

# ΩMEGA MESSENGER

*The official alumni publication of the Omega Chapter of  
Gamma Iota Sigma at Middle Tennessee State University*



Spring Semester 2005

Dipti Natha , Editor

## PROGRESS REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF INSURANCE FOR SPRING 2005

Nearly 115 students have selected the insurance concentration or a minor in the field as of May 31, 2005. The creation of several scholarships for insurance students, the availability of internships, and the observation that most of the graduates of the program have landed good jobs has undoubtedly played a major role in the selection of insurance as a concentration or minor by an increasing number of students.

Our Gamma Iota Sigma chapter continues to facilitate dialogue between members and industry leaders. The Chapter had a record 87 members in the spring of 2005 and continues its intense professional, service, and fund raising activities by which alumni best remember it.

### Internships

A continuing bright spot in the insurance program is the acceptance by students and the industry of the internship course. Internships allow students to gain valuable work experience related to their career objectives and at the same time receive three hours of college credit. Since 1983, 359 students have finished internships. Ten held internships in the spring of 2005, seven held internships in the fall of 2004, and six hold internships in the summer of 2005. A list of students receiving internships in 2004-2005 is included in this issue.

### Scholarships

We are also very proud of the insurance students who have received scholarships. Financial assistance through scholarships has been made

available to 349 students since 1983-84. Forty-six students won scholarships in 2004-05.

The industry has been very supportive of our requests for specific gifts of money or other aid to help students continue their studies. Alumni have also been helpful through contributions to the Alumni Scholarship Fund, which now has about \$10,500, and the Scotty Tucker Memorial Scholarship Fund, which now has \$14,000. A list of scholarship recipients for 2004-05 is also included in this issue.

### Research

The research activities of the chair have continued over the past year. Application-oriented research assists the industry through the development of new products, services, and ideas, and through the discovery of solutions to management and technical problems.

Several research pieces have been published in nationally refereed journals as well as in local and regional general interest magazines and journals. Also, a number of papers have been read at professional meetings and conferences.

### Service

Several activities have also been undertaken as a part of the chair's overall service to the insurance industry in Tennessee. The chairholder has visited numerous agencies and companies and has spoken to a number of agency and company groups. In addition, the chairholder continues to serve on the board of directors of the Grand Chapter of GIS, as educational

advisor to the Professional Liability Underwriting Society, as educational consultant to the Tennessee Alliance for Insurance Education and Research, and as a consultant to the Institute for Defense Analysis.

The chairholder also continues to work on the Tennessee Insurance Hall of Fame on the MTSU campus. The Hall of Fame currently has 25 inductees. Hall of Fame display material is located at to the first floor south lobby of the BAS building. Alumni are invited to view the display material when they are on campus.

Finally, the chairholder is undertaking efforts to create an Insurance History Museum on the MTSU campus. Funding is tentative, but if it materializes, the museum could become a reality. Some material for the museum has already been given.

### Funding

The main endowment of the Martin Chair of Insurance now stands at \$705,000. We also have \$416,000 in endowed scholarship accounts. We have other accounts not included in either of these two major categories. When all accounts are considered, the endowment total now stands at \$1,170,000. Our objective is to grow the account to \$1,200,000 by the end of 2005.

Dr. Hollman

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

This is the 37<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Omega Messenger* of the Omega Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma at MTSU. I will make a few remarks regarding our activities in recent months, as all my predecessors have done in the past.

Our Chapter still has strength of numbers. We had 87 members at the end of the spring 2005 semester. We are one of the largest chapters in the country.

We are pleased not only with the number but also with the quality of members. A total of 46 Omega Chapter members received scholarships in 2004-05. Most of the scholarships were from insurance agents, companies, and professional associations. More and more alumni are actively engaged in helping procure these awards. We appreciate their efforts.

Our activities this semester were very impressive. Members spent a great deal of energy and time on these functions. Further, we had great help from industry professionals and alumni.

