

Risk Management & Insurance Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2013



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Department of Risk Management, Real Estate & Business Law

William T. Hold/The National Alliance Program in Risk Management & Insurance

RMI Department Highlights:

- The first group of masters students received Hold Scholarships in spring 2013.
- Several students completed work towards university designations.
- RMI major Jordan Solomon earned UACRM and ARM designations. Jordan graduated in spring 2013 and currently works for Amerisure Insurance.
- FAIA increased contribution to the Good Works Fund. This money is used to support students through scholarships and financial assistance with designations.
- For receiving the top award in the FAME Competition in spring 2013, RMI majors John Churey and Joseph Neeley and recent graduates Madison Franetic and Haleigh Sport received \$10,000 and an all-expenses paid trip to the Council's 2013 Insurance Leadership Forum in Colorado Springs.
- RMI majors Britain Dooley and Joseph Walters attended the CPCU Society Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

Gamma Iota Sigma Returns to Florida State!

At the beginning of the fall 2013 semester, the Dr. William T. Hold/The National Alliance Program in Risk Management and Insurance (RMI) was pleased to re-activate the Iota Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma, a Risk Management, Insurance and Actuarial Science fraternity (GIS). Gamma Iota Sigma has taken the place of the former Insurance Society at Florida State University (ISFSU).

The decision to "go gamma" was a joint initiative of the faculty and students within the RMI

department. The benefits of reestablishing the Iota Chapter and aligning with a national organization have proved to be very beneficial, a trend we are confident will continue. Benefits afforded to students who are members of GIS include: educational and professional development opportunities, conferences and events sponsored by the national association and other chapters, and invaluable networking.

This past October, we were very excited to send six students to

the 42nd Annual GIS International Conference in Charlotte, N.C. (Pictured below left to right: Yaremis Chiari-Powery, John Churey, Joseph Neeley, Esther Still, Tim Scollo and Kyle North)



Risk Manager in Residence Visits FSU

The RMI program was excited to have the opportunity to host Mr. Dan Kugler, risk manager for Snap-On Incorporated. Kugler spent several days attending various classes speaking about corporate risk management, as well as conducting roundtable discussions and attending a networking reception with students.

Snap-On Incorporated is a \$3 billion company headquartered in Kenosha, Wis. Kugler is directly responsible for risk management activities worldwide and is president of Snap-On SecureCorp Companies with operations in Bermuda, Malta, UK and Wisconsin. SecureCorp provides insurance coverage to almost all of Snap-On's franchisees across the globe.

Having the opportunity to meet a risk manager engaged in such a wide array

of risk management activities was intriguing for many of the students. (Pictured below: Gamma Iota Sigma Vice President Tim Scollo and President Joey Neeley present Kugler with a Jimbo Fisher autographed football.)



Featured Alumna: Brenae Robinson Offers Advice to Students!



After graduating from FSU in 2011, Brenae Robinson accepted a position in the Liberty Mutual Advanced College Hire Claims Rotational Program. This position has afforded her the opportunity to work in multiple lines of business including auto, homeowners and bodily injury claims.

When asked what advice she would give to current students, she says, "I would encourage students

to take full advantage of networking opportunities and actively seek out opportunities to become more involved within the industry, be it through internships, local CPCU Chapter meetings, or participation in Gamma Iota Sigma. I have found that as large as this industry is, you are more likely than not to run into industry professionals again so building relationships are key."

She also says students should "learn as much as possible of themselves and others while working in groups for class projects. You will find that having great interpersonal skills will play a big role in your career."

Robinson is currently a Claims Specialist III at Liberty Mutual and works in the Lake Mary area. Additionally, she earned both her CPCU and AIC designations this year.

When asked what made her decide to major in RMI, Robinson noted, "I personally appreciate the flexibility of the industry because you can truly do just about anything within the insurance industry, no matter your interest."

Company Reps Visit FSU for Information Sessions, Professional Development Seminars and More

John Phelps, risk manager for BCBS and current president of RIMS participated in this year's GIS kick-off event. During his visit to campus, he spoke in several classes and hosted an evening session about risk management.

In late September, several company recruiters participated in professional development seminars, several of which

were alumni of FSU! Amica Mutual, Bouchard Insurance and Allstate Insurance created interactive sessions, which provided students with an insider's view on interviewing and networking.

Mike Smith, president of Global Financial Lines, AIG, visited in November. Smith hosted roundtable discussions with undergraduate and

graduate students and spoke in several classes.

GIS and the RMI department also hosted Information Sessions for the following companies: All Risk Ltd, Arthur J. Gallagher, and Willis. During these sessions, students learned more about the companies, their primary business areas, and available job opportunities.

CPCU Chapter Invites FSU to All-Industry Day



Two students attended All-Industry Day in Jacksonville this past November, which was sponsored by the North Florida CPCU Chapter. Attending RMI majors Kyle North and Karina Chiari-Powery were able

to learn more about the impact of the Affordable Care Act on health insurers and hospitals.

Both students also participated in the Mentor Program and were able to meet and talk with their mentors before and after

the presentation. The department and students are grateful to the CPCU Society for the invitation to this event. (Pictured from left to right: Kyle North, Gem Mann, Graeme Harper and Yaremis Chiari-Powery)

Featured Student: John Churey Is Making the Most of His Time at FSU

John Churey, a double major in RMI and entrepreneurship and the director of alumni relations for Gamma Iota Sigma, has been quite busy over the past 18 months. Since declaring RMI as a major, John has taken advantage of many opportunities presented to him including attending the PLRB Claims Conference and

the Gamma Iota Sigma National Conference, and participating in the FAME Competition, for which he and three classmates won first place. He also spent this past summer interning in public entity risk management and attending the Florida RIMS Conference.

