

GAMMA IOTA SIGMA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Gamma Iota Sigma - Alpha Kappa had a great start to the spring semester at Illinois State University. The following pages include a highlight of events we have enjoyed taking part in or hosting. Collaborating with various RSOs on campus and meeting other students and business professionals at conferences have always been important to us as we constantly strive to spread the word of the Alpha Kappa chapter. Many of us were looking forward to a variety of events planned to

end a great start to the year and were left feeling disappointed when we were unable to do so. The Katie School and the Alpha Kappa chapter have worked very hard to prepare virtual events so that students may continue learning outside of the classroom. Even though the semester did not end the way many of us hoped for, we each took full advantage of the opportunities presented to us and could not be more excited for what the future holds.

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EVENTS AND CONFERENCES



GIS REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The GIS Regional Conference in Columbus, Ohio provided our students with a variety of topics and knowledgeable speakers as well as plenty of time to network and socialize. The conference was mainly focused on personal lines and what it means to be an agent and how to build a book of business. Emily Selenis, one of the attendees, stated that one

of her favorite memories was going with all of the students to an arcade because it was great to sit down with peers and talk about the insurance programs, experiences, and career plans. Our group brought back many ideas to the Alpha Kappa chapter and we cannot wait to implement them!



ETIQUETTE DINNER

A group of us attended an etiquette dinner that was hosted by Debbie Babcock. This was a great event, especially for younger members who were previously unaware of the proper mannerisms while eating dinner with professionals. Older members also found this very helpful because there is always room to practice these valuable professional soft skills.



GEN RE AND LIBERTY MUTUAL OFFICE VISIT

In February, some students attended a corporate visit in Chicago at Gen Re and Liberty Mutual. At the Gen Re corporate visit, we were able to hear from Katie School grads and managers from Gen Re, GenStar, and Genesis. We saw the effects of emerging issues and current events they see day to day. At Liberty Mutual, we were able to shadow with teams in two areas of choice. This day was extremely beneficial as we were able to see the carrier, reinsurer, and excess and surplus market all in one day.



D&I EVENT

The first annual D&I event was an absolute success with over 200 students attending and 14 sponsoring companies. We were fortunate to have alumni from different companies and roles join us and share their experiences with students. The panel did a fantastic job covering the importance of inclusion in the workforce. We are already looking forward to the event next year! The panelists included L-R: Bennie Jones, Briana Labrie, JoJo Harris, Jasmin Zamora and *Jon Perry*.

LUNCH AND LEARNS



Product Recall: Patrick O'Brien, an alumnus from AmWINS

VOLUNTEERING



Habitat for Humanity



Humane Society

ALUMNI MENTORING PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

This year was the first year that the alumni mentor program has been implemented. So far, it has been a great success and we look forward to more pairings next year as we will continue to encourage involvement! Thank you again to our amazing alumni who have helped so many students! Here are some testimonials a few students gave about their mentors.

EMILY AND ANDY

“My mentor Andy has been amazing! He is always willing to answer my questions and has given me an insider’s perspective on underwriting. Andy hosted a Microsoft Teams meeting with me, Brendan Leibforth and his mentor, Jon Perry to show us his day-to-day activities. I’ll admit, I was overwhelmed at first while he was going through the pricing techniques, but Andy is great at clarifying. I actually have another call with him really soon! This is a great program and a great success.”

KATE AND MIRA

“Taking part in the alumni mentor program has been one of the best decisions. Mira has made herself readily available to answer questions, provide advice, and serve as an invaluable resource. She has also challenged me to think deeper and understand how different roles in the industry work together to serve insureds.”

BRENDAN AND JON

“The Gamma Alumni Mentor Program has been quite an amazing experience. My mentor, Jon Perry (‘09), has shared with me knowledge, advice, stories, and encouragement to help guide me through these trying times. His willingness to assist me in anyway possible transcends all expectations I had for a mentor. The camaraderie amongst the Katie School alumni is truly something special, and I look to give back in this way following my graduation.”