In January, we held one General Meeting, at which an alumnus spoke, and held two Officers Meetings. We staged a bake sale and had a highway pick-up. We published both the *Resume Book* and *Omega Messenger*; updated our website; announced the last of ten internship and 46 scholarship winners; continued our tutoring project; and received publicity in *The Record*. I (as president) was featured on department and school brochures and was one of two members to receive funds to attend the RIMS Conference. We continued work on the Officers Notebook project.

In February, we held three General Meetings and three Officers Meetings, saw four of our members inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, and four named Who's Who Among Students at American Colleges and Universities. We conducted the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive Outstanding Professor in the College of Business election (which Dr. Apigian won) and attempted to revive a dormant Ball State University GIS chapter.

In March, we had three General Meetings, two of which had a guest alumni speaker, and

two Officers Meetings. We staged the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Scotty M. Tucker Memorial Quiz Bowl (which we won), receiving praise from both *Sidelines* and on MTSU TV Channel 9. We received belated recognition in *The Record* for the Outstanding Professor election and we again updated our website.

In April, we had four General Meetings, two with guest alumni speakers, and one Officers Meeting. We sent seven members to the NAPSLO Convention in Chicago (4/8-10/05) and four to the RIMS Convention in Philadelphia. (4/17-21/05). We assisted at the Chair of Insurance Golf Tournament, further streamlined our website and established a linkage with the Grand Chapter; continued our tutoring and Officers Notebook Projects; and elected new officers for 2005-2006.

In May, I spoke at two industry meetings and attended another. Both the *Omega Messenger* and *Alumni Bulletin* were published in June. Also, we began the process of preparing submissions of applications for the Grand Chapter awards for 2004-2005.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the alumni who have supported us over the past year. Alumni have been present at every major event. Many of you have helped to find internships, worked at the golf tournaments, attended the initiation banquets, contributed to our scholarship funds, spoke at meetings, served in official positions for professional associations, or helped in other ways.

Thank you for your help: it activates and energizes current members. Please continue to encourage and assist Omega Chapter in maintaining the high standards that you helped established.

Paige Shipp



## GIS OFFICERS, 2004-2005

### Fall 2004

Paige Shipp, President

Jared Stiefel, Executive VP

Rebecca Newell, VP for Programs

Chans Mysayphonh, VP for Finance

Anne Roquette, VP for  
Communication

Amy Jeffries, VP for Membership\*

Zol Hooper, SGA Delegate

### Spring 2005

Paige Shipp, President

Jared Stiefel, Executive VP

Rebecca Newell, VP for Programs

Chans Mysayphonh, VP for Finance

Anne Roquette, VP for  
Communication

Cole Freeman, VP for Membership

Zol Hooper, SGA Delegate

\* Replaced by Cole Freeman, November, '04

## RECENT GRADUATES

The following Omega Chapter members graduated at commencement exercises held on the MTSU campus in May and August 2005. We appreciate the great contributions these graduates made to our chapter while here.

### Majors/Minors in Insurance

Matthew Bessant

Taylor Bowers

Joe Brasfield

Chris Cantrell

Bobbie Cavna

Ryan Crips

Heather Dalton

Rachel Davis

Laura A. Dent

Chris Dodson

Daniel Duggin

Lindsey Dykes

Cole Freeman

Seth Gilliam

Nicole Kisenia

Chad Lantroop\*

Crystal Lazenby

Kimberly K. Mann

Brad McGee

Argie Miller

Tat Mysayphonh

Brett Neal

Andy Paine\*

Matthew Patterson

Tiffany Reece

Summer Robison

Douglas Roddy

Paige Shipp

Jared Stiefel

Yuphavady Vongsavath

Jackie Waggoner

Wm. Snowden Warren



\*Received advanced degrees

## GIS SPRING 2005 CALENDAR



### January

- One General Meeting, at which an alumnus spoke
- Two Officers Meetings
- President featured on dept. and school brochures
- Bake sale
- Highway pickup
- *Resume Book* published
- Publicity in *The Record*
- Website updated
- Ten internships
- Two members win ABSIP awards to attend RIMS Conference
- Tutoring project continues