John says, "All of these

experiences have afforded me the opportunity to become a well-rounded student and young professional, affirming my decision to major in risk management and insurance."

What does John have planned for the future? In the spring, he plans to earn

his University Associate Certified Insurance Counselors (UACIC) designation. He also says "I am also currently interviewing with companies within the industry, to attain a position, which compliments the skills I have developed and challenges me daily!"

RMI 2000 Class Began as Part of the Risk Initiative

In the spring 2013, a new course titled 'Risk in Business and Society.' was approved. All incoming business majors will be required to take the course, which is designed to enhance the student's understanding of risk and its implications for individuals, organizations and society.

Using scenarios and experts from a variety of disciplines, students analyze the implications of risk in a variety of settings and evaluate ways to minimize the cost and maximize the reward associated with risk.

The course serves as a key element in the

University's Risk Initiative. By introducing the concept of risk at an early stage, it allows the integration of the risk initiative concepts throughout the College-wide curriculum and provides students with a dynamic view of risk that transcends the standard descriptions of the functional areas.

News from our Centers

In spring 2013, Dr. Lori Medders was selected as director of the Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center (Storm Center). The Storm Center is involved in several major research projects, including a study of homeowner behavior, an in-depth analysis of how to manage the size of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, and an inventory of Florida university buildings.

The Storm Center also coordinated the 3rd Annual

Florida Insurance Conference on Financial Reporting with Guy Carpenter. To find out more about Storm Center activities and events, visit stormrisk.org.

The Center for Insurance Research (CIR), in conjunction with the Florida Medicaid and Public Assistance Fraud Strike Force, held a conference on insurance fraud this past October. Nearly 100 attendees from 18 different organizations, state agencies, and FSU

attended. Center Director Dr. Patty Born also made a presentation to the Strike Force in December.

The CIR hosted several Brown Bag seminars this past fall. Speakers included FSU faculty members Carol Weissert and Anne Barrett and doctoral candidate Jeremy Douthit as well as Vijay Aseervatham from Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich, Germany. To find out more, visit the Center's website.

PhD Corner:

- Brad Karl completed his graduate work and accepted an assistant professor position at East Carolina University.
- Jill Bisco received The National Alliance Research Grant and won the Best Paper Award at the SRIA Annual Conference for her work titled "Retained Asset Accounts and the Risk-Reward Trade-Off."
- Courtney Bass won the Spencer Scholarship.
- Steve Fier was elected to the board of the Southern Risk and Insurance Association, joining fellow graduate Kevin Gatzlaff. Steve also received the 2012-2013 Outstanding Junior Researcher of the Year at the University of Mississippi's School of Business Administration.

Contact Us!

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More than \$18,000 in Scholarships Awarded at End of Semester Banquet

On December 5th, GIS and the department hosted a semester banquet at the end of the semester at Madison Social, a new restaurant in FSU's CollegeTown area. Approximately 50 students, faculty, and staff were in attendance. Several of the insurance professionals participating in the Mentor Program as well as RMI alumnae Greg

Jaap were invited guests. Members of GIS were given their official membership certificates and more than \$18,000 in scholarships were awarded to undergraduate and graduate students. Additionally, on behalf of Brown and Brown, Jaap presented the 1st and 2nd place winners of the risk management case their

awards. Congratulations to 1st place winners Elleni Gavalas, Chelsea Gresham, and Carden Lanpher and 2nd place winners Patrick Mentry, Robert Rolfs, and John Plocharczyk. Thanks to Brown and Brown for sponsoring the case awards and all of the other donors that made it possible to provide these scholarships!

Plans for Next Semester

The department and GIS officers are busy planning events for this spring. We have a number of symposiums and guest speakers in the works, so be sure to 'like' us on

Facebook and/or 'follow' us on Instagram or Twitter to make sure you do not miss any of these events! Also, if you are interested in participating in the

Mentor Program in the spring 2014, be sure to contact Dr. Cassandra Cole at ccole@business.fsu.edu as soon as possible to obtain an application.

About GIS

The purpose of the fraternity is to promote, encourage, and sustain student interest in insurance, risk management, and actuarial science as professions; to encourage the high moral and scholastic attainments of its members; and to facilitate interaction of educational institutions and industry through networking and by fostering research activities, scholarship, and improved public relations.

Note from the Director of Alumni Relations

I am confident through this newsletter and future issues, you will be able to see that the students and faculty of the RMI Department at Florida State University are making large strides by partnering with industry professionals and organizations. If you are interested in how you or your company can participate in future events, please contact Gamma Iota Sigma at fsugammaiotasigma@gmail.com or Dr. Cassandra Cole at ccole@business.fsu.edu.

In Seminole Pride, John Churey

GIS OFFICERS: 2013 - 2014

JOSEPH NEELEY - PRESIDENT
TIMOTHY SCOLLO - VICE PRESIDENT
KYLE NORTH - TREASURER
ESTHER STILL - SECRETARY
JOHN CHUREY - DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS
JUNIOR MICHEL AND SAMUEL GOODWIN - EVENT COORDINATORS
BRITAIN DOOLEY, AMBASSADOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR
MICHAEL HOWARD, MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
JOHN DUTKOWSKY, FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR
DR. CASSANDRA COLE, FACULTY ADVISOR