

OMEGA MESSENGER

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



Fall Semester 2004

Rebecca Newell, Editor

Progress Report of the Chair of Insurance for Fall 2004

About 120 students have selected the insurance concentration or a minor in the field as of December 31, 2004. 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 77 members in the fall of 2004 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, 347 students have finished internships. Four held internships in the spring of 2004, seven held internships in the summer of 2004, and eight held internships in the fall of 2004. A list of student receiving internships in the fall of 2004 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 344 students since 1983-84. Thirty students won scholarships in the fall of 2004, and 18-20 more students will receive scholarships in the spring of 2005.

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 \$13,100. A list of scholarship recipients in the fall of 2004 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 has been relocated to the first floor south lobby of the BAS building. Alumni are invited to view the display material when they are on campus.

Funding

The main endowment of the Martin Chair of Insurance now stands at \$705,000. We also have \$404,000 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 36th 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 77 members at the end of the fall 2004 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 30 Omega Chapter members received scholarships in the fall of 2004 and more will receive awards in the spring of 2005. 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 August, two members attended the GIS President's Conference in Columbus, Ohio, four members attended a RIMS meeting in Nashville, and our president won a NAPSLO scholarship. In September, we had two General Meetings (an alumnus spoke at one) and three Officers Meetings, held a highway pickup, and staged a bake sale. Further, two members attended a RIMS meeting, our president attended the annual NAPSLO Conference, three members attended a Risk Seminar in Nashville, and we re-titled our official positions and installed new officers. We also began work on the website, began the officer notebook project and the tutoring project, and ordered GIS t-shirts.

In October, we had three General Meetings (with alumni speaking at two) and three

Officers Meetings, elected an honorary member as well as the Outstanding Alumnus and Outstanding Senior for 2004-2005, ordered GIS clocks, and ordered new business cards for officers. Also in October, four members attended a Surplus Lines Conference in Montgomery, AL and five attended the GIS Management Conference in London, Ontario, Canada, two attended installation ceremonies at Bradley University in Peoria, IL, and our president spoke at an ILC meeting.

In November, we had three General Meetings and two Officers Meetings, staged the fall 2004 Initiation Banquet, published the Resume Book, and continued work on the tutoring project and the officers notebook project. In December, we had one General Meeting and one Officers Meeting, three officers were present at a State Farm donation ceremony, we published the 2004 Alumni Directory, and we published this newsletter.

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 tournament, attended the initiation banquets, contributed to our scholarship funds, spoken at meetings, served in official positions for professional associations that provided financial assistance, 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 establish.

Paige Shipp



GIS Officers, 2004

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 2004

Paige Shipp, President

Laura Dent, President-elect

Chans Mysayphonh, VP for Finance

Rachel Davis, VP for Administration

Alexis Springer, VP for Special Events

Deanna Jeans, VP for Programs and Public Relations

Chris Dodson, Delegate to SGA

* Replaced by Cole Freeman, November, '04

Recent Graduates

The following Omega Chapter members graduated at commencement exercises held on the MTSU campus in December, 2004. We appreciate the great contributions these graduates made to our chapter while here.

Majors/Minors in Insurance

Shane Alexander

Stephanie Norton

Mathew Shane Caldwell

Anthony Scott

Erin Carboni *

Desiree Speelman

Andrew Charles Coleman

Alexis Springer

Lindsey Craig

Patrick Swanson

Honey Dypaseuth

Emily Ferguson

Meihua Gao

Ryan Jeans

Amy Jeffries

Anthony Marshall

Heidi Myers



* Member of GIS, not an Insurance major or minor

GIS Fall 2004 Calendar



August

- Two Members attend GIS Presidents Conference, Columbus, Ohio
- Four Members attend RIMS Meeting, Nashville
- President Wins NAPSLO Scholarship

September

- Two General Meetings, Alumnus spoke at One
- Three Officers Meetings
- Highway Pick-up
- Bake Sale
- Two Members attend RIMS Meeting, Philadelphia
- President attends NAPSLO Conference
- Three Members attend Risk Seminar, Nashville
- Official Positions Re-titled
- New Officers Installed
- Work Begun on GIS Website
- President appointed to COB Student Advisory Council
- Officer Notebook Project Begun
- GIS T-shirts Ordered
- Tutoring Project Begun
- Last of 8 Internships Announced

October

- Three General Meetings, Alumnus Spoke at Two
- Three Officers Meetings
- Outstanding Alumnus Selected
- Outstanding Senior Selected
- Honorary Member Selected
- New GIS Clocks Received
- Two Members attend Chapter Installation Ceremony, Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois
- Four Members attend Surplus Line Conference, Montgomery, Alabama
- Five Members attend GIS Management Conference, London, Ontario, Canada
- Last of 30 Scholarships Winners Announced
- President attends and speaks at ILC Meeting
- Three Members attend Hollman Career Achievement Award Gala
- Officers get Business Cards

November

- Three General Meetings, Industry Speaker at Two
- Two Officers Meetings
- Resume Book Prepared
- Additional Work on Website
- Additional Work on Officer's Notebook Project
- Fall, 2004 Initiation Banquet

December

- One General Meeting, with Industry Speaker
- One Officers Meeting
- OAM Published
- Four Members attend State Farm Ceremony
- GIS Brochure Released
- Alumni Directory Published

Scholarships

Thirty Omega Chapter members received scholarships (in the amounts of \$750 or \$500each) in the fall of 2004. Donors included insurance carriers, agents, and professional associations. A total of 344 members have received 685 individual awards between them since 1983-84. Here are the scholarship winners for the fall of 2004.

