RMI Students Place 2nd at RIMS

RMI majors John Churey, John Neeley, Tim Scollo and John Plocharczyk participated in the 2014 Spencer-RIMS Risk Management Challenge. This three-month long competition developed comprehensive risk management recommendations and solutions for Snap-on Tools. Throughout the case, the team was challenged to identify unique risks of this Fortune 500 company, while incorporating creativity, innovation and technology within their solutions. The competition began with written submissions from 18 school teams from across the country. Nine teams were chosen to present at the RIMS national conference in Denver, Colo. with three advancing to the final round. The Crystal Clear Consultants of FSU placed 2nd overall in the competition and won $3,000. The team also attended industry events and experienced the wide array of exhibitors at RIMS!

2014 Spring Banquet Brings New Scholarships!

Wrapping up the academic year, the 2014 spring banquet was held on April 24 at Marie Livingston’s Steakhouse. Nearly 60 students, faculty and industry guests attended the event! The RMI program would like thank our company sponsor, Arthur J. Gallagher, for their generous support in sponsoring the banquet.

Almost $36,000 in scholarship funds was awarded to undergraduate, master’s and doctoral students at the event, including two new scholarships. First is the $5,000 Assurex Global “Game Changer” scholarship. This scholarship is designed to support students majoring in both RMI and sales. Congratulations to the first recipient, John Dutkowsky (pictured on the right receiving the award from a representative from Assurex)! The introduction of this scholarship accompanies the establishment of the RMI and sales double major within the College of Business.

Second is the AMWINS Group, Inc. Alumni Scholarship. This scholarship was created by a group of alumni to provide financial support to an RMI student interested in the surplus lines industry.

In addition to these companies, we would like to thank all donors who provided scholarships to our students. A complete list is provided on page 3.

RMI Department Highlights:

• New double major in RMI and professional sales launched this semester with a kick-off event that included a panel discussion on insurance sales careers.

• Steve Cunningham organized a group of speakers for the second annual “Exploring the World of Marine Risk.”

• NASCAR Risk Management Department and International Speedway Corporation’s Dave Holcomb and Rodney Chevalier spoke to majors on risk management in their organizations.

• Several students participated in a corporate tour at the Florida Sheriff’s Risk Management Fund.

• Several students participated in a golf etiquette session at the Don Veller Seminole Golf Course & Club.

• NAPSLO hosted a luncheon, where students learned about surplus lines, careers available within the industry, the internship program, and scholarship opportunities.

• David Harvey, of the International Foundation of Employee Benefits Plans, spoke in classes about the IFEBP and careers in employee benefits.
Chris Duncan visited Florida State’s campus on March 18, bringing with him a wealth of experience from multiple positions he’s held in the risk management and insurance industry. Duncan, chief growth officer of EPIC Insurance, visited multiple risk management and insurance classes throughout the day, speaking about his risk management and insurance experiences working for Mercer Health & Benefits, The McCart Group, Marsh, Delta Air Lines, PepsiCo (Frito-Lay and KFC), Tillingast and the Ford Motor Company. Duncan also spoke at a Gamma Iota Sigma event about the Affordable Care Act and how this new law will affect the country from many different viewpoints and occupations.

Students discussed their concerns and asked questions throughout the presentation. He ended by emphasizing that the world is only getting riskier and is the importance for students to enter the risk management field.

On February 20, Crowley Maritime Corporation visited campus to speak to RMI students about their risk management department. Headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla., Crowley Maritime operates as a marine solutions, transportation and logistics company. Dwight Mendard, vice president of Risk Management and Richard Dooley, director of Finance, spoke about the challenging and rewarding aspects of their positions.

In particular, Menard described his experience with Crowley’s largest project - the removal of the Italian cruise ship Costa Concordia. Crowley’s salvage company, Titan Salvage, has made groundbreaking progress in the removal of the vessel off the coast of Italy.

The salvage operation has lasted more than two years and cost hundreds of millions of dollars to date.
Featured Student: Britain Dooley is Having a Stellar Year!