### February

- Three General Meetings, an industry person spoke at one
- Three Officers Meetings
- Four members inducted into BGS, business hinaryr fraternity
- Outstanding Professor Election
- Effort made to revive dormant chapter at UM
- Four members get in *Who's Who Among Studnets at American Colleges and Universities*
- President featured on COB promotional literature

### March

- Three General Meetings, alumni spoke at two
- Two Officers Meetings
- Quiz Bowl staged (Roquette emcee- 18 members involved)
- Chapter Wins Quiz Bowl (Stiefel, Mysayphonh, Koval, Miller)
- Alumni help at Quiz Bowl and Career Fair
- Publicity in student newspaper for Quiz Bowl
- Publicity in student newspaper for Outstanding Professor Election
- Tutoring project continues
- Website updated
- Career Fair held (18 companies, 65 students)

### April

- Three General Meetings, alumni spoke at two
- One Officers Meetings
- Officers election
- NAPSLO meeting, Chicago, 4/8-10/05 (seven members)
- President speaks at NAPSLO meeting, Chicago, 4/8-10/05
- RIMS meeting, Phil., 4/16-21/05 (5 members)
- Help at Chair of Insurance golf tournament (25 members)
- Website streamlined
- Initiation Banquet
- Shipp named Outstanding Graduating Senior, Dept. of Econ. & Fin.

### May

- *Omega Messenger* Published
- *Alumni Bulletin* updated
- Submission of applications for awards
- Highway pickup
- Members attend RIMS golf tournament

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## SCHOLARSHIPS

Forty-six Omega Chapter members received scholarships in the amounts of \$750 or \$500 each in 2004-2005. Donors included insurance carriers, agents, and professional associations. A total of 349 members have received 700 individual awards since 1983-84. Here are the scholarship winners for 2004-2005.

**Joseph Brasfield**

American Gen. Scholarship Fund

**Wendy Caldwell**

CNA Scholarship Fund

**Bobbie Cavna**

Ainsworth/Thurman Memorial Scholarship Fund,  
Nashville

**Cheena Clerment**

Allen Scholarship Fund

**Andrew Coleman**

NAIFA, Nashville

**Breck Cooley**

Insurors of Memphis

**Heather Dalton**

Tucker Memorial Scholarship Fund

**Linh Dang**

Aetna Scholarship Fund

**Rachel Davis**

MTAHU, Nashville

**Laura Dent**

Barrom Scholarship Fund

**Daniel Duggin**

Martin Scholarship Fund

**Lindsey Dykes**

Insurors of Memphis Scholarship Fund

**Emily Ferguson**

Allstate Scholarship Fund

**Cole Freeman**

MTAIW, Murf.

**Marshall Fuson**

Alexander Scholarship Fund

**Meihua Gao**

NAIFA, Middle Tenn. Chpt.

