

Thomas Fitzgerald

I was honored to be selected to be one of the students to represent the Katie School at The Troy University Surplus Lines Symposium in Birmingham, Alabama. It opened my eyes to a whole new side of the insurance industry that I hadn't been aware of before. It was an excellent opportunity to learn, network, and develop myself professionally.

The Symposium was broken up into two days of activities. The first day was a time to meet with roughly 10 companies at a career fair. The recruiters there were from the excess and surplus lines of the insurance industry and were offering either internships in the upcoming summer or full time positions. The career fair offered a unique opportunity to talk with the recruiters in a more intimate environment. I learned more about the industry as well as what the individual companies had to offer.

The second day was full of speakers that offered more information on different aspects of the excess and surplus lines industry. It was great to hear about all the opportunities that the industry holds. We learned a lot about the future of the insurance industry and the direction it is going.

Throughout the entire trip, I was also able to network with students from other universities around the country. It was a unique experience to hear about their insurance programs as well as where they are at in their process of school. Some of these people I could be working with at some point in my life and establishing these connections early was an awesome opportunity.

I had a wonderful time at the Symposium and have walked away with very valuable information as well as a new network of individuals. The benefits are too numerous to list. I strongly recommend any student who wants to learn more about excess and surplus or just the insurance industry in general to consider attending the Symposium in Birmingham, Alabama.