STUDENT / ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



CAROLINE WILIEKO

Caroline joined GIS in spring of 2017 because of the endless opportunities that she saw in which other GIS members were taking advantage. Throughout her experiences in GIS, some of her favorite memories have been the friendships that she has made at conferences that she knows will last a lifetime. She has really enjoyed the professional experiences that have allowed her to travel and see the insurance industry in other cities and sectors. Caroline has enjoyed being president because it really was

a once in a lifetime professional experience for her. She was able to grow professionally in such a short amount of time. Caroline will always be grateful for her time at the Katie School of Insurance and as president of GIS. A few of her favorite events have been WSIA conference, RIMS 2019 and Reinsurance 101. Some of Caroline's hobbies are cooking, running and paddle boarding. Caroline's plans for the future will be to start her career virtually at Zurich North America on the large property team in Chicago.



KERRI MAESS

Kerri graduated ISU in 2007 and became the sixth female president of Gamma from 2006-2007. Some of the highlights of her time at ISU were going to RIMS conferences. One year she was selected to attend the RIMS conference in Hawaii and the group took full advantage of the beauty of Hawaii with a boat cruise. Another year she was selected to attend the conference in New Orleans soon after Hurricane Katrina happened. Some of the students helped clear debris and it was a very empowering moment for many of them. Kerri began her

career at Marsh & McLennan in the risk analyst program and has transitioned to different roles within a few companies until her time currently at Chubb where she is very happy working as AVP underwriting major accounts property. Outside of work, she is an active member in APIW, enjoys running, and spending time with her family. She met her husband at a Katie School Alumni event and now they have a 3.5 year old named Henry. Kerri has a strong dedication to both her work and family which is very inspiring.



IICF BLAZING THE TRAIL DINNER

Katie Moran and Ray Guardado with former Chicago Bears player, Peanut Tillman, from the IICF Blazing the Trail dinner in Chicago on March 5, 2020 at the Four Seasons Hotel where Peanut was the featured speaker.

RECOGNITION

RIMS CONFERENCE IN DENVER, CO

Macie Brown	Kate Pankhurst
Jenna Chervinko	Nicole
Caroline Wilieko	Grendzinski
Megan Smalter	Sarah Puleo
Erika Sreenan	Sean Powers
Carlos Rubio	Trey Kolenda
Jackie Neuhalfen	Zach Snow

INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS

London: Kate Pankhurst and Brendan Liebforth
Switzerland: Nicole Grendzinski and Michael Iavarone
Bermuda: Zach Snow and Ray Guardado

2020-2021 OFFICERS

President: Brendan Leibforth
Vice President - Internal Affairs: Kate Pankhurst
Vice President - Student Affairs: Nicole Grendzinski
Secretary - Emily Selenis
Treasurer - Connor Richards
Director of Publicity/Historian - Miranda Kobal
Director of Outreach - Megan Whitney
Actuarial Liason - Tyler Jenkins

Director of Professional Development - Ray Guardado
Director of Recruiting - Zach Snow & Ryan Carlin
Director of Volunteer Efforts - Shelby Burmeister
Director of Alumni Affairs - Dan Anfield
Director of Diversity & Inclusion - Michael Iavarone
Director of Fundraising - Hayden Sanborn