**Careasa Greer**

PIA of Tennessee

**Zol Hooper**

Smith Scholarship Fund

**Ryan Jeans**

Ainsworth/Thurman Memorial Scholarship Fund,  
Nashville

**Michael Kniery**

Gaultrey Scholarship Fund

**Jennifer E. Lombardo**

Richard Miller, Nashville

**Kimberly Mann**

Allen Scholarship Fund

**Brad McGee**

1752 Club, Franklin

**Wesley Merriman**

Insurors of Nashville

**Argie Miller**

Cummings Scholarship Fund

**Josh Minshall**

Allstate Scholarship Fund

**Jason Moates**

Memphis Chapter of RIMS

**Heidi Myers**

Allen Scholarship Fund

**Chans Mysayphonh**

Smoky Mtn. Chpt., Society of CPCU, Knoxville

**Dipti Natha**

Hancock Scholarship Account

## SCHOLARSHIPS CONT.

**Brett Neal**  
NAIW, Nashville

**Derek Pace**  
Chatt. Chpt., PIA of Tenn.

**Matthew Patterson**  
Hollman Scholarship Fund

**Chance Phelps**  
Auto Owners Scholarship Fund

**Meaghan Richmond**  
Norman Scholarship Fund

**Summer Robison**  
SFSP, Nashville

**Douglas Roddy**  
Ainsworth/Thurman Memorial  
Scholarship Fund, Nashville

**Linda Saylor**  
Alumni Scholarship Fund

**Denise Sheffield**  
Nashville Chpt, Society of CPCU

**Paige Shipp**  
Ainsworth/Thurman Memorial  
Scholarship Fund, Nashville

**Jared Stiefel**  
Ainsworth/Thurman Memorial  
Scholarship Fund, Nashville

**Patrick Swanson**  
Auto Owners Scholarship Fund

**Linda Talley**  
Nationwide Scholarship Fund

**Jackie Waggoner**  
Memphis RIMS Scholarship Fund

**Andrew Wilson**  
Insurors of Nashville

**Laura Ziegler**  
Cigna Scholarship Fund, Nashville

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The internship program continues to be an integral and viable component of the insurance program at MTSU. Internships enable students to gain practical work experiences and remuneration while earning three hours of college credit. Their employers get on-site observation of the abilities, interests, and work habits of a potential full-time employee. A total of 359 past and present Omega Chapter members have received credit for the internship course as of the end of the spring 2005 semester. Here is a list of interns for 2004-2005.

**David R. Branch**  
Pody Insurance Agency  
Murfreesboro, Fall, '04

**Greg Brown**  
Parker and Watts Insurance Agency  
Nashville, Fall, '04

**Shane Caldwell**  
Willis  
Nashville, Summer, '04

**Bobbie Cavna**  
PICA  
Brentwood, Fall, '04

**Andrew Coleman**  
Tenn Care Fraud Unit  
Nashville, Spring, '05

**Austin Ryan Crips**  
DeKalb Co. Farm Bureau  
Smithville, Spring, '05

**Seth Gilliam**  
Allied Insurance Co.  
Nashville, Summer, '04

**Ryan Jeans**  
Jeans State Farm Agency  
Memphis, Summer, '04

**Amy Jeffries**  
Risk Mgt. Dept., Tractor Supply Co.  
Brentwood, Fall '04

**Michael Knierly**  
Chappell Smith & Associates  
Franklin, Spring, '05

**Brad McGee**  
State Farm Insurance Cos.  
Murfreesboro, Fall, '04

**Wesley Merriman**  
State Farm Insurance Co.  
Murfreesboro, Spring, '05

**Jason Moates**  
Farm Bureau Insurance  
Murfreesboro, Spring, '05

**Heidi Myers**  
Auto Owners Insurance Co.  
Nashville, Summer, '04

**Tat Mysayphonh**  
NY Life Insurance Co.  
Nashville, Spring, '05

**Brett Neal**  
Birdwell Insurance Agency  
Nashville, Fall, '04

**Chance Phelps**  
Insurance Solutions  
Murfreesboro, Spring, '05

**Jared Stiefel**  
Cowan Benefits  
Murfreesboro, Spring, '05

**Tony Randy Stubblefield**  
Beach and Gentry Insurance  
Murfreesboro, Spring, '05

**William Warren**  
Nationwide Insurance Co.  
Murfreesboro, Spring, '05

**Andrew Wilson**  
Witherspoon Agency  
Nashville, Summer, '04

**Laura Ziegler**  
Shelter Insurance Co.  
Franklin, Spring, '05

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## ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS GROWING STRONG

The Tommy Martin Chair of Insurance has endowed 27 scholarship accounts with a total principal of \$415,600. These are permanent accounts with annual interest being used for scholarship purposes. The names of the endowed scholarship accounts, the years they were created, and the amounts in each are shown below:

