

Volume 3, Issue 1

Illinois State University

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Fall 2008

Gamma Iota Sigma Kicks off the Fall of 2008!

Gamma goes to Nationals

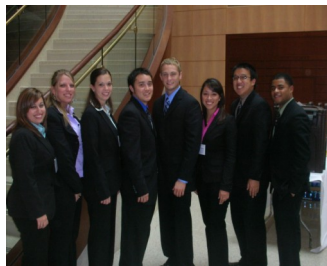
On October 16th, eight officers flew out to Richmond, Virginia to represent the Alpha Kappa Chapter at The Gamma Iota Sigma Nationals, held at Virginia Commonwealth University.

We heard some amazing speakers, networked with company professionals, and had fun with peers in other chapters from all across the U.S. and Canada. Speakers included Charles Franklin, the Claim Center Vice President of Travelers, and Tony Markel, Chairman of Markel.

We attended sessions that enhanced our personal knowledge as well as gave us good ideas to bring back to the chapter. Sessions included fundraising, effective leadership, professional designations and scholarships, an alumni panel, and a roundtable of chapter presidents. There was also a career fair for the students.

With Richmond, VA being such a historic city, we were graced with a reenactment of Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty, Give Me Death" Speech presented by The American Civil War Center. We were also able to browse the Civil War Museum.

Overall the four days were filled with education, entertainment, networking, and making of friendships. All officers came back excited for the semester with great ideas! -Stacey Hinterlong, Treasurer



Katie School students attending Nationals at Virginia Commonwealth University

2008-2009 Officers

Jon Perry (President)

Vanessa Contreras (VP-Student Relations)

Jeremy Gallico (VP-Internal Affairs)

Ryan Doyle (Director of Alumni)

Patrick Doyle (Volunteer Efforts)

Kristin Church (Reporting Secretary)

Diana Camper (Recording Secretary)

Joanna Leggett (Historian)

Stacey Hinterlong (Treasurer)

Andy Vuong (Director of Publicity)

Jacob Guimond (Fundraising Efforts)

Thomas Lauren (Actuarial Liaison)

Kristin Johnson (Recruiting)

Debbie Babcock (Advisor)

Dr. Yu-Luen Ma (Advisor)



Gamma members enjoying a Saturday tailgate before the football game.

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Risk Manager in Residence Mr. Roger Andrews with Gamma Iota Sigma

Katie School Hosts Alumni Golf Outing



Katie School students and alumni having fun playing golf

This year the Katie School of Insurance hosted its Alumni-Student golf Outing on Friday, October 3rd. The outing was held at the Illinois State Golf Course, and was followed by a social at the Pub II. 28 Katie School students attended the golf outing, along with 20 Alumni. This year's outing had the biggest turnout of all previ-

ous outings. A luncheon was held at 11 a.m. where Gamma Iota Sigma members were able to socialize and network with Katie School Alumni. The event lasted all day, and alumni and students were able to relax and have a good time at the Pub II after the outing.

- Joanna Leggett, Historian



Gamma Iota Sigma officers talking with new members during the new member meeting

REBEX Conference 2008 Wheeling, IL October 25-26

This fall I was fortunate to attend the REBEX Conference in Wheeling, IL. I had high expectations of what would take place at a REBEX Conference, and I was not disappointed. A wide variety of topics was discussed from workers compensation claims to professional liability issues, more basic issues of how to effectively manage your broker/client relationships, and what type of team members a risk manager needs. All of the presentations were educational, and most of them correlated with what was being taught in my insurance classes. It was interesting to hear real life issues that brokers, risk managers, underwriters, and attorneys must face on a daily basis.

All of the students received mentors to help them throughout the conference. Alan Kubitz, director of risk management for The HAVI Group, was my mentor and was extremely helpful. He helped me understand some of the more difficult material being discussed, and introduced me to numerous people in the insurance industry. It was encouraging to see that Alan wanted to continue his education

even though he was already in a well established position.

Finally, it was a lot of fun going through this experience with several other Gamma members. I forged stronger bonds with some members that I already knew and created new bonds with some of the newer members. It was nice to see my peers as interested in the insurance industry as I was.

Overall the 2008 REBEX conference was a tremendous experience. I think the networking opportunities and friendships I have established will be very beneficial to my development in the insurance industry.

- Ryan Doyle,

Director of Alumni Affairs



Gamma Iota Sigma members at REBEX 2008 with Jim Parizek of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

Central Illinois CPCU Chapter Expo

Walking through The Cha-teau looking for a large group of already proven insurance professionals was a somewhat nerve racking unfamiliarity for Katie School students. The Central Illinois CPCU Chapter welcomed us enthusiastically and throughout the CPCU Expo, students as well as members were given the opportunity to learn about the society and all the different committees such as a history or even a mentor committee.

