



Program News

The Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center was established during the regular 2007 legislative session and initially funded during the recent special session. The Center, to be housed in the College's Department of Risk Management/Insurance, Real Estate and Business Law, was established to promote and disseminate research on issues related to catastrophic storm loss and to assist in identifying and developing education and research grant funding opportunities among higher education institutions in Florida and the private sector. The Center will serve as a clearinghouse to policy makers and the public for information on storm forecasting, loss modeling, building construction and mitigation, and risk management strategies. The \$750,000 allocated to the Center will support the state's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from catastrophic storms. The addition of this Center to the College will continue to help Florida and the rest of the country receive unbiased research in this critical area. **Patrick Maroney, Katherine Magee Kip Professor of Insurance**, will direct the new Center. [\[More\]](#)

RMI Program Rankings Rise. The Risk Management/Insurance Program at FSU is ranked 4th among public universities (6th among all universities) by *U.S. News & World Report in America's Best Colleges*, 2008, ed.

Applications are currently being accepted for the **online masters program** in risk management and insurance. The next cohort will begin in the summer of 2008. The application deadline is March 1, 2008. For more information on the program, see the [graduate programs website](#).

Faculty News

James Carson, Midyette Eminent Scholar in Risk & Insurance, was selected to instruct state legislators from across the nation on the fundamentals of risk management and insurance. The instruction is part of an annual program for state lawmakers through the Griffith Foundation for Insurance Education and the National Conference of Insurance Legislators.

Cassandra Cole has recently completed grant work supported by the Department of Labor entitled "Factors Affecting the Adequacy of Retirement Income" with Andre Liebenberg (University of Mississippi). Professor Cole was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure.

Randy Dumm was named the Peoples First Insurance Fellow. The Peoples First Insurance Fellowship in the College of Business was created to recognize faculty for work in furthering student programs in risk management/insurance. [More](#)

Kathleen McCullough was named the State Farm Professor in Risk Management/Insurance. The State Farm Professorship was created to recognize a faculty member for outstanding contributions in the area of teaching, research and service. [More](#) Professor McCullough was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure.

Student News

The 2007–2008 officers for the Insurance Society at Florida State University are: President - **Brad Karl**; Vice Presidents - **Grace Chi** and **Brandi Holmes**; Treasurer- **David Pooser**; Secretary - **Monica Czynszczon**; Special Events Coordinators - **Lauren Aument** and **Megan Myers**.

Kevin Gatzlaff and **Stephen Fier** were awarded research grants from the Professional Liability Underwriting Society (PLUS) Foundation.

Lauren Aument, Grace Chi, and **David Pooser** attended the Troy State Surplus Lines Symposium in Birmingham, Alabama.

Several students spoke about their internship experiences at the September 2007 Insurance Society meeting. The students included **Lauren Aument** (Prudential), **Monica Czynszczon**, (Florida Association of Independent Insurance Agents), **Brandi Holmes** (Peachtree Special Risk Brokers), and **Brad Karl** (Arthur J. Gallagher).

Brad Karl and **Kevin Gatzlaff** were selected by the Spencer Educational Foundation, Inc. to receive 2007 scholarship awards. [More](#)

The following scholarship and award recipients were announced at the spring Insurance Society banquet held at Killlearn Country Club:

- Robert T. Powell Endowed Scholarship – **Lauren Aument, Janina Bhuvasorakul, Jonathan Cole, Cody Dawkins, Amanda Johnson, Brad Karl, Kayne McPhillips, Megan Myers, David Pooser**
- Elfreda Eggers Memorial Scholarship – **Jaime Kornick, Kurt Seymour**
- Katrina Anne "Katie" Froeschle Memorial Scholarship – **Daniel Girardi, Monica Czyszczon**
- Florida Gold Coast CPCU Chapter Scholarship – **Grace Chi**
- Tom C. Johnson (FAIA) Scholarship – **David Pooser**
- Buddy McCue (FAIA) Scholarship – **Janina Bhuvasorakul**
- USAA Insurance Company Scholarship – **Brad Karl, Megan Myers**
- Waters Endowed Scholarship – **Stephen Fier, Kevin Gatzlaff, Yuling Wang**
- Setnor-Byer Risk Management Awards – **Janina Bhuvasorakul, Robert Davis, Jamie Hitt**

Elizabeth Skrzypek and **Brad Karl** were selected to attend the 2007 Risk and Insurance Management Society's (RIMS) Annual Conference in New Orleans as part of the [Anita Benedetti Student Involvement Program](#).

Kevin Gatzlaff, Ph.D. candidate in Risk Management/Insurance, received a 2007 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award.

Alumni New and Events

Tim Anderson, Zach Finn, and Don Lund had an abridged version of one of their Risk Management in the Business Enterprise projects titled "Food contamination claims place company brands at risk" in the August 6, 2007 issue of *Business Insurance*.

Dan Carmichael, former president and CEO of Ohio Casualty Corporation and now senior advisor to Liberty Mutual, visited several RMI classes and met with faculty in November. He spoke with students and faculty on a variety of insurance issues including ethics.

Allen Durham, Executive VP with Hunt Insurance Group, LLC, visited as guest lecturer in the insurance company operations class in November.

Young alumni including **Katie Black** (Benfield), **Richard Carson** (Benfield), **Holly Heard** (Amerisure), **Jay Nickerson** (Arthur J. Gallagher), and **Tracy Ridenour** (Southeastern Risk Specialists) spoke to classes and at the Florida State Insurance Society Meeting in October.

The second **Katie Froeschle Memorial Golf Tournament** was held at the Crescent Oaks Country Club, outside of Tampa, on September 14, 2007 to benefit the [Katie Froeschle Scholarship Fund at FSU](#) (RMI) and the newly formed Katie Froeschle Foundation. With a full field of 144 players and strong sponsor support, the tournament was again a great success, raising over \$50,000 this year. Thanks go out to all who supported Katie's tournament and a special thanks to RMI alumni, **Lester Morales, Brian Burns, and Tyler Deneault**, who worked very hard over the past two years on both golf tournaments and the establishment of the Katie Froeschle Foundation. Next year's tournament is tentatively scheduled for October 20, 2008.

Jamal Grimes was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Award. The Fulbright Program for U.S. students is awarded to outstanding students with a commitment to cultural engagement. Grimes received an assistantship to teach high school students in South Korea. [More](#)

RMI Database

Please help us keep in touch with you. If you have not updated your information with the RMI Department lately, take a minute to do so at this [link](#). Also, feel free to forward this newsletter to others that may not have received a copy.

For information on how to support the Risk Management/Insurance Program at Florida State University, see (link to http://www.cob.fsu.edu/rmi/prog_init.cfm)

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