

FOOTNOTES

SPRING '26
EDITION

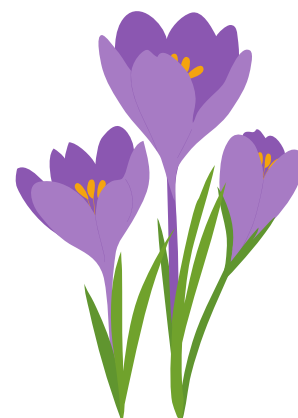


GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello to all current and potential accounting students and club members! I have truly enjoyed serving as the President of our IMA Student Chapter / Accounting Club this year, and look forward to the coming year. I am grateful to have been part of this club and connected with many incredible people, including our many guest speakers. Over the past few years, the Accounting Club has experienced continuous growth, and I am excited to see more students attending our club events and meetings. This year, we held several virtual club meetings featuring amazing speakers who provided invaluable insights into the field of accounting. Additionally, we organized volunteer projects and participated in Transfer Day, speaking on the unique opportunities the Accounting Club has to offer to potential transfer students. Serving as President of this amazing club has been a wonderful experience that has helped me develop and refine a variety of skills, as well as improve my networking connections. It has opened the door to numerous academic and professional relationships and opportunities for which I am forever grateful for. Above all, I have had the chance to connect with remarkably driven individuals. I hope to see even more students participating in the Accounting Club in the future, taking full advantage of the resources and opportunities it presents!

-Ana



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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



1/29 - Certified Fraud Examiner

On January 29th, we had the pleasure of hearing from Lynn Shobe, CFE, CFCI from the Alabama Community College System Investigative Support Unit. Mr. Shobe shared his interesting career story and helped students understand what all is required to be a CFE (Certified Fraud Examiner). We had 51 students attend!

3/12 - Blue Cross Blue Shield

On March 12, 2026, the Accounting Club hosted Ryan Schwoebel, a fraud investigator at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Alabama, who spoke about accounting careers in fraud investigation and the insurance industry. He shared with the 36 students attending about his experience with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Regions Bank, and Protective Life Corporation. Ryan explained how accounting skills are valuable in investigating fraud, money laundering, and procurement crimes, and encouraged students who are interested in fraud examination to explore resources from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.



3/26 - Nucor

We welcomed former student and Controller at Nucor in Decatur, Will Nafe, as our guest speaker. Will shared about the practical side of his work in accounting and about his professional journey that led to his current career. He shared about the importance of the technical knowledge of accounting, but also the technology, soft skills, and other qualities successful accountants need.



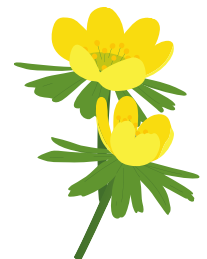
2/12 - Becker!

Our guest, Kurtis Williams, spoke on behalf of Becker providing the Accounting Club with a lot of valuable information on the CPA exam and how utilizing the Becker materials will increase our chances of passing exams. Williams spoke about the process of sitting for the exam as well as the requirements to earn a CPA license. In all, Williams provided valuable information for accounting students who are interested in the CPA exam. As always, another great speaker and meeting! 48 students attended.



3/19 - CMA

In this meeting we learned so much about how becoming a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) can enhance our careers. Dr. Hughes and Professor Philips shared that approximately 75% of all accounting jobs are not in public accounting! The Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) has over 140 thousand members and over 300 chapters worldwide! There are various requirements to become a CMA, including passing a two-part exam, working in the field for at least two years, having a bachelor's degree, and complying with the IMA's statement of ethical professional practice. 42 students attended!



EVEN MORE CLUB EVENTS

TRANSFER DAY!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Pack - A - Purse

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our service project this semester! The purses are filled with hygiene products and distributed to women going through difficult transitions. Each purse lets these women know that our community cares!



The Admissions Office had help showcasing what a wonderful place Athens State is for students with the support of the Accounting Club student officers! 51 potential students attended, which represented a 60% increase in attendance from our Fall Transfer Day in 2025! Thank you to Ana Calvillo, Kensley Rigsby, Ms. Kaitlyn Johnson, and Professor Michael Phillips for hosting our table!



UPCOMING EVENTS



IMA Scholarships

SCMS \$5,000
Century \$7,500

<https://www.imanet.org/en/Membership/Students/Scholarships-Competitions>
Missed your chance to apply?
Check in with the Accounting Club for next year's scholarships!



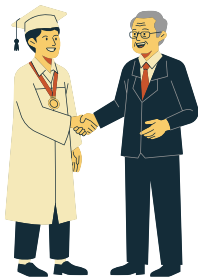
Calling All Accounting Students!
The University needs volunteers for Earth/Arbor Day on April 25!
Use the QR to sign up!



Award of Excellence Submission Due - 4/15



Graduation - May 2nd



Next meeting - TBA in August!



Congratulations To Our Graduates!

BS

Berry, Mattee
Blankenship, Hope
Bourdeaux, Equajisha
Cummins, John
Dickerson, Wykenna
Donaldson, Emma
Duffer, Allison
Gold, Gaylon
Haines, Stephanie
Hernandez, Rosemary
Johnson, Shawna
Marsh, William
Randolph, Eastyn

Fall 2025



Scott, Amanda
Sheffield, Michael
Shelton, Autumn
Singh, Kokil
Stedman, Astasia
Stude, Eric
Swafford, Colton
Willis, Ashlyn

MAcc

Anderson, Shelby B.
Bear, Jameson M.
Bowling, John
Chatpalliwar, Mangesh
Estes, Haley
Johnson, Joshua
Johnson, William E.
Kelly, Shawn J.
Magunta, Kayla
Shipp, Jenny F.
Vena, Amanda G.
Young, Jeneal P.

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IMA's Certification for
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business