Redbirds Co-Host the 41st Annual Gamma Iota Sigma National Conference in Chicago, IL

Eighteen members of the Illinois State University Gamma Iota Sigma Alpha Kappa Chapter co-hosted the GIS National Conference with the Grand Chapter this year. The conference, entitled, “Just Risk It,” took place on October 11-13 where Gamma chapters from across the U.S. gathered at Navy Pier.

This conference provided ISU students with the opportunity to network with both insurance professionals as well as students from different risk management/insurance programs across the nation. It was also a great chance for the ISU students to represent the university and the great city of Chicago, by assisting in making sure the conference ran smoothly.

Executives from companies such as Markel, The Horton Group, Travelers, and Chartis spoke to students on various current and relevant topics in the insurance industry throughout this conference. Students attended smaller specialized sessions to develop a better understanding of the industry, and find new ways to improve their local chapters.

The opportunity students found most beneficial though was the job fair that allowed students to have exposure to approximately 40 different companies offering internship or full time opportunities.

Illinois State once again received the Superior Chapter Award that recognizes chapters that have excelled in all areas of chapter management.

Right: The eighteen ISU students took center stage to receive their Superior Chapter Award in Navy Pier’s Grand Ballroom.

Several women formed a panel and fielded questions on how to effectively transition from college into the workforce.

Katie School of Insurance and Gamma sponsored this semester’s Executive on Campus which featured Eric Smith, President and CEO of Swiss Re Americas. Alumni Dawn Forden, Blake Kuppersmith, and Mike Liedke also attended the event with Mr. Smith.

Gamma General Meeting Speakers

This fall semester Gamma was fortunate to have insurance professionals present to students during two of the four general meetings. The second general meeting featured several representatives of Auto-Owners Insurance from Peoria, IL. They spoke with members about the claims-submission process, and their respective job duties within different segments of their company.

During the third general meeting Gamma members had the opportunity to hear from the Woman’s Networking Group of State Farm.

2011-2012 Officers

- Brett Glaser (President)
- Eric Mutch (VP-Internal Affairs)
- Amy Johnson (VP-Student Affairs)
- Dan Pettie (Director of Alumni)
- Shelby Brajewski (Volunteer Efforts)
- Jamie Carton (Secretary)
- John Mahoney (Historian)
- Mark Rogina (Treasurer)
- Jean Celestin (Fundraising Efforts)
- Nathan Johnson (Actuarial Liaison)
- Corinne McCarter (Recruiting)
- Kevin Kostyk (Publicity)
- Debbie Babcock (Advisor)
- Dr. Yu-Luen Ma (Advisor)

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Current and past Alpha Kappa Presidents at the 41st Annual Gamma Iota Sigma Conference

Mr. Eric Smith (center), chatting with members and alumni in the COB atrium before his presentation
Katie School Students/Alumni Hit the Links

The Annual Katie School Student/Alumni Golf Outing provided a Friday for current students to be relieved from any possible Gen Ed classes and alumni a day out of the office. This year was a cold one especially when compared to last year. About 20 golfers took part in the afternoon of fun. Alumni traveled from Central Illinois, the Chicago area, and even as far as Kansas City to take part in this event. The winning team of Jon Cappel (‘14), Chris Sutter (‘13), and Tyler Sandrock (‘12) posted a score of (69). After the outing, students and alumni escaped the harsh weather by having a social hour at the College of Business.

Halloween Policy Fundraiser
A Complete Success

The Alpha Kappa Chapter has in recent years been performing fundraising centered around the Halloween holiday. The Halloween policy fundraiser has Gamma Iota Sigma members travel around the Bloomington-Normal to sell policies to homeowners offering clean-up services in the event that any “Halloween Tricks” occur on their property. “Premium amounts” were not specified by Gamma as any donation was greatly accepted to help with overall chapter operations.

This event spanned a total of two days after typical class hours and was set up by the Director of Fundraising, Jean Celestin. Approximately 25 Gamma members participated in this event and written premiums totaled over $300 and the money was donated to Homes of Hope. Some of the bigger fundraising and community involvement events to look forward to in this spring semester will be the Polar Plunge and Relay for Life.

Katie School Students Attend the Washington D.C. CPCU Conference and REBEX Chicago

Three Katie School students visited our nation’s capital to attend the 68th Annual CPCU Conference. The conference took place at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park near the Adams Morgan district. The students gained a better understanding and recognition of the CPCU designation.

Katie School student Joe Drobny received a 2012 CPCU Society Student Research Award for leading a research project entitled, “A Study Exploring the Perception of Technology Readiness and Use of Social Media by Independent Insurance Agents in Illinois.” Drobny’s research paper received the Silver award. Congratulations!

Other Gamma Members that attended this conference were Dan Pettie, Director of Alumni Efforts, and Amy Johnson, Vice President of Student Affairs.

Many deserving juniors and seniors had the opportunity to attend the REBEX Chicago 2012 Conference. New to the conference this year was a networking lunch. After lunch students participated in a networking exercise where students and professionals rotated from table to table meeting new people.

“This two day conference provided students with the opportunity to network and learn more about the industry from a professional standpoint that they sometimes might not get in the classroom,” -Mark Rogina, Treasurer.