Since there are so many programs that the CPCU Society offers, it makes it easy to get involved. People within the organization made it extremely easy to ask questions which made for an easy transition into meeting people of the group.

The Expo itself was a great way to not only show what the Chapter has to offer after obtaining your CPCU, but shows the benefits of continued education. The rewards of attending this Expo have already found their way to me by pairing me up with a local mentor at State Farm.

Having a mentor has given me more insight into the industry, interview tips, resume critiques and key aspects when accepting a job.

The CPCU Expo was an extremely beneficial experience for many of the Katie School students because of its relevance to the insurance field. Simply gaining the knowledge while obtaining a mentor was advantageous towards my career and it happened because of the Expo. Networking has to start somewhere and the CPCU Expo dinner was a great place to start.



Officers celebrating Gamma's 17th Birthday



Gamma Iota Sigma officers enjoying dinner during the officer retreat

Officer Retreat Held in Champaign

On August 15-16, 2008 Alpha Kappa Officers traveled to Champaign, IL for the fall retreat. We decided our goals this semester were to improve awareness of Gamma Iota Sigma on campus and to focus on fundraising along with membership development. Some important characteristics we need as officers to achieve these goals is to be welcoming and be proud! To promote Gamma Iota Sigma, each officer signed up for times they could speak in business classes to let students know a little bit about our organization and to advertise the first meeting. A large amount of our time was spent planning the New Member/First General Meeting. We

discussed what each officer would present to our members and how the meetings would be conducted. Planning events was also an important part of our meeting. We have several industry speakers coming to the College of Business to present on important topics to students, as well as a large number of networking opportunities with companies like State Farm, Travelers, and Westfield. Officers had a very successful retreat and are looking forward to a fun year!

- Kristin Church,
Reporting Secretary

What's Happening with Katie Alumni!!

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 debbie.babcock@ilstu.edu.

Sarah (Mixer) Anderson (04) continues to be a Senior Underwriter for the Chicago Middle Markets team at Zurich. She and her husband, Hari, had their first child, Reese Elaine, on August 27th.

Seth Couillard (06) is a seasoned (2 1/2 years) Realtor with Coldwell Banker Heart of America in Bloomington/Normal and owns/operates two small businesses. Seth and his fiancé are to be married next summer and just purchased a house in town.

Thomas Daly (08) spent the summer after graduation traveling Europe. He works with The Hartford in the reserving department and finds his career both interesting and challenging. He is currently renting a house 12 minutes away in West Hartford.

Emily Deters (08) is working at Wells Fargo Insurance Services in Cleveland as an Insurance Associate in the Leadership Pipeline Program. During this year-long rotational program, she is working with the different departments in the office including Personal Lines in the Athletes and Entertainers division, the Professional Risk group, Benefits and Commercial Lines, as well as seeing the role of accounting and the management side of the office. She is really enjoying Wells Fargo.

Steve Dubiel (07) is an underwriter in the Construction division in the Chicago

office for AIG and handles the Midwest territory working on primarily large construction accounts with premiums anywhere from \$750K- \$3MM. He is the underwriter for the Minnesota Twins Stadium. He is in the process of completing his ARM designation and will then pursue his CPCU or his MBA.

Patrick Forden (98) joined Swiss Re America in Chicago in December 2008 as a Senior Property Facultative Reinsurance Underwriter. **Dawn Forden (99)** continues to work at Swiss Re America in Chicago as a Senior Casualty Facultative Underwriter. She will be celebrating 10 years in 2009. Patrick and Dawn have two children, Joshua (3 years old) and Alyssa (9 months old).

Todd Gordon (00) is working at Merrill Lynch in the commercial lending group. He is living with his wife Emilie in Chicago over by UIC. They are expecting their first baby girl in March 2009. They are very excited but have been really busy getting ready for her.

Kurt Konkey (00) has been working at Travelers since 2001 and has been the Managing Director of the Central Region Public Company Liability Business Unit since March of 2007. It's a very interesting and challenging role. He also has 3 boys under the age of 4 and is undoubtedly busy and active around the home front.

Blake Kuppersmith (02) is Vice President at Swiss Re. He and his wife, Dawn, live in Atlanta and are expecting

their first child on June 7th.

Bert Margis (03) is an Account Executive at Zurich North America and he recently became engaged.

Kyle Powal (04) was promoted to Assistant Regional Casualty Manager for the Home Foreign Group at AIG World-Source.

Cara (McDermott) Quinn (05) has worked at ACE Insurance Company for 2 and 1/2 years as an underwriter in the Excess Casualty Department. She was recently married on September 13th, 2008 to a fellow ISU alum. She is currently working through the busy season at work and enjoying marriage.

