



Gamma Iota Sigma Alumni News Spring 2006

Gamma Iota Sigma

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Spring 2006

New GIS Newsletter to Kickoff 2006

Hello Gamma Iota Sigma/Katie School Alumni!

Welcome to our GIS and Katie School alumni newsletter. We are excited about sharing news and activities happening at the Katie School and hope you will enjoy receiving it.

Plans are for the newsletter to be sent out two times a year. Our goal is to keep you in the loop of what is going on with the Illinois



2005 International Interns presenting at KS Board meeting. L-R Amy Walters, Paul Sikora, Kevin Conner, Debbie Babcock, Carol Sorenson, Patrick Henning and Katie Thompson.

State Gamma Iota Sigma Chapter and the Katie School of Insurance.

2005-2006 Officers

- Kevin Conner (President)*
- Paul Sikora (Vice President)*
- Ricky Darrow (Director of Alumni)*
- Toby Petzel (Volunteer Efforts)*
- Pat Henning (Secretary)*
- Staci White (Historian)*
- Amy Walters (Treasurer)*
- Matt Briton (Director of Publicity)*
- Chris Switzer (Fundraising Efforts)*
- Carol Sorenson (Actuarial Liaison)*
- Debbie Babcock (Advisor)*
- Dr. Yu-Luen Ma (Advisor)*

GIS Plays in Peoria



Gamma/RLI outing to Peoria Chiefs game. August 2005.

Save the Date!!!

March 24/25, 2006:

Katie School Open House / Alumni/Gamma Iota Sigma outing at Bloomington Indoor Golf

See page 4 for more details

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Raffle, Raffle, Raffle— 2 AirTran tickets!!!

Gamma Iota Sigma sponsored its 1st AirTran Airlines giveaway. The grand prize of this raffle was two round trip tickets to any domestic AirTran destination. Dr. Jim Moon Associate Dean of the College of Business drew ticket number 519 on January 31, 2006 with witnesses from the Katie School. Dave Wuethrich from State Farm

held the lucky ticket and now has roundtrip airfare for two!

Gamma Iota Sigma sold over 600 raffle tickets and raised over \$2,500. Gamma hopes to continue this fundraiser as an annual event, so look forward to next year's raffle. You may be the lucky winner with your picture to the right.



Dave Wuethrich, State Farm with Kevin Conner, President of Gamma Iota Sigma
Winning ticket # 519.



Raffle ticket selling at CPCU Meeting.

2005 REBEX Conference

October 5-7, 2005

Chicago, IL



Happy Hour Networking at REBEX.

The conference allows students to learn more about insurance issues through educational sessions, to meet industry professionals to build networking skills, to have an industry mentor, and to visit exhibits about new services and products within the insurance and risk management market.

REBEX was great. Not only did you have the option to

choose from many different lectures on various subjects such as Workers Compensation, Risk Management and Loss Control, but you also had the opportunity to network with many industry professionals. There were breaks in between each session so the lectures weren't overwhelming, and during these breaks they offered drinks and

food as well. The Intercontinental Hotel in Chicago, which is where we stayed and where the conference was held, was very high class. So, overall between meeting different high level managers in large insurance companies and attending interesting lectures, the 2005 REBEX Conference was a great personal experience. [Mitch Carey](#)

Troy State Symposium

October 15-16, 2005

Troy State University in Orange Beach, Alabama



Troy State Symposium. Oct. 2005. Katie School students Mark Detwiler and Kami Smith with Dr. Carol Jordan.

Kami Smith and Mark Detwiler

Getting the opportunity to attend the Troy University Symposium was a great learning experience for me. I was able to network with a lot of professionals I would not have had the opportunity to meet with

otherwise. It was very interesting learning more aspects of the industry and I took home a lot of knowledge about surplus lines. The best part of the trip for me though had to be meeting all of the other students that attended and getting the chance to spend time with them discussing insurance. It was interesting

hearing all the different reasons for why they have chosen to study it. To sum up my trip to Alabama it really was a great learning experience and I would recommend anyone interested in the industry to go. Thanks for the opportunity! [Kami Smith](#)

Going to Gamma Iota Sigma Nationals

October 20-22, 2005

Chris Switzer & Michael Gardner

Mackinac Island, MI



Chubb Company Visit—2005.

Attending the Gamma Iota Sigma national convention this year really opened my eyes to the possibilities that our chapter could achieve in the way of participation, fundraising, and other necessities of any great organization. The first night we were there, all the schools

involved got together for an ice breaker.

Starting early the next morning, everyone attended different work shops followed by a career fair allowing many insurance companies to look at top prospects of the up and coming insurance industry. Once the career fair ended, a scavenger hunt was held to help educate the students about Mackinac Island and its history. Our last active day on the island involved skits performed by partici-

pating schools in the morning, and moved to an awards banquet held at night. It was interesting to watch all the different schools win different awards based upon the performance of their students in different aspects of the fraternity, including fundraising, alumni relations, and overall organizational ability. It was a tremendous experience and I was pleased to attend the national convention. [Chris Switzer](#)

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 list, please e-mail Debbie Babcock at deb-bie.babcock@ilstu.edu.

Sarah (Mixer) Anderson ('04) completed the Zurich Associate Program and is now a commercial underwriter for Middle Markets at Zurich North America in the Chicago office.