GRADUATING SENIOR OFFICERS



Macie Brown - Great American Insurance Group: Cincinnati, OH



Jenna Chervinko - Zurich North America: Chicago, IL



Chris Fortunato - Lockton: Chicago, IL



Katie Moran - GenStar: Chicago, IL



Mark Murdoch - Pinnacle Actuarial Resources: Bloomington, IL



Jackie Neuhalfen - Great American Insurance Group: Cincinnati, OH



Sarah Puleo - Chubb: Nashville, TN



Daniel Roesler - Blue Cross Blue Shield: Chicago, IL



Carlos Rubio - Sompco: Chicago, IL

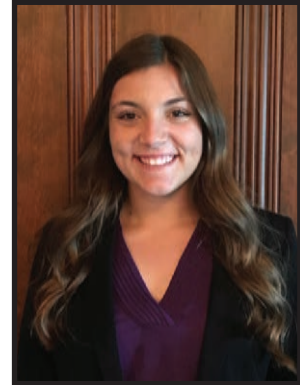
GRADUATING SENIOR OFFICERS



John Schlosser - RT Specialty:
Chicago, IL



Megan Smalter - CNA
Insurance: Chicago, IL



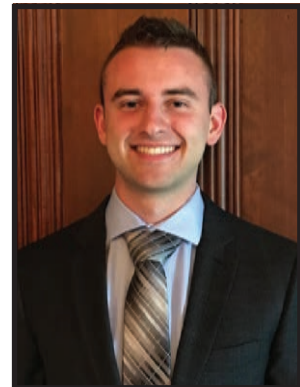
Erika Sreenan - All Risks :
Tacoma, WA



Justin Waller - CNA Insurance:
Chicago, IL



Caroline Wilieko - Zurich
North America: Chicago, IL



Kyle Wolter - Not determined
yet



SPRING 2020 CALENDAR

Date	Day	Time	Location	Event	Dress
^Jan 22.	Wed	4:00-7:00pm	Bone Student Center	Winterfest	Gamma Gear
*Jan. 24-25	Fri-Sat	All Day	Columbus, Ohio	GIS Regional Conference	Bus. Professional
Jan. 27	Mon	3:00-5:00pm	COB Atrium	COBEC in the Snow	Gamma Gear
Jan. 28	Tue	12:00-2:00pm	Bloomington, IL	Habitat for Humanity	Casual
Jan. 29	Wed	6:00-9:00pm	SFH 430	Agency Management Competition CLBA	Bus. Casual
^Feb. 4	Tue	4:00-7:00pm	Brown Ballroom	Spring Internship Fair	Bus. Professional
Feb. 6	Thu	6:30-7:50pm	CAT Auditorium	1 st General Meeting	Bus. Casual
Feb. 7	Fri	11:30-1:00pm	SFH 430	Product Recall Lunch and Learn	Bus. Casual
Feb. 10	Mon	All Day	SFH 432	Mock Interviews	Bus. Professional
Feb. 13	Thu	5:00-7:00pm	SFH 412	Etiquette Dinner	Bus. Professional
^Feb. 18	Tue	4:00-7:00pm	Brown Ballroom	Spring Career Fair	Bus. Professional
Feb. 18	Tue	1:00-3:00pm	Bloomington, IL	Humane Society	Casual
Feb. 20	Thu	11:30-1:00pm	SFH 430	All Risks Lunch and Learn	Bus. Casual
Feb. 24	Mon	10:00-4:00pm	Stevenson	Bake Sale	Gamma Gear
Feb. 25	Tue	6:30-7:30pm	CAT Auditorium	Why Insurance?	Business Casual
Feb. 28	Fri	All Day	Chicago, IL	Gen Re and Liberty Mutual Office Visit	Bus. Professional
Feb. 29	Sat	8:00-12:00pm	Bloomington, IL	Habitat for Humanity	Casual
Mar. 3	Tue	5:00-7:30pm	Brown Ballroom	The Powers of an Inclusive Workforce D&I Panel	Bus. Professional
Mar. 4	Wed	10:00-12:00pm	Bloomington, IL	Habitat for Humanity	Casual



