



# Gamma Iota Sigma News Fall 2006

Gamma Iota Sigma  
Alpha Kappa Chapter

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## RIMS - Hawaii

April 22-27, 2006

Thirteen Katie School Students attended the RIMS conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. Students were able to attend educational sessions throughout the week, as well as attend company-sponsored receptions to further develop their networking skills.

*At RIMS 2006 I went to a session that talked about risk management in the casino industry. Risk managers discussed the insurance coverage they buy, problems that they face when claims arise, and the risks involved. It was interesting to hear about casinos because it was an unusual but very relevant topic for the insurance industry—*Kerri Mathews

*My favorite aspect of the RIMS conference was being able to go to the company receptions every night. I realized how great of an opportunity it was for us to network because we were treated on an equal level with everyone else. Also it was great that everyone was interested in hearing our stories, since not many people in the industry went to school for insurance.—*Jason Engle

*The most exciting part of RIMS was meeting CEOs from Aon, ACE, Marsh, and Arthur J. Gallagher. Sessions for students also offered them the chance to hone in on different industry areas such as risk map creation, case studies, and other items. A final highlight was a guest speaker for the students who had appeared on the NBC show The Apprentice. Overall, it was a great way to further understand the industry and obtain a good idea of new, emerging issues.—*Ricky Darrow

## Katie School Alumni Golf

Gamma Iota Sigma sponsored its annual Alumni Golf Outing on September 9th. Alumni and students played a scramble format at the Illinois State University Golf Course. There was a three-way tie for first place and contests for male longest drive, female longest drive, longest putt, and drive closest to the pin.

*It was a great opportunity for students to spend an extended amount of time with professionals in a laid back atmosphere. Students were able to gain valuable insight into different professions including reinsurance, underwriting, broking and claims—*Bill Jones

## 2006-2007 Officers

**Kerri Mathews (President)**

**Jason Engle (Vice President)**

**Laura Meade (Director of Alumni)**

**Thomas Daly (Volunteer Efforts)**

**Nicole Pfeiffer (Secretary)**

**Adam McGuckin (Historian)**

**Steve Dubiel (Treasurer)**

**Tita Marseto (Director of Publicity)**

**Bill Jones (Fundraising Efforts)**

**TJ Turner (Actuarial Liaison)**



Alumni Golf Outing—Jason Engle, Nick Nudo, Bill Jones, & Brian McCoy.

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## Festival ISU— August 2006

*Festival ISU is a way for organizations to promote their programs and recruit students at the beginning of the school year*

Laura Meade, Nicole Pfeiffer, and Kerri Mathews



First Place Winning Team:  
Scott Berg, Kyle Powal, Matt Britton and AJ Rector



## 2006 International Internships

### Lloyd's of London

Navigating "The Room" of legendary Lloyds of London is much like navigating life; risk and opportunity abound at every corner, and friendly faces are willing to offer a guiding hand to lead you in the right direction when lost. During our internship at Lloyd's, we were taken under the wing of experienced underwriters, brokers, and claims adjusters, and learned everything from the layering system to syndicate

strategy. Helpful professionals from the market kindly explained every action and satisfied our every question.

### A Day at Lloyd's

Our typical day started with a short commute on the tube to one of the syndicate buildings where we witnessed underwriters making preparations for the transactions of the day.

The market begins trading at eleven o'clock, and the underwriters take their positions in their respective "boxes." From this vantage point on the trading floor, we were able witness firsthand how business is conducted in the Lloyd's market.

Although the marketplace was spectacular, we particularly enjoyed our candid conversations over lunch. The English have brilliant social graces, skills, and a wicked sense of humor! Our networking skills have moved to the next level as a direct result of these exchanges. After lunch, we returned to the boxes and rotated among underwriters and areas so as to be exposed to as much as possible. Each professional gave us their card at the end of the day for any questions or guidance we might need. The majority of our time was spent with underwriters, but we also learned the trades of brokers and claims adjusters.



Katie Flack and Nicole Pfeiffer

### Zurich, Switzerland

Jason Engle & TJ Turner

The internship in Zurich was one of the most exciting and interesting experiences. It was a great opportunity to spend time with Zurich Financial Services, Swiss Re, Marsh, and Partner Re, learning about the global insurance market in Switzerland. The chance to travel on the weekends and see parts of Europe was exciting. What a great way to learn a lot about insurance and culture in a very short amount of time.



Jason Engle

### Bermuda

Mitch Carey and Steve Dubiel

The Bermuda internship was a three week program where we were paired up with two other students from Ber-

Our first week there, we were introduced to the insurance industry at the Bermuda Foundation for Insurance Studies, to the Bermuda legal system, the Bermuda Monetary Authority and the Registrar of Companies, learning how companies are incorporated.

The second and third weeks we moved into the market visiting with underwriters, brokers, claims personnel, captive managers, and we also spent time with a company in runoff. Company visits included stops at Renaissance Re, ACE XL, AWAC, Starr Excess, OIL, and OCIL, Aon, Willis, AXIS, Marsh and Ariel Re.



Nicole Pfeiffer, Steve Dubiel, Mitch Carey, Jason Engle, TJ Turner and Katie Flack.

## Gamma on the Go!



Gamma students visit Arthur J. Gallagher to learn about the brokerage business and are hosted by Katie School Advisory Board Member, Terry Hennen.



The group visits Zurich North America in Schaumburg and Katie alumni Maegan Fidel and Katie Thompson.



Officers attend the Gamma Iota Sigma Management Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana Jason Engle, TJ Turner, Nicole Pfeiffer, Thomas Daly, Laura Meade, and Kerri Mathews



REBEX 2006 with superstar mentor Jim Parizek and Katie alumnus, Greg Veselsky.