<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Date of Creation</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Aetna Scholarship Fund	June 1992	\$7,600
Ainsworth/Thurman Memorial Scholarship Fund	February 1994	\$49,900
Alexander Memorial Scholarship Account	May 2001	\$7,600
Allen Memorial Scholarship Account	September 1993	\$54,700
Allstate Scholarship Account	June 2001	\$13,100
Alumni Scholarship Account	December 1994	\$10,700
American General Scholarship Fund	January 1997	\$30,300
Auto Owners Scholarship Fund	January 2000	\$12,000
Jim Barrom Scholarship Fund	February 2003	\$5,400
Cigna Scholarship Fund	October 1998	\$5,200
CNA Scholarship Fund	April 1995	\$6,100
Cummings Scholarship Account	January 2001	\$4,800
Gaultney Scholarship Account	June 2003	\$4,300
Hancock Scholarship Account	September 1999	\$4,800
Hollman Scholarship Fund	January 2001	\$8,800
Insurors of Memphis Scholarship Account	January 2005	\$1,500
Insurors of Nashville Scholarship Account	August 2001	\$4,800
Martin Memorial Scholarship Account	May 2000	\$60,800
Memphis RIMS Scholarship Account	August 2000	\$19,100
Mid-Tenn. Chapter of CPCU Scholarship Fund	July 1995	\$14,600
Nationwide Scholarship Fund	June 1995	\$11,700
Norman Memorial Scholarship Fund	December 1998	\$6,900
Oldham Memorial Scholarship Fund	January 1999	\$16,000
Smith Scholarship Fund	December 2000	\$16,200
Smoky Mountain Chapter of CPCU Scholarship Fund	May 1999	\$11,500
Tucker Memorial Scholarship Fund	August 1998	\$13,100
White Scholarship Fund	July 2000	<u>\$14,100</u>
	Total	\$415,600

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## SPRING CHAPTER INITIATION BANQUET WELL ATTENDED

Omega Chapter held its spring 2005 Initiation Banquet on April 5, 2005, at the Doubletree Hotel in Murfreesboro. A total of 58 people attended, including 18 Omega Chapter alumni. The guest speaker was Bob Reib, Chief Analyst in Examination Division of Dept. of Commerce and Insurance in Nashville. Following are lists of the student initiates (an asterisk indicates that the initiate was present) and alumni who attended.

### Initiates

Shonda R. Alexander\*  
Andrey V. Koval\*  
Jennifer E. Lombardo  
Brian P. Lane  
Wesley O. Merriman\*  
Argie D. Miller\*  
Dipti Natha\*  
Derek M. Pace\*  
Kevin M. Rayburn\*

Denise M. Sheffield\*  
Koekhamphet P. Sourinho\*  
Brandon K. Smotherman  
Tony R. Stubblefield, Jr.  
Jessie L. Taylor  
Yuphavady Vongsavath\*  
William S. Webb  
Gary A. Winn  
Steven M. Younes\*

### Alumni

Steve Basler  
Brian Clark  
Chad Coley  
Honey Dypaseuth  
Justin Foster  
Mike Greer  
Barry Hopkins  
Rachel Krech  
Lyric Lewis  
Grant Lichtenwalter  
Clyde McClaran  
Mike McDaniel  
Lois Miller  
Danny O'Donald  
Marcus Pipkin  
Rachel Robison  
Anthony Scott  
Mike Verble

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## HELP US OUT!

We would like you to participate in our exciting growth and development.

You can help us by doing the following:

- **Providing your e-mail address to Dr. Hollman.**  
You can do this by e-mail at [khollman@mtsu.edu](mailto:khollman@mtsu.edu) or by mailing your e-mail address to him at

Martin Chair of Insurance  
Middle Tennessee State University  
P.O. Box 165  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132.



- **Providing news about yourself.**  
Many alumni are being promoted and are moving to new locations. While we have records of most alumni, some have moved to new jobs and left no forwarding addresses. Please keep us informed of your whereabouts and of any career changes.
- **Referring good prospective students to our insurance program.**
- **Offering our students an internship at your workplace.**  
Such internships would involve well-supervised part-time or summer work, normally at \$8 to \$10 per hour.
- **Identifying and letting us know of scholarship sources.**  
We need scholarships to attract the very best students into our insurance program.

A Tennessee Board of Regents Institution  
MTSU, a Tennessee Board of Regents university, is an equal opportunity, non-racially identifiable,  
educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities.

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TENNESSEE**  
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