Mar. 4	Wed	6:30-7:50pm	SFH 366	2 nd General Meeting	Bus. Casual
Mar. 8-11	Sun-Wed	All Day	Washington, DC	PLRB Claims Conference	Bus. Professional
Mar. 17	Tue	1:00-3:00pm	Bloomington, IL	Midwest Food Bank	Casual
Mar. 19	Thu	4:00-6:00pm	SFH 430	Communication Workshop CLBA	Bus. Casual
Mar. 20	Fri	11:30-1:00pm	SFH 430	Excess and Surplus Lines 101	Bus. Casual
*Mar. 27-29	Fri-Sun	All Day	Chicago, IL	WSIA Symposium	Bus. Professional
Mar. 30	Mon	10:00-4:00pm	Stevenson	Krispy Kreme Fundraiser	Gamma Gear
Apr. 1	Wed	6:30-7:50	SFH 366	3 rd General Meeting	Bus. Casual
Apr. 3	Fri	10:00-2:00pm	Activity Room	Gamma Games	Casual
*Apr. 7	Tue	5:00-7:30pm	Bloomington, IL	Katie School Scholarship Recognition Dinner	Bus. Professional
Apr. 8	Wed	5:00-7:30pm	Prairie Room	Leadership Event	Bus. Casual
Apr. 10	Fri	TBD	Bloomington, IL	Epiphany Farms Volunteering	Casual
Apr. 24	Fri	TBD	TBD	Cyber Lunch and Learn	Bus. Casual
Apr. 22	Wed	All Day	Normal, IL	CPCU Symposium	Bus. Professional
Apr. 29	Wed	6:30-7:50pm	SFH 366	4 th General Meeting	Bus. Casual
Apr. 30	Thu	1:00-3:00pm	Bloomington, IL	Midwest Food Bank	Casual
*May 2- May 6	Sat-Wed	All Day	Denver, Colorado	RIMS	Bus. Professional
May. 9	Sat	All Day	Redbird Arena	Graduation	Bus. Casual

^ Indicates University Event *By Invitation only - Visit www.katieschool.org for up-to-date calendar. Questions contact Caroline Wilieko cnwilie@ilstu.edu

Cancelled events due to COVID-19.

2020 RISK & INSURANCE POWER BROKERS - KATIE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Marsh Broker Matthew Yoder Recognized as a 2020 Retail Power Broker

Topics: Retail

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Matthew Yoder, Senior Vice President, Marsh



Matthew Yoder
Senior Vice President
Marsh, Chicago

Analytics are one thing and they are important. But what about those soft skills, the traits that build trust in people and cement business relationships?

Marsh's Matthew Yoder has them by the bucketful, according to his clients.

"Matt is very personable. He is a lovely person to work with," said Vicki Telford, the director of global risk management for Hanesbrands.

With the D&O markets hardening, Yoder was instrumental in helping Telford communicate the news about changing markets in a transparent way to her company's CFO.

When it came time to do dinner with representatives from her lead insurance markets, Yoder hosted a catered event at his condo in Chicago. "Not only was it a delightful occasion, but it gave us the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations," Telford said.

Stephen Harwell, a vice president of corporate operations for Francesca's, said Yoder helped him navigate a very tricky situation. "We had an extremely challenging D&O renewal."

The rub? Part one was that the board was accustomed to a very comfy depth of coverage. Part of it was selling the company's board on the idea of providing them less D&O coverage, not more. The trick was showing the board benchmarking stats showing where their desired level of D&O coverage stacked up against their peers.

Once the coverage was right-sized in the mind's-eye of the board, there was still the task of binding it. Yoder delivered a program that Harwell described as the "best possible" outcome in a market that is very difficult.

Gallagher Broker Ryan Doyle Recognized as a 2020 Nonprofit Power Broker

Topics: Nonprofit

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Ryan Doyle, Area Assistant Vice President, Gallagher



Ryan Doyle
Area Assistant Vice President
Gallagher, Rolling Meadows, Ill.

When the success of a business relies on donated and distributed products, insuring the giving journey from start to finish can be a gamble. With the help of Ryan Doyle, it's just the opposite.

When it comes to insuring food banks, successful coverage is particularly difficult due to the specific needs of each location, but Doyle gets it done.

"It's not like you're doing a group-buying program for McDonald's. Everyone has different needs. To get everyone to hop on is like herding cats," said Marshall Aster, CFO, Food Bank of the Rockies.

Doyle was able to leverage a group buying program and dramatically cut costs for the nonprofit. "Not everyone can do what he did," said Aster.

The Food Bank of Santa Barbara County also enlisted Gallagher when it was in search of a group insurance program. "What's really important is the complexity of our relationship with Ryan," said Carrie Wanek, CFO.