## Where Are They Now?

Ever wondered what old friends from school may be doing now? Here is list of some of the things people are doing. If you would like to be added to the alumni list or send in news, please e-mail Debbie Babcock at

[debbie.babcock@ilstu.edu](mailto:debbie.babcock@ilstu.edu).

**Kristi Ammirati ('00)** is currently a Senior Financial Analyst for the Systems Integration Division of Motorola. She lives in Schaumburg and in her spare time, you can find her bowling, playing softball, stamping and doing creative things. After planning the 2000 GIS national convention, she is now using her planning skills and organizing her 10 year high school reunion this year.

**Seth Couillard ('06)** earned his Real Estate Sales license in April of 2006, and became a Sales Associate with Coldwell Banker Heart of America in Bloomington after graduation. He is very pleased with his decision and encourages everyone to pursue their interests in Real Estate!

**Shelly Crawford-Stock ('98)** is the Commercial Manager at C F & H Insurance Agency, Inc. in Monticello, IL. In August of 2005 she married Tim Stock and they make their home in Monticello, IL.

**Nick Denny ('03)** married his long time girl friend of 10+ years, Aimee, this past July and continues to work with fellow Katie School alumnus, **Bert Margis ('03)** as Account Executives in Global Corporate Business at Zurich North

America. **Chris Colwell ('04)** recently joined their team at Zurich as an Underwriter.

**Chris DuCharme ('04)** joined AIG as a Senior Underwriter within the Management Liability Division of National Union in Chicago (1 year ago) after 18 months as an Underwriter with Chubb Group of Insurance Companies. He plans to complete the RPLU designation in the near future.

**Patrick Forden ('98)** moved to XL Reinsurance as a Property Facultative Underwriter in April 2006. His prior experiences at The Travelers and CNA have allowed him to transition very well into his new role. **Dawn Forden ('99)** continues to work as a Senior Casualty Facultative Underwriter at Swiss Re and has been with Swiss Re for over seven years. Patrick and Dawn reside in Aurora and have a 15-month old son, Joshua.

**Chad Hancock ('97)** is an Investment Analyst (Fixed Income) at COUNTRY Insurance in Bloomington, IL. He received his CFA designation in 2004 and also is an Independent Consultant for Stella Review, a CFA study program. **Kathy Hancock ('97)** is President of PineRidge Business Solutions, an Actuarial Recruiting Firm. They are proud parents of a son, Aidan (age 3 1/2) and they have another child on the way, due in Spring 2007. They reside in Chillicothe, IL.

**Marcia (Perry) Kirk ('99)** writes that after spending six years in Dallas, TX she and her

family moved to Minneapolis, MN to get closer to their family and reduce their commutes. Her husband took a new job in the corporate marketing department with Buffalo Wild Wings and she was fortunate enough to transfer within Benfield from the Broker Team to the Fiduciary Accounting Department. Her current title is Business Entity Officer and she has many new internal responsibilities working with a wide variety of projects, one of which includes going global with the internal software programs. She is enjoying her four mile drive to work and the Midwest fall weather really makes them feel like they are home again. Last but not least the best news of the year is her two year old daughter Elle is going to be a big sister in April.

**Kristine Matzke ('04)** recently celebrated her 2nd anniversary with Chubb Group of Insurance Companies in the Department of Financial Institutions in Des Moines, IA. These past two years she has been enjoying the start of her underwriting career consistently being challenged and required to find creative solutions to maximize customer satisfaction.

**Doug Standerfer ('04)** completed his two year accounting rotation in July of 2006 for CNA Financial Corporation. His rotations included Internal/External Audit, Statutory Accounting, and Investment Accounting. He has now been permanently placed on the SEC Reporting Team as a staff accountant and continues to complete CPCU tests, having successfully passed four.



Katie Alumni enjoy a Cubs game outing



Marcie Stephan, Erin Messmer and Mike Liedke chat at the Katie School open house.



Jennifer Morrill, Ken Stewart, Mark Coyle and Kyle Powal visit with Dr. Yuluen Ma who has since had twins, brother and sister Logan Ping and Dakota An.



Toby Petzel, Tori Farenò, Paul Sikora and Kyle Powal attend a Katie alumni gathering.



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## Fall 2006 Gamma Iota Sigma Calendar

August 25	Peoria Chiefs Game - RLI Insurance
August 31	Meet the Katie School - First General Meeting & Internship Information Session
September 5	CPCU Chapter Expo
September 6	State Farm Informational Internship Meeting
September 8	Katie School Alumni Golf Outing
September 12	Mid-IL Rims Chapter lunch—Workers Compensation Legislation
September 14	Guest Speaker: Laura Diss, Wellesley College Student and LIFE Foundation Scholarship Recipient
September 15	Katie School Alumni Cubs Game
September 18	Mock Interviews & Information Session—Amica Insurance Company
September 19	Fall Employment and Internship Fair
September 29	Company Visits: Arthur J. Gallagher & Zurich North America
October 5	CPCU Mentorship Informational Meeting
October 10	Risk Manager in Residence: Mary Lynn “Mel” Bangs—Risk Manager, Omni Hotels
October 12-14	Management Conference—Indianapolis, Indiana
October 18	Executive on Campus: Elspeth Brewin—Exec Vice President, Thomas & Miller Group, Bermuda
October 26-27	REBEX Conference—Itasca, IL
November 2	CPCU All Industry Day/Luncheon
November 9	Mid-IL Rims Chapter lunch
November 18-26	Thanksgiving Break
December 7	End of Semester Celebration—Pub II