honors College and completed his honors project in December 2022, focusing on experiential learning. David works with the IMA Boston Chapter to promote IMA events and communicate important updates via our website and social media.

David attended both the IMA Global Conference and the IMA Student Leadership Conference in 2022 and has been a proud member of the IMA Boston Chapter since 2019. After graduation, David will start full-time at LGA, LLP in Woburn, MA, as an Associate Tax Accountant. Additionally, David will start part-time at Bentley University, working towards a Master of Science in Taxation and an MBA.

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Research Highlights

This month, we would like to highlight an article authored by Rachel Xi Zhang and published in the *Journal of Accounting & Economics*. Zhang's (2022) article "Do Managers Learn from Institutional Investors through Direct Interactions?" explores the potential for corporate managers to learn from institutional investors through direct interactions at investor conferences. Her research provides evidence that managers seek out direct interactions with institutional investors when they have a high demand for specific types of information related to their firm's product markets and supply chains. The information learned through these interactions is reflected in subsequent manager decisions, with direct interactions helping managers extract relevant information from stock prices and make investment decisions.

Zhang's findings highlight the importance of direct interactions between managers and institutional investors in facilitating learning and improving decision-making processes. This research contributes to the existing literature on managerial learning from institutional investors by providing large-scale evidence of the potential for direct interactions to improve managerial decision-making. The insights from this research could have important implications for corporate governance practices, as they suggest that facilitating direct interactions between managers and institutional investors could be a valuable mechanism for improving the flow of information and enhancing decision-making processes.

Zhang's research on the potential for corporate managers to learn from institutional investors through direct interactions at investor conferences also highlights the importance of stakeholder engagement. Institutional investors are just one group of stakeholders with whom managers can engage to learn more about their company and its industry. By actively engaging with all relevant stakeholders, including customers, employees, suppliers, and local communities, managers can gain a better understanding of the broader social and environmental context in which their firm operates. This, in turn, can help them make more informed decisions that not only benefit the bottom line but also consider the interests and concerns of all stakeholders. Thus, stakeholder engagement can facilitate learning and improve decision-making processes, just like direct interactions between managers and institutional investors.

To Learn More

Zhang, R. X. (2023). Do Managers learn from institutional investors through direct interactions? *Journal of Accounting & Economics*, 75(2-3), 101554–.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacceco.2022.101554>

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Upcoming Events

Here are some upcoming events that you will not want to miss.

1. Save the date for the highly anticipated [IMA NERC Annual Fall Conference!](#) From September 17th to September 19th, 2023, join us at the Wyndham Newport Hotel in Middletown, RI, for a remarkable event hosted by the NorthEast Regional Council. Immerse yourself in three days of enriching sessions, networking opportunities, and professional growth, earning a total of 19 Hours of Continuing Professional Education. This conference offers a comprehensive program, including 2 CPE of Ethics for CMA's seeking certification requirements.
2. Discover the future of accounting and finance at [IMA's Accounting & Finance Conference \(IMA23\)](#) from June 11th to June 14th, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis in Minneapolis, MN. Join us for a transformative experience where friends, experts, and peers from across the globe come together to reimagine the path ahead and collaborate on shaping the future of these vital fields. Be a part of the conversation and chart the course towards excellence in accounting and finance.
3. The IMA Student Leadership Conference (SLC23) will return to the Motor City on November 9-11, 2023. Join us for three days of knowledge, networking, and fun! Click [here for details](#).
4. Join us on June 22, 2023, for the highly anticipated [2023 Annual Meeting](#) of Members, where you'll have the extraordinary opportunity to connect with and get to know the esteemed President and CEO of IMA, Mike DePrisco.

President's Message

To all Members of the IMA Boston Chapter,

As we move into the month of May, I would like to take a moment to highlight the importance of professional development in our field. As management accountants and financial professionals, it is crucial that we continue to expand our knowledge and skills to remain competitive in our ever-evolving industry.

The IMA Boston Chapter is committed to providing our members with opportunities for growth and development. We offer a variety of programs, events, and resources that are designed to help you stay up to date on the latest trends and best practices in our field. From networking events and webinars to certification programs and leadership development courses, there is something for everyone in our community.

Investing in your professional development not only benefits you personally but also contributes to the success of your organization. By staying current with the latest tools, technologies, and strategies, you can bring added value to your role and help your company achieve its goals.

One of the key benefits of professional development is that it helps you to stay relevant in your field. As our industry continues to evolve, new technologies, regulations, and best practices emerge. By participating in training and development programs, you can learn about these changes and stay up to date with the latest trends.

In addition to keeping you up to date with the latest trends, professional development can also help you to improve your job performance. Through training and development programs, you can acquire new skills and knowledge that will help you to perform your job more effectively. This, in turn, can lead to increased productivity, higher job satisfaction, and better job security.

Another benefit of professional development is that it provides you with networking opportunities. By participating in events and programs, you can meet other professionals in your field, share ideas, and build relationships. This can lead to new business opportunities, job leads, and other benefits.

The IMA Boston Chapter is committed to providing you with the resources and opportunities you need to succeed. I encourage you to take advantage of these resources and invest in your professional development. Together, we can continue to build our knowledge and skills, advance our careers, and make a meaningful impact in our industry.

Sincerely,

Dr. Khondkar Karim

IMA BOSTON CHAPTER 2022-2023

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The deadline for submitting content for the June newsletter is May 20, 2023.
To ensure timely delivery, kindly e-mail your content to Dr. Karim at boston@imachapter.org
or directly to Dr. Alexis at j.alexis@northeastern.edu.

Key Contacts

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