Angie Brucker ('96) worked for Indiana Insurance Company in Champaign, IL as a Commercial Underwriter following graduation. In late 1997, she started with State Farm as a Commercial Underwriter in Murfreesboro, TN. Since then, she has held positions in Loss Control, Underwriting Supervision, Learning and Development, and is currently an Underwriting Program Analyst at Corporate Headquarters in Bloomington, IL. She earned her CPCU designation in 2000. She enjoys golfing, traveling, reading, and, of course, spending time with family and her two furry daughters (her cats!).

Dominick Bruno ('02) has been with AIG excess casualty for 3 years now and has started his CPCU. He was married on October 15th, 2005 to Amanda Warman, and is happily married and living in Streamwood, IL. They survived their honeymoon in the middle of Hurricane Wilma while in Mexico.

Mark Coyle (00') is closing in on his third year with Zurich Middle Markets as an underwriter in downtown Chicago.

In June of 2005 he earned his Masters of Science of Information Systems from DePaul University. He and his wife Kristie married in Chicago in May of 2004. Mark is currently beginning his pursuit of his CPCU, looking forward to a hard market, and the GIS Alumni Golf outing.

Shelly (Crawford) Crawford-Stock ('98) married Tim Stock on August 13th, 2005. They reside in Monticello, IL where Shelly is an agent and manager at C F & H Insurance Agency, Inc.

Brian Flynn ('02) is currently pursuing his MBA full-time at the Michael Smurfit School of Business at University College-Dublin, Ireland. He will complete his degree in June 2006.

Patrick Forden ('98), Account Executive at St. Paul Travelers in the Boiler and Machinery Department, and **Dawn (Skaggs) Forden ('99)**, Senior Casualty Facultative Underwriter at Swiss Re, had a baby boy, Joshua Patrick Forden on August 12, 2005.

Todd Gordon ('00) is currently working at Merrill Lynch in Chicago as an Assistant Vice President in commercial lending. His work consists of underwriting and financial analysis and he is getting married in March 2006. Emilie and Todd became engaged about 6 months ago at the zoo and they are getting pretty excited about the wedding. He lives in the Loop in Chicago, so if anyone ever wants to get a group together for lunch or drinks, please let him know at

toddg1978@aol.com. Hope everyone else is doing well!!!

Kristine Matzke ('04) started working with her dream company, Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, in June 2004 in downtown Chicago in their training program with the Department of Financial Institutions. In September she moved to the West Des Moines office in Iowa where she was bumped up from trainee status to an Underwriter with her own book of business. "Everyday that I come into work and look at my picture that captured the students and Debbie when attending the 2004 RIMS conference in sunny San Diego, California, I thank the Katie School of Insurance for being so involved and being my conduit to the world of Insurance. Honestly I would have been lost without all the support and direction it gave me."

Joanne (Prince) Minton ('99) has a little one named Logan who is 13 months and she is now taking a break from the insurance industry to stay home with him. "I cannot say I miss the work, however I do miss all the wonderful people from the Katie School."

Nick Nudo (00') is working as a Facultative Casualty Underwriter for GE Insurance Solutions in Chicago.

Janaye (Dzurny) Smith ('99) has been an underwriter for seven years for Trustmark Life Insurance Company in Lake Forest, IL. She received her MBA from Keller Graduate School of Management of DeVry University - . She is married to Roy ('99) and has two children - Brianna and Tyler.



Katie School Alumni Golf Outing. Chris Hubbard, Kevin Conner, Paul Sikora, Mike Flaherty.



Katie School Alumni Golf Outing. Mike Miler, Matt Britton, Kyle Powal, Scott Berg.



2005 RIMS Conference. Philadelphia. 15 Katie School students attending



REBEX 2005. 16 Katie School students attending

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KATIE OF INSURANCE AND
SCHOOL FINANCIAL SERVICES
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

www.katieschool.org

[March 24-25, 2006 Katie Alumni Weekend](#)

Katie School Open House

Cocktail Reception

[Alumni/GIS Social Activity—Bloomington Indoor
Golf Club](#) *More details to follow!*

**Tour the new College of Business
Building** <http://www.cob.ilstu.edu/building/tour/>



2006 Gamma Iota Sigma Calendar

- January 30 Gamma General Meeting/Guest Speaker—Greg Veselsky—Amerisure
- January 31 Gamma/AirTran Raffle Drawing
- February 7 Spring Employment & Internship Career Fair
- February 10 Company Visit—State Farm Claims Lab Tour
- February 14 Insurance Legislative Day
- February 15 Mid-IL Rims Chapter lunch—Alternative Risk Financing/Captives
- February 23 Guest Speaker: Dr. Michael Theil, Vienna, Austria
- March 3 Company Visits: AIG and Marsh
- March 7 Mid-IL RIMS Chapter lunch—Disaster Restoration: Pre-Loss Planning and Lessons Learned
- March 10-19 Spring Break
- March 24-25 Alumni/Gamma Open House and Social Activity
- March 27-30 Business Week - Ice Cream Social, Etiquette Dinner, Mock Interviews, Keynote Address, Alumni Panel
- April 5 Scholarship and Award Recognition Dinner
- April 11 Mid-IL RIMS Chapter Lunch—Slips/Trips/Falls—Safety in the Workplace
- April 22-26 RIMS 2006 Annual Conference—Hawaii