

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Happy Spring 2025 Semester!

As we continue in the first semester of the new year, we would like to share all the exciting things that happened in the fall, including the life-changing experiences of our students, the unwavering dedication of our alumni and the world-renowned work of our faculty, including an expansion in the public-policy realm. We'd also like to tell you about some of our upcoming important events.

We thank our supporters for their enthusiastic work and generous sponsorships on behalf of our students and program.

Have a wonderful spring – and Go Noles!

Charles "Chuck" Nyce, Ph.D.

Department Chair and

Dr. William T. Hold Professor of RMI



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Top 10 status for MS-RMI program

The MS-RMI program recently broke into the Top 10 in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2025 rankings of best online graduate business degrees. The program climbed to No. 8 among public schools, up six places from last year and to No. 12 among all schools! The fully online program continues to accept applications until June 1 for summer entry. Learn and request more information at business.fsu.edu/MS-RMI.



New risk management of healthcare classes

This spring, the RMI program launched two new classes, one undergraduate and one master's, each focused on the risk management of healthcare as part of the college's focus on the business of healthcare. Assistant Professor **Evan Saltzman**, whose research focuses on the optimal design of health insurance markets, is teaching both courses.

ALUMNI NEWS



Wisdom from an FSU RMI legend

Dr. **William T. Hold**, an FSU College of Business Alumni Hall of Fame member and the namesake of the college's Dr. William T. Hold/The Alliance's Program in Risk Management and Insurance, shared his wisdom with students during Legends & Leaders Day. The event takes place every year during the week of the college's Alumni Hall of Fame ceremony and features previous inductees like Dr. Hold, who take a day to interact with and mentor students.

Thank you, Dr. Hold, for all you do and have done for the program and for RMI education in general. And, **Ted Ostrander**, we missed you and are thinking of you and your family. We hope your recovery efforts post-Hurricane Helene are going well.



Forever fame for RMI alumna

The department congratulates **Bethany Schenk** (B.S. RMI '92) on her October induction into the FSU College of Business Alumni Hall of Fame. Schenk, an Orlando-based serial entrepreneur and philanthropist, started her career as a property and casualty underwriter at Aetna for two years and then spent five years as a sales executive at CIGNA Healthcare. Since then, she has built and sold multiple highly successful companies, including BeneTek Corporation and Web Benefits Design. Be sure to watch her great [induction video](#).

Community service leads to honorary degree

Congratulations to alumnus **Kenneth Robinson** (B.S. RMI '81) for being awarded an honorary doctoral degree for public service from the University of Central Florida. Robinson, president and CEO of Dr. Phillips Inc. and The Dr. P. Phillips Foundation, received the award in recognition of his leadership and vision that has helped improve lives in the Greater Orlando region. Before leading Dr. Phillips Charities in 2013, Robinson served as a senior insurance executive and worked in the industry for more than 30 years, building a successful insurance agency.





GLOBAL EXPERIENCES MUNICH, GERMANY

Ten RMI students participated in a seminar in Munich, Germany, that explored topics including cyber risk, terrorism, black swan events, alternative risk transfer mechanisms, flood risks and parametric insurance. With the cooperation of Munich-based Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU), the seminar expanded to include students from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the Hochschule München University of Applied Sciences.

Patricia “Patty” Born, FSU’s Midyette Eminent Scholar in Risk Management and Insurance in the Department of Risk Management/Insurance and director of the Ph.D. program’s RMI major, expressed

appreciation for the support of LMU faculty members **Andreas Richter** and **Leonardo Covis** and the doctoral students at LMU who have contributed their expertise and supported this program over the past 15 years: **Barbara Klimaszewski-Blettner**, **Ferdinand Zahn**, **Laila Neuthor**, **Markus Haas**, **Dominik Lohmaier**, **Verena Jäger**, **Vijay Aseervatham**, **Michael Hanselmann**, **Benjamin Heidler**, **Tobias Huber**, **Sophie-Madeleine Thurmaier**, **Julia Holzapfel**, **Leonard Külpp**, **Paulina La Bonté** and **Jialing Lin**.



INDUSTRY EXPOSURE & ENGAGEMENT

Southeast Inland Marine Underwriters Association Seminar



The Inland Marine Underwriters Association hosted two FSU RMI students in Atlanta for the 43rd Annual Southeast Inland Marine Underwriters Association Seminar. FSU RMI thanks **Felicia Rawlin**, CPCU, ASLI, RMI Executive Council member and executive vice president, head of brokerage property of Dellwood Insurance Group; and **Jon Kattman**, senior vice president - head of field, Inland Marine at Aspen Insurance Group, for their assistance in making RMI students **Ashley Boscovich** and **Margaret Anderson** feel welcomed. FSU RMI appreciates your support!