Fall 2004 Scholarship Winners

Bobbie Cavna	Josh Minshall
Andrew Coleman	Heidi Myers
Heather Dalton	Brett Neal
Rachel Davis	Chance Phelps
Daniel Duggin	Meaghan Richmond
Lindsey Dykes	Summer Robison
Emily Ferguson	Douglas Roddy
Cole Freeman	Paige Shipp
Marshall Fuson	Jared Stiefel
Meihua Gao	Patrick Swanson
Careasa Greer	Linda Talley
Zol Hooper	Jackie Waggoner
Ryan Jeans	Andrew Wilson
Michael Kniery	Laura Ziegler
Kimberly Mann	
Brad McGee	

Omega Wins National Awards

Omega Chapter added four trophies to its extensive collection following the GIS Grand Chapter Management Conference Oct. 14-16 at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario, Canada. Omega has won a total of 57 awards since its inception in 1983-1984.

Attending the conference were Paige Shipp, GIS President; Jared Stiefel, Executive Vice President; Chans Mysayphonh, Vice President for Finance; Rebecca Newell, Vice President for Programs; and Zol Hooper, SGA Delegate.

The group received the Public Relations Award, Superior Chapter Award, Anita Beneditti Award and the Special Achievement Award.

The Public Relations Award is presented to the chapter that best promotes a positive image for the national organization. Omega Chapter has won this particular award 14 times, more than any other chapter in the nation.

Omega Chapter members proved their prowess in furthering alumni relations, inter-chapter activities, community service, and the growth and participation of its members, earning them the coveted Superior Chapter Award. This award is not given out every year but is reserved for chapters who attain the highest levels of accomplishment.

Omega Chapter President Paige Shipp, a senior, received the Anita Beneditti Award, which is given to only one GIS member in the nation who has established the best rapport with local and national risk and insurance management society chapters. Omega Chapter members have received this award five out of the nine years it has existed.

Shipp also won the Special Achievement Award, also infrequently given, for demonstrating outstanding leadership on the local and national levels.

Internship Program, Fall 2004

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 347 past and present Omega Chapter members have received credit for the internship course, as of the end of the fall 2004 semester. Here is a list of interns for the fall of 2004.

David R. Branch
Pody Insurance Agency
Murfreesboro

Greg Brown
Parker and Watts Insurance
Agency
Nashville

Andrew Coleman
Tenn Care Fraud Unit
Nashville

Amy Jeffries
Risk Mgt. Dept., Tractor
Supply Co.
Brentwood

Brad McGee
State Farm Insurance Cos.
Murfreesboro

Brett Neal, Birdwell
Insurance Agency
Nashville

Bobbie Cavna
PICA
Brentwood

Endowed Scholarships Growing Strong

The Tommy Martin Chair of Insurance has endowed 26 scholarship accounts with a total principal of \$403,600. These are permanent accounts with annual interest therefrom 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:

Account Name	Date of Creation	Amount
Aetna Scholarship Fund	June 1992	\$7,600
Ainsworth Memorial Scholarship Fund	February 1994	\$50,200
Alexander Memorial Scholarship Account	May 2001	\$7,600
Allen Memorial Scholarship Account	September 1993	\$55,100
Allstate Scholarship Account	June 2001	\$8,200
Alumni Scholarship Account	December 1994	\$10,500
American General Scholarship Fund	January 1997	\$30,500
Auto Owners Scholarship Fund	January 2000	\$11,100
Jim Barrom Scholarship Fund	February 2003	\$5,100
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	\$4,900
Hollman Scholarship Fund	January 2001	\$8,100
Insurors of Nashville Scholarship Account	August 2001	\$4,800
Martin Memorial Scholarship Account	May 2000	\$61,200
Memphis RIMS Scholarship Account	August 2000	\$19,200
Mid-Tenn. Chapter of CPCU Scholarship Fund	July 1995	\$14,700
Nationwide Scholarship Fund	June 1995	\$11,800
Norman Memorial Scholarship Fund	December 1998	\$4,900
Oldham Memorial Scholarship Fund	January 1999	\$12,500
Smith Scholarship Fund	December 2000	\$16,300
Smoky Mountain Chapter of CPCU Scholarship Fund	May 1999	\$11,600
Tucker Memorial Scholarship Fund	August 1998	\$13,100
White Scholarship Fund	July 2000	<u>\$14,200</u>
	Total	\$403,600

Fall Chapter Initiation Banquet Well Attended

Omega Chapter held its fall 2004 Initiation Banquet on November 23, 2004, at the Doubletree Hotel in Murfreesboro. A total of 61 people attended, including 12 Omega Chapter alumni. The guest speaker was Letha Heaton, Shand Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. Following are lists of the student initiates (an asterisk indicates that the initiate was present) and alumni who attended.

Initiates

Fallan Ashford	Richard Dearing	William Chance Phelps*
Kristen Beadle*	Seth Gilliam*	Logan Rozell
David Branch	Zol Hooper*	Linda Talley*
Joe Brasfield*	Ryan Jeans*	Jackie Waggoner
Andrew Coleman*	Anthony Keller*	William Warren*
Breck Cooley*	Mac Lee*	Dan Webb*
Paul Crips	Brad McGee*	Josh Wells*
Ryan Crips	Amanda Mentzer	Andrew Wilson*
Sulemana Dauda	Jason Moates	Laura Ziegler
Nick Davis	Tat Mysayphonh*	

Alumni

Stephanie Fuson	Anthony Scott
Lyric Lewis	Tom Stratton
Pam Lewis	Danah Renner Weese
Grant Lichtenwalter	
Clyde McClaran	
Connie Nichols	
Glenda Pipkin	
Marcus Pipkin	
Woody Ratterman	

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 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.



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educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities.

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Gamma Iota Sigma

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