Meredith Rambert (08) is an underwriter in the Executive Protection division of Chubb Specialty Insurance and is half way through the Chubb Trainee program, spending time in New Jersey at Chubb headquarters for two weeks in November. She just moved to Lincoln Park in Chicago at the beginning of October and plans to come down for the Spring Career Fair to help Chubb recruit.



Katie School Alumni at the Gamma Initiation in April 2008



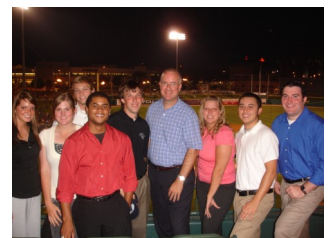
Birthday cake before it was served to students for Gamma's 17th birthday!!!



Patrick Henning and Javier Zavala enjoy the pregame activities before a Cubs outing



Katie School Alumni and students enjoying refreshments at Pub II



RLI Insurance and Gamma Iota Sigma members at the Peoria Chiefs game.

More Alumni Updates!

Rafal Rosinski (00) is an Agency Recruiter with State Farm Insurance in the greater Chicago area. His objective is to identify professionals with an entrepreneurial spirit in order to explore a lucrative and meaningful career as a State Farm agent. He is also in the process of planning his wedding which will occur on September 19, 2009.

Marcie (Jackson) Stephan (05) has been working at AIG since graduation. She is currently a production specialist focusing on transportation. She and her husband, Adam, purchased their first home in Roselle in the spring and they were very busy with house projects all summer.

Dave Hammond (03) is currently working at Pekin Insurance as a life underwriter. He received his CPCU designation in 2007 and went to Honolulu, Hawaii for the conferment ceremony. He is the proud father of 2 twin girls who are now 3 years old.

Mike Flaherty (02) is a Financial Consultant with FSB Wealth Management, located at First State Bank of Bloomington and loves it. He is living in Bloomington with his yellow lab Zoe.

Kristi Ammirati (00) recently graduated with her MBA in December from Northern Illinois University and is currently a Finance Manager at Motorola. She bought a house in Warrenville this year and is getting married in Riviera Maya, Mexico in October 2009!

Erin Maciasz (05) is an Associate Account Executive at Travelers and works in the Excess Casualty Unit (umbrella and surplus lines). She works in the Chicago office and lives in Chicago as well. She says that everything is amazing!



Gamma Iota Sigma meeting followed by Bowling Social



Alumni returning to speak to students at Fall Career Fair

A note from Alpha Kappa

Katie School Alumni,

Gamma Iota Sigma is planning a networking and fund raising event called "Gamma Games" near the end of March or early April 2009. We are looking for talented teams of industry professionals to compete in games (Trivia, putting, etc.) and to represent their respective companies.

This event is beneficial for both students and the company representatives. Gamma Games will be excellent visibility for your company. Also, students will be joining the industry teams in order to facilitate networking and recruiting. We highly encourage industry teams to bring business cards and company information!

We are looking for teams of 3-5 people (Multiple teams from a single company are encouraged). "Gamma Games" will support Gamma Iota Sigma's end of the year induction banquet as well as our variety of events throughout the year as viewed on www.katieschool.org. The event registration is \$100 per team and prizes will be awarded to the winning teams. Most importantly, the winning teams will win industry wide bragging rights!

Please contact Jon Perry (jjperry@ilstu.edu) with questions/concerns as well as a list of team members who may be attending. Thank you for your continued support of the Katie School and Gamma Iota Sigma!

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Alpha Kappa Chapter**

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Katie Alumni Adam Johnson and Benito Almanza from State Farm



Gamma Underclassmen Social



Cubs Game Outing for Katie Alumni

2008 Gamma Iota Sigma Calendar

August 18	Classes begin	October 3	Katie School Alumni & Student Golf Outing
August 21	Festival ISU	October 8	RIMS Luncheon
August 27	Peoria Chiefs Game with RLI	October 16-19	Gamma Iota Sigma Nationals
September 3	GIS New Member/General Meeting	October 22-24	REBEX 2008 Conference
September 10	Travelers Insurance Day	October 29	Amerisure Speaker
September 10	RIMS Luncheon	October 30	Jimmy John's Fundraiser
September 15	Risk Manager In Residence	November 15	Habitat for Humanity
September 18	Katie School Advisory Board Meeting	November 12	RIMS Luncheon
September 18	CPCU Expo	November 17-21	Happy Birthday Alpha Kappa
September 20	Tailgating at ISU vs. EIU	November 19	APIW Luncheon/ Munich Re/ Chubb
September 23	State Farm Day	November 24-28	Fall Break
October 1	Career & Internship Fair	December 6	Catholic Charity Christmas Party
October 2	Group Golf Lessons		