**Navigating Risks and Challenges of a Changing Workforce**

On March 7, 2017, 210 attendees including 25 students gathered at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Business’ Snead Hall for the 11th Annual RISC Trends Conference.

Navigating Risk & Challenges of a Changing Workforce was the theme for this year’s conference. Sessions covered topics from workplace risks, including hacking, stress and disgruntled employees to the newest generation entering the workforce.

The closing Keynote Speaker, Tony Cañas, is a professional in the industry. Cañas works for a Fortune 100 and by night writes for the blog InsNerds.com. Mr. Cañas presented the audience with an interactive, high energy conversation-starter of a program. “Millennials are a different culture...,” Cañas said, “…we grew up in different worlds,” He explained that those differences can cause misunderstandings in the workplace.

“We...identify emerging risk in our industry so that insurance professionals who attend can get a sense of things that are coming down the pike and prepare for them.”

Tim Cook, Director of RISC
as quoted in the Richmond Times-Dispatch March 8, 2017

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**2017 RISC Trends Conference Sponsors**

Thank you! Your support of our March 2017 conference will allow the Risk and Insurance Studies Center at VCU to provide amazing opportunities for our students! Your support is essential to the academic and professional well-being of our program, our conference, and our students.

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**RMI and GIS Students Graduate**

VCU Commencement Spring 2017 was held on May 13, 2017. One student from the Risk and Insurance Studies Center and five members of Gamma Iota Sigma—Alpha Mu Chapter graduated in the Spring ceremony.

Congratulations, Graduates!

- Amanda Jessen
- Mariah Cottengim
- Timothy Korenman
- Celeste Azibuike
- Hannah Nothwehr

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**Field Trip to Chips Inc.**

Chips Inc. is a privately held company established in 1976 in Troy, Virginia. Risk and Insurance Studies students in Professor Cook’s Excess and Surplus Lines course ventured to the saw mill in Troy to tour with owners of the company. The tour consisted of the basics of a sawmill, operational safety and a review of the finished product after it has been placed in the kiln. Chips, Inc. was proud to show students that environmental waste is minimal at their facility; almost everything is used, even the bark that is removed during processing.

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**RIMS Conference & Expo**

Tim Cook and six students from the VCU Risk and Insurance Studies Center traveled by train to Philadelphia for the RIMS Annual Conference & Exposition (April 23-26).

"[We] are so grateful for the opportunity to network, learn and experience all our industry has to offer," said Olivia Guthrow, Gamma Iota Sigma—Alpha Mu Chapter President('17-'18).
RISC SCHOLARSHIPS & ENDOWMENTS

Through the generosity of RISC Sponsors and Friends, the center was able to support Risk Management and Insurance students with over $18,000 in scholarship funds in Spring 2017.

Students with a 3.0 GPA or higher were eligible to receive scholarships through RISC endowments and sponsorships. Qualified students were asked to write an essay completing a scholarship application.

AAMGA Conference in Orlando

Tim Cook and six students from the VCU Risk and Insurance Studies Center traveled to Orlando on January 23rd to attend E&S Jump School at AAMGA University East.

Students attended sessions on excess and surplus lines, identifying exposures and career opportunities in the E&S industry. They were offered the opportunity to interview with AAMGA members for internships and full-time job openings.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

VCU RISC ALUMNI

Alex Andrews

Andrews is a 2014 graduate of the Risk Management and Insurance program at VCU and past president of their Gamma Iota Sigma chapter. At 13, he moved from Houston, TX to Newport News where he finished up high school and eventually decided to enroll at VCU. He originally joined the university as a bio-med engineering major and quickly realized that wasn’t for him and decided to apply his skill with money and numbers to a business degree. While in the School of Business, he joined Gamma Iota Sigma and enjoyed the many benefits of membership including scholarships, networking, and internships. He’s spent the past two and a half years as a casualty underwriter for Colony Specialty after joining their trainee program post-graduation.

ADVANTAGES OF ETIQUETTE

On February 24th, 2017, the VCU Risk and Insurance Studies Center partnered with the VCU Kornblau Real Estate Program to present students with a business etiquette workshop. The session, presented by an Emily Post certified instructor, touched on aspects of business etiquette today, from why manners matter in the modern world to how ethical behavior and etiquette are intertwined.

A formal luncheon at the Country Club of Virginia was included in the schedule; dining etiquette was reviewed through the luncheon. The workshop was wonderful preparation for students attending the RISC Conference and Sponsor Reception on March 6th & 7th.

TIM COOK; OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL FACULTY MEMBER

Mr. Tim Cook, Director of the VCU Risk and Insurance Studies Center, was recognized as the Outstanding Professional Faculty Member for 2017 at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Business.

In his time at VCU; Tim has brought the School and his students a wealth of knowledge, a vast network of professional contacts and a contagious passion for education and the risk management and insurance industries. He has steadily grown the RMI program and the Gamma Iota Sigma - Alpha Mu chapter, to which he is the faculty adviser, to heights that brought national recognition to the University and the School of Business.

His name will be added to the wall in the Snead Hall atrium that recognizes all outstanding members of the VCU School of Business. Tim has already left his mark on RISC now all those that walk through the building will know what an impact he has made to the University and his students.