

Letter to the Editor: Wanted: The Young, the Bold, and the ... Gamma Iota Sigma Member ... For a Career in Insurance!

by Karen Hunter, CPCU

Looking for outgoing innovators who are about to graduate and are already committed to the insurance industry? Look no further than www.gammaiotasigma.org, the web site for the premier fraternity for college students: Gamma Iota Sigma, the international risk management, insurance, and actuarial science collegiate fraternity. Recognizing that the age of the average manager in insurance is 57, the industry is on the hunt to target recruits from Generations X and Y to fill the shoes of retiring Baby Boomer employees.

Wouldn't it be great to find these dedicated young professionals all in one place, at one time? Consider sponsoring a Career Fair seat for your company at the fraternity's Annual Management Conference. This year's three-day conference, "A Little Risky History and Southern Hospitality," will be hosted by Virginia Commonwealth University's Alpha Mu Chapter (Richmond, VA) in October 2008. Last year's conference, hosted by Tau Chapter of Howard University ("Storming the Capitol: A Coup de Tau") drew more than 300 attendees to Washington, DC, including 75 corporate representatives. Full details of both of these events are posted on the Gamma Iota Sigma web site.

Currently, 51 chapters dot the map of North America, on college campuses from Canada to Florida, and California to Connecticut (click on Publications-Sextant link of www.gammaiotasigma.org and look for our active chapter listing). With more than 13,000 alumni members and 1,000-plus collegiate members, this international fraternity offers a synergy of academic creativity beyond the boundaries of any individual university, and an involved network of industry professionals.

Originally under the umbrella of the Griffith Foundation for Insurance Education, the first chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma was chartered in 1966 at The Ohio State University. The purpose of the fraternity continues to be to promote, encourage, and sustain student interest in insurance, risk management, and actuarial science as professions, to encourage high moral and scholastic attainment, and to facilitate interaction of educational institutions and industry. Our founder, Warren L. Weeks, a Columbus, Ohio insurance agent and instructor at The Ohio State University, strongly believed that student members of Gamma Iota Sigma should support professionalism in the industry. He encouraged students to make it a goal to obtain the CPCU designation.

The Grand Chapter or Executive Committee is comprised of insurance professionals and insurance educators, most of whom were collegiate members of Gamma Iota Sigma. The executive director can be reached at grand@gammaiotasigma.com.

Gamma Iota Sigma members are among the top insurance industry recruits in the nation, having a proven track record of excellence. They are committed to the industry and knowledgeable about its programs, products, practices, and culture. Their initial “learning curve” in corporate training is very short. They are ready to “hit the ground running” as soon as they are hired. They have internship experience, as well as regular networking opportunities, allowing them to interact with professionals at chapter events, workshops, and seminars. Many have completed one or more parts of a professional designation **before** they graduate. Their fraternity experience also provides them with a myriad of leadership development opportunities.

On a personal note, as I look around the room at the annual Award Banquet of the Management Conference, I am so impressed with the diversity, and with the professional attitudes that I see and experience. Gamma members’ scholastic achievements are exceptional, and their enthusiasm for the insurance industry is very visible. They are truly the “cream of the crop.”

There is a chapter near you that would like to develop a mutually beneficial relationship with your company and/or chapter. Don’t wait; contact your local Gamma Iota Sigma Chapter today! Better yet, join us in Richmond, VA, for our 37th Annual Management Conference (October 16-18, 2008) and get to know us, while we get to know you!