Gamma Iota Sigma Annual Conference

As always, FSU students turned out for the 2024 Gamma Iota Sigma Annual Conference in Indianapolis. The conference, known as the industry's insurance, risk management and actuarial science hallmark talent event, featured two days of professional development sessions, interactions with recruiters and opportunities to network with other RMI programs from across the country. **Gabriel Carrillo**, executive director of FSU's Risk Management and Insurance Center, served on a discussion panel for program leaders and faculty members called, "Guiding the Path: Faculty Strategies for Helping Students Obtain Insurance Credentials." FSU's GIS chapter fared well at the awards dinner; **Logan Knutson** (B.S. RMI '18) won the Alumnus of the Year award! FSU RMI thanks Philadelphia Insurance Companies and Foundation Risk Partners for making this experience possible!





Auto-Owners Insurance Career Shadow Day

FSU RMI thanks Auto-Owners Insurance for another great Career Shadow Day. **Tracy Duncan**, Auto-Owners regional vice president and a member of the RMI Executive Council, and her team always roll out the red carpet for this event. We appreciate all the time and effort that goes into hosting our RMI students, and we find the experience an invaluable tool for educating our students outside the classroom!



A day with PGA TOUR's risk management team

RMI students enjoyed the extraordinary opportunity to spend a day with the risk management team at the PGA TOUR. **Jennifer Woods** (B.S. Communication Studies '93), ARM-E, vice president of risk management at the PGA TOUR, arranged a guided tour of TPC Sawgrass, the new global headquarters of the PGA TOUR, and the PGA TOUR Studios. The PGA TOUR's risk management team is small but mighty and super creative, tackling an extremely broad range of risks every day. Thank you, **Jennifer Woods; Anthony Cesiro, CSP; Kristen Wiles Folk**; and FSU RMI alumnus **Jim Flournoy** (B.S. '20; MBA '21) for an amazing learning experience!



WSIA symposium in Atlanta

RMI Center Executive Director **Gabriel Carrillo** and 14 RMI students attended the Wholesale and Specialty Insurance Association (WSIA) symposium in Atlanta, a fantastic event geared for RMI students to learn about surplus insurance and network with RMI students from other programs around the country – and to seize the opportunity to experience a meal at The Varsity, a beloved city eatery. Thanks to WSIA's **Christine Timmerman** and Troy University's **Courtney Baggett** (Ph.D. RMI '16) for putting on another great event. And, of course, special thanks to Philadelphia Insurance Companies for sponsoring our travel!

EVENTS



Risk Management in Sports

Leslie Hanley (B.S. RMI '02; MS-RMI '05), vice president, risk management, New York Yankees, and **Jennifer Woods**, vice president, risk management, PGA TOUR, gave students championship insight into risk management and insurance in FSU RMI's Risk Management in Sports event. **Gabriel Carrillo**, executive director of FSU's Risk Management and Insurance Center, moderated. Woods emphasized the importance of communication, problem-solving and people skills. "At the end of the day," she said, "risk management is about people."



Florida insurance commissioner Michael Yaworsky

In an event hosted by the North Florida Chapter of the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters, FSU RMI welcomed **Michael Yaworsky**, Florida's insurance commissioner, to speak to students on various industry topics. This gave students a great opportunity to connect with industry professionals and hear about the insurance industry in Florida following the recent hurricanes.

Florida Surplus Lines Speaker Series

The inaugural Florida Surplus Lines Speaker Series kicked off with a full house of more than 150 attendees, including students from FSU RMI. This event, a collaboration of the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office (FSLSO) and the Florida Surplus Lines Association (FSLA), provided invaluable insights on regulatory challenges, innovative product development and the ever-evolving market landscape. We were honored to welcome industry leaders including FSLSO CEO and Executive Director **Mark Shealy** and Director of Agent and Insurer Services **Bryan Young**, ASLI, along with FSLA members **Albert Geraci**, ARM, ASLI, and **Lauren Savage** (BS RMI '05), president of the private flood services division at Tokio Marine Highland.



EVENTS CONT.



Brown & Brown Speaker Series

The fall Brown & Brown Speaker Series featured **Steve Farmer, James Miley and Crystal Rutland** in a discussion about “Emerging Rewards Strategies.” Students learned about the importance of setting themselves up for retirement early and making informed decisions about their financial futures. The panelists also discussed the importance of thoroughly understanding a company’s benefits package to ensure it aligns with personal and career goals.



Insurance Days: VIP Reception

Our Program Champions and Partners do so much for FSU RMI, and we were excited to host them for our inaugural VIP reception on the eve of Insurance Days, our annual career-placement event. These company representatives mixed and mingled at Madison Social with our Gamma Iota Sigma officers and students, as well as faculty and staff members. Program Champions are Heritage Insurance, Florida Surplus Lines Service Office (FSLSO) and Philadelphia Insurance Companies. Program Partners are Brown & Brown Insurance, Florida Surplus Lines Association, Harry Levine Insurance, Marsh McLennan Agency and XS Brokers. Champions and Partners: Thank you for all you do!