"We have expectations, and he had to figure out how to meet the requirements of all 15 of our foodbanks." Doyle managed the task at hand, but he also resolved a difficult claim that resulted from a delivery truck accident.

"Not only did he get the claim resolved, but he set up a training session with the carrier," explained Wanek. "We had someone in our corner."



What is a Power Broker?

A Risk & Insurance Power Broker® is an individual who stands out among their peers for the exceptional client work they delivered over the past year. While brokers play many key roles in the insurance industry and risk profession, a Power Broker® award recognizes problem solving, customer service and industry knowledge.

ALUMNI SIGHTINGS

INSURANCE ASSOCIATES NETWORKING GATHERING - CHICAGO



Lauryn Appelbaum, Peyton Ferrara and Morgan Loy



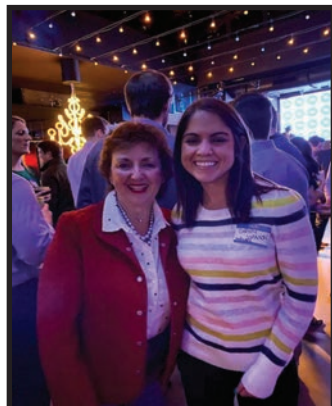
Sean Fitzgerald, Royal Charles and Matt Dubiel



Sal D'Acquisto, Travis Kniep, Sean Fitzgerald and Royal Charles



Royal Charles, Lauryn Appelbaum, Sean Fitzgerald and Morgan Loy



Debbie Babcock and **Christy Johnson**



“THE POWER OF AN INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE” - ISU CAMPUS



Dave Hammond, Jon Perry, Sarah Anderson and Ben Delinski



Jon Perry and Jake Morris



Carlos Rubio, Master of Ceremonies; Panelists Bennie Jones, Briana Labrie, JoJo Harris, Jasmin Zamora, ***Jon Perry*** and Katelynn Pankhurst, Moderator

GEN RE COMPANY VISIT - CHICAGO



Stan Yanz, Eric Mutch, Brett Glaser and Karly Shannon

APIW DARTS EVENT - CHICAGO



Tamesha Donald, Kerri Maess, Erin Stochmal and Kristine Wissmiller

ALUMNI SIGHTINGS

IICF BLAZING THE TRAIL DINNER - CHICAGO



Mira Andreeva and ***Marcie Stephan***



Rob Balogh



Ray Guardado, **Katie Moran**, **Mark Rector** and **Pat Talley**



Mira Andreeva and ***Matt Dubiel***



Thomas Fitzgerald and ***Eric Mutch***



Erin Stochmal, **Debbie Babcock** and **Dan Brown**



Matt Britton

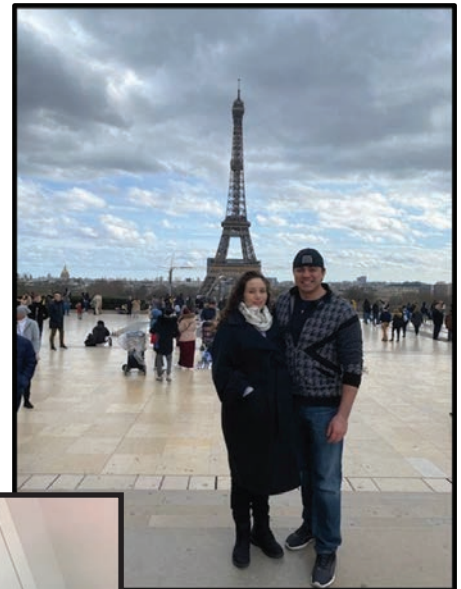


Sara Hogan, Debbie Babcock and
Marcie Stephan

LIBERTY MUTUAL VISIT



Justin Waller and ***Max Johnson***



Javier and Graziella
Zavala - Paris



Javier Zavala and Little Miss Zavala

*The names of Katie School Alumni are ***bold and italicized***

INSTAGRAM

@alphakappagis



FACEBOOK

Gamma Iota Sigma -
Alpha Kappa Chapter