Britain Dooley will be a senior this fall and is the incoming vice president of Gamma Iota Sigma. Britain chose to major in RMI because of the opportunities provided and the challenges offered. “It’s a field that is stable, but constantly expanding,” Dooley said. “And an insurance career will provide a constant opportunity for professional and personal growth.” She is eager to work within the excess and surplus industry after obtaining her degree at FSU. Dooley finds this area interesting because she’s eager to design specific insurance coverage for unique risks. Dooley is spending the summer working with an excess and surplus lines carrier and a wholesale broker through a NAPLSO internship program. She was also selected to participate in the Anita Benedetti Program, which includes an all expenses-paid trip to the 2014 RIMS conference, and was awarded a Spencer Education Foundation scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Students Attend PLRB Claims Conference

Thanks to the generosity of our corporate sponsor Amica, RMI majors John Dutkowsky, Junior Michel, Kyle North, John Plocharczyk and Tim Scollo attended the 2014 Annual PLRB Claims Conference in Indianapolis, Ind. this past March.

The conference consisted of sessions on topics of interest to those working in the claims area including catastrophe claims handling and litigation, cyber liability, and recent trends and defense strategies in subrogation. Additionally, Indianapolis Motor Speedway President J. Douglas Boles presented on the topic of ‘Risky Business: The Indianapolis Motor Speedway & Professional Autoracing.’

Of the experience, Kyle North said, “I would highly recommend this conference to anyone. From the networking to the educational sessions, this conference was hands down worth every minute.”

News From our Centers

This spring, Dr. Lori Medders, director of the Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center (Storm Center), moderated a panel during the 7th Annual Florida Chamber Florida Insurance Market Summit and presented at the Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky, Abate, Webb’s 2014 State of the Florida Insurance Market Summit. Professor Emeritus Pat Maroney also moderated a panel at the Florida Chamber’s summit on the topic of mitigation. The Storm Center served as a sponsor for both events, and continued progress on several funded research projects.

In April, the Center for Insurance Research (CIR) hosted a research scholar, Alexander Bohnert, from Freidric-Alexander-Universität of Erlangen-Nürnburg, Germany. Bohnert spent a month on FSU’s campus working on various projects related to life insurance and international insurance markets. During his time on campus, he presented research in the CIR’s brown bag seminar.

Additionally, the CIR concluded its research project titled, “Financial Achievability of Florida Department of Transportation Research Projects.”

Spring Scholarships/Sponsors

AmWINS Group
Assurex Global
Florida Association of Insurance Agents (FAIA)
Foundation for Agency Management Excellence (FAME)
Katrina Anne Froeschle Foundation
Robert T. Powell
Edward A. Rivas
Kristen Waters Hood & Cynthia Waters Fletcher

To find out more about our sponsors, visit: http://www.cob.fsu.edu/content/view/full/40498

PhD Corner:

- Jill Bisco completed her graduate work and has accepted a position as assistant professor at the University of Akron.
- Courtney Bass was selected to receive a Spencer Scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year.
Note from the Director of Alumni Relations
If you are interested in how you or your company can participate in future events, please contact Gamma Iota Sigma at fsugammaiotasigma@gmail.com or Dr. Cassandra Cole at ccole@business.fsu.edu.

In Seminole Pride, John Churey

Students Travel to Germany as Part of Seminar on Catastrophe Risk Management
RMI students Evan Kastrenakes, John Plocharczyk and Joseph Walters traveled to Munich, Germany to participate in a seminar on catastrophe risk management. The students collaborated last fall to prepare a research paper on alternative approaches to managing flood risks in six European nations.

In January, they presented their research to students at Ludwig-Maxilians University (LMU) and participated in discussions of other students’ research on topics ranging from the demand for insurance against catastrophes to the Florida property insurance market. The seminar is part of the College of Business’ exchange program with LMU.

Inaugural Recipients of RMI Professionalism Award Announced
The RMI Professionalism Award was created by the RMI faculty for students who demonstrate considerable involvement in activities and events sponsored by the department and Gamma Iota Sigma. The recipients must also have an expressed interest in learning more about the industry above and beyond what is taught in the classroom and have worked to further develop the skills necessary to secure a position within the insurance industry.

Congratulations to John Dutkowsky, Kyle North, Yaremis K. Chiari-Powery and Esther Still for being the first students to complete the requirements and receive this award.

About GIS
The purpose of the fraternity is to promote, encourage, and sustain student interest in insurance, risk management, and actuarial science as professions; to encourage the high moral and scholastic attainments of its members; and to facilitate interaction of educational institutions and industry through networking and by fostering research activities, scholarship, and improved public relations.

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