Fall 2024 Insurance Days

Some 170 students seized the opportunity to meet and network with more than 50 companies at the Insurance Days career fair and interviewed with 33 companies over two additional days, in their hunt for internships and permanent positions. Thank you again to our Legacy and Heritage event sponsors for helping fund our fall 2024 Insurance Days and our Program Champions for your amazing support all year!

Program Champions: Heritage Insurance, Florida Surplus Lines Service Office (FSLSO), Philadelphia Insurance Companies

Legacy sponsors: Amwins, Bass Underwriters, Bridge Specialty Group/Hull & Company

Heritage sponsors: Franklin Street Insurance Services, Windward Risk Managers



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

BROOKE RYPEL

Brooke Rypel continues a family tradition of working in the insurance industry. A senior RMI student, president of Gamma Iota Sigma's Iota chapter and a member of FSU Women in Business, Brooke this spring becomes the third of her siblings to graduate from FSU and begin a career in the insurance industry. Brooke earned her University Associate Certified Insurance Counselor (UACIC) designation and is on track to graduate as a Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC), a major achievement for a student to accomplish before graduation. She has had internships with Amwins and the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office. Upon graduation, she will join Everest Re in Miami as an underwriter. Brooke will join her sister, Payton Rypel (B.S. RMI '23), a reinsurance associate underwriter at Everest Re. Payton served as vice president of Social and Philanthropy in Gamma Iota Sigma. Brooke's brother, Michael Sage (B.S. Social Science '15), found his way into this amazing industry in 2018 and works for Slide Insurance as a senior litigation and ADR adjuster. "FSU and the insurance industry have become a cornerstone for my family," Brooke says. "Following in the footsteps of my siblings, I've found a rewarding career path that challenges and inspires me to grow. I'm proud to continue our family's FSU and RMI legacy and look forward to carrying on this tradition for future generations."



FACULTY NEWS

Faculty delivers report to Florida regulators

On the strength of a \$500,000 grant, FSU RMI delivered to state regulators an analysis of the National Flood Insurance Program and recommended solutions to managing Florida's growing risks from hurricanes and other natural disasters.

The Florida Legislature awarded the grant in the fall through the state Office of Insurance Regulation, which sought the report from FSU RMI program amid concerns from storm-impacted Florida homeowners. The RMI program delivered the report in December.

"This report presents a deep dive into the tradeoffs that exist in trying to manage multiple natural hazard risks, including floods and wind, that involve vastly different mitigation techniques," said Charles "Chuck" Nyce, FSU's Dr. William T. Hold Professor of Risk Management and Insurance and chair of the Department of Risk Management/Insurance, Real Estate and Legal Studies. "Also, in helping policymakers develop solutions to real-world problems, we further demonstrate our faculty's value to not only our students, but also all of Florida's residents."

[Read More](#)



ALSO...

- **Nyce and Brad Karl** are finishing a project on property insurance and catastrophic storms in Florida for FSU's LeRoy Collins Institute.
 - **Patty Born** is working with the Department of Management Services on a study of health insurance pilot programs.
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FACULTY NEWS CONT.

- **Chuck Nyce** represented the RMI program in a panel discussion on the Florida property market titled, “Government Solutions & the Private Market,” at the 2024 Florida Chamber Annual Insurance Summit. The discussion focused on the viability of government-provided products that have been promoted as “solutions” to property insurance issues in Florida.
- Numerous FSU RMI faculty members and Ph.D. students presented papers at the Southern Risk and Insurance Association Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Faculty members **Karl, Nyce, Born, Cassandra R. Cole, Evan M. Eastman, Evan Saltzman and Kyeonghee Kim**; and doctoral students **Dana Telljohann** and **Carrillo**, executive director of the RMI center, all shared their latest research and observed presentations from academics from across the country.
- **Carrillo** was elected to the board of the Western Risk and Insurance Association as secretary and treasurer.
- FSU RMI again showcased leading industry research at its annual Research Symposium in Safety Harbor, Florida. More than 30 academics from 12 universities and think tanks convened to present and discuss RMI-related research. The program featured 10 current research projects, on which authors received feedback for improvements.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2025

26-28 Intercollegiate Insurance Sales Challenge – Championship (Orlando)

APRIL 2025

1 Florida Surplus Lines Speaker Series (FSLA/FSLSO)

2-3 Global InsurTech Startup Competition (New York) – student case competition

MAY 2025

4-7 RISKWORLD Conference (Chicago)

JUNE 2025

1 Deadline to apply for fall entry into the MS-RMI program

20 Orlando Alumni & Friends Networking Reception (during the FAIA convention)