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- During July I attended the annual conference of the Circus Historical Society in Milwaukee and presented a paper “Top ten life lessons learned at the most exclusive school in the nation: Clown College.” The paper was received well. As part of the conference I was able to attend both the Great Circus Parade in Milwaukee, as well as a circus owned by John Ringling North.
- Perhaps more noteworthy, I was just notified that of the approximate 4,000 candidates who sat for the CMA (Certified Management Accountants) tests during the most recent exam cycle, I earned the top overall score. As such, next summer in Baltimore I will be awarded the Johnson & Johnson Gold Medal for the highest exam score.

Like the more well known CPA designation, to earn CMA one must pass four tests. Each test is three or four hours long, and each test has a pass rate of only 50% to 60%. While the CPA is narrowly focused on accounting, the CMA is much broader. It has fifteen distinct sections, including global business, financial statement analysis, strategic planning, and decision analysis. CMA is truly international in scope, with 65% of candidates coming from outside the U.S. Recent top test takers have come from Germany, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and China.