Next semester students can look forward to the opportunity of attending the NAPSLO Symposium in Chicago and RIMS 2013 in Los Angeles.

REBEX 2012 Katie School Attendees

Left: The winning team of Tyler Sandrock (The Cornerstone Agency), Jon Cappel, and Chris Sutter

Right: Stanley Yanz, Matt Britton (Allied World), Eric Mutch & Jake Timmins (Westrope)
Where Are They Now?

Ever wondered what old friends from school may be doing now? Here are updates from some of our alumni!

**Erin Carr-Sanford (05)** made a transition to Property Facultative from Casualty Facultative at Swiss Re in October and was married on September 8 to a fellow (per Erin) insurance nerd, Steve Sanford. :)

**Tyler Hall (10)** recently became engaged to Redbird, Jill Scharringhausen and their wedding is planned for September 2013. Jill is excited that her last name will be Hall!

**Kevin Halteman (06)** is a Risk Finance & Insurance Program Manager for Kaiser Permanente and he also started the finance department’s healthy work force program. He began a mini side business running a vacation rental home in South Lake Tahoe, CA and he is super pumped about it so message him if you are interested in visiting!

**David Hammond (03)**, an underwriter with Pekin Insurance in Pekin, IL, received his FLMI designation this year and he and his wife Abby attended the conferment in beautiful Seattle, Washington. In pursuance of professionalism, he earned this designation in addition to his CPCU and API designations.

**Doug Johnson (10)** will be moving from Munich Re’s Princeton office to the Chicago office as an Underwriter in the Specialty Markets Insurance Programs division.

**Kristin Johnson (10)** and **Kyle Powal (04)** became engaged this past July in Colorado and their wedding date is October 5, 2013. Kristin moved to Dallas in July and started a new position with Arch Re Fac, after being with AIG in Chicago for two years. They bought a house in Plano, TX in July.

**Amy Krych (09)** worked for a smaller broker/Lloyd’s coverholder after graduation for almost 3 years. In November 2012, she joined the Specialty Lines team at Beazley Group as an Underwriting Assistant supporting the Management Liability Underwriting Team.

**Diana Lister (09)** is an Underwriter in the Denver office for Bituminous Insurance with a territory including Colorado as well as Southern Wyoming as she underwrites commercial construction as well as oil & gas contractors. She and her husband adopted an American Bulldog puppy in February named Wrigley who will turn one on Christmas.

**Steve Naylor (99)** made the move to the casualty brokerage side of the business after working on the underwriting side for the past 13 years. In September of 2012, Steve joined Marsh in Chicago and in addition to leading and managing a team of placement brokers, Steve also serves as a broker on a select number of accounts. Steve and his wife Jessica live in Geneva, IL with their 3 year old twins, Max and Charlie and 10 month old daughter Eliana.

**Nick Paul (10)** has been working at Merrill Lynch for about 4 months now as an investment advisory in his hometown of Quincy, IL after working at Indiana Insurance for two years. He recently became engaged to Megan Brennan and they will enjoy settling down in their hometown.

**Paul Sikora (06)** recently joined the Aerospace Division in AIG/Chartis as a Senior Underwriter and is handling the South Region. He was part of the American Heart Walk committee in the Dallas office that raised just under $100,000 and he continues to coach 7th grade basketball in Dallas TX.

**Kristine Wissmiller (04)** was recently named Assistant Practice Leader on Travelers Community Bank/Credit Union book of business in the Chicago office.

Alumni Gatherings

Katie Alumni wedding! Kerri Mathews and Kevin Maess with Amber (Armand) Derkson, Stephanie Hitchins and Lauren (Leggett) Melzer

Katie Alumnus Dan Hibbs mentors Brett Glaser and Bobby Kelly at REBEX 2012.

Blake Kuppersmith, Dawn Forden and Mike Liedke from Swiss Re speak in classes

Katie Alumni Tyler Hall, Ashley Rieger and Meredith Rambert welcomed Katie students at Chubb.
Katie School Alumni at Gamma Nationals

Left: Two South African students, Duncan and Palesa, enjoy a game at the Corn Crib with Katie School Students.

Right: Katie School Students make company visits to Aon and Chubb this October

Left: Katie School students showing the South Africans a good time at a local American baseball game.

Right: Students posing before the boat cruise at the National Gamma Conference

Above: Allen Kus (Willis), Andy Vuong (Munich Re), Joe Aluise (Willis) and Jake Timmins

Katie students and alumni at Gamma Nationals

Right: Jeremy Gallico and Sarah Coglianese, both at Gen Re.

Left: Chris Hubbard (Aon), Brett Glaser, John Perry (Travelers), Aaron Augustyniak (Gen Re) and Mark Coyle (Crum & Forster)

Left: Katie students and alumni at Gamma Nationals

Jake Timmins (Westrope), Bill Lally (Burns & Wilcox), Sean Gremillion (ACE) and Casey Koontz (Swett & Crawford)

Stephanie Hitchins (Travelers), Jon Perry (Travelers), Andy Vuong (Munich Re) and Emily (Deters) Troy (Wells Fargo)