Zanjani to hold AAMGA Distinguished Chair in Risk Management and Insurance

George H. Zanjani, associate professor in the Department of Risk Management and Insurance at Georgia State University’s J. Mack Robinson College of Business, has been named inaugural holder of the American Association of Managing General Agents (AAMGA) Distinguished Chair in Risk Management and Insurance.

Previous to joining the Robinson faculty, Zanjani was an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York specializing in policy work related to insurance issues within the broader financial system.

(continued on page 20 - back cover)

New RMI Web & Social Media Sites

The redesigned RMI Department website was launched in December 2010 offering users a more valuable online experience. The site features a user-friendly navigation structure, streamlined content, and a secure site for making online donations to the department.

Visit RMI.GSU.EDU and let us know what you think. While you’re there, consider joining the department’s LinkedIn and Facebook networks.

RMI Department Ranked #3

The RMI Department rose three spots to #3 in the most recent U.S. News & World Report rankings of speciality business programs (2011 survey of America’s Best Colleges released last August). We are proud of the fact that for 12 consecutive years, RMI’s undergraduate program has been ranked among the nation’s top ten. Robinson’s part-time masters programs are again in the top 10% of the nearly 300 schools offering such programs (U.S. News & World Report).
2010 was a year to revisit the successes of the past and more importantly an opportunity to plan for the future. As is well known, in 2004 the department embarked upon a bold new strategic vision that called for an expanded focus on the function of risk management while maintaining our significant reputation in the area of insurance economics. Over the past year departmental faculty members and staff together with the trustees of EFI participated in a series of meetings charged to evaluate the merits of that choice and to develop a refreshed strategic plan designed to guide decision-making for the next six years. The final report, submitted to the university provost in December 2010, came to two primary conclusions. Let me give you the highlights.

CONCLUSION 1: The accomplishments since 2004 are impressive. For example:

- The 500+ students majoring in one of our programs in academic year 2010-2011 is the largest number in our history and represents a 48 percent increase since 2004.
- The quality of our students matches the growth. The average SAT scores for undergraduates and the average GMAT/GRE scores for graduate students are the highest of any major offered by the Robinson College of Business.
- Just prior to the launch of 2004-2010 strategic plan, the department had 20 full-time faculty members. This coming fall the department will have 25 full-time faculty members of which only nine remain from the earlier era. The majority of the new faculty has come to us with skills and interests not found on the previous staff including financial econometrics, mathematical finance, behavioral economics, and others. Departmental faculty members now represent a melting pot of scholars interested in risk from a wide-variety of perspectives.
- The new faculty talent has allowed the department to expand its influence beyond the insurance industry in both teaching and research. For example, numerous faculty publications now appear in journals that one would not previously associate with a risk management group. The most striking example of this expanded influence from a teaching perspective is that graduates from the M.S. in Mathematical Risk Management program, introduced since 2004, now routinely receive job offers from banking organizations and financial risk management consultancies.
- In late 2008 university officials awarded the department an Area of Focus Grant that provides the financial resources necessary to establish and run the Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk (CEAR). I invite you to see page 4 for an update of CEAR’s first year.
- Our 2011 third place ranking by U.S. News & World Report represents the highest position we’ve achieved in this decade. In addition, we are the only institution amongst the top three to also be designated a Center for Actuarial Excellence by the Society of Actuaries – a distinction we received in 2009.

CONCLUSION 2: The refreshed strategic plan reaffirms the revised mission. The 2011-2017 strategic plan not only reaffirms the expanded mission but also calls for us to use our network of resources to “propel risk to be established as a distinct academic discipline.” We understand this vision is audacious and we do not make it lightly. However, we firmly believe it is an objective that resonates with academics from many different fields and it is one being sought by industry and policy makers as it promises significant insights into individual behavior and it offers great potential for the advancement of business and the development of sound risk policy across a wide arc.

The plan contains six goals each designed to help us realize this envisioned future. I invite you to read the story in this year’s newsletter that highlights each of those goals. However, there is one goal about which I am most excited that exemplifies how we will redefine what it means to be the premier risk management program. Strategic Goal 3 states we should become “The aspirational risk management program for students from around the world.” There are several initiatives we will undertake to realize this goal, but an important one will be the development of a completely revised MBA in Risk Management.

Discussions by the faculty in partnership with industry professionals suggest that there currently exists a great opportunity to develop a unique program designed to prepare senior leaders who can transcend the silos that define the various areas with risk management. In addition, our review of the supply of existing programs suggests that currently no graduate program in the country adequately meets this demand.

Thus, the faculty recommends completely revamping the department’s nonquantitative graduate risk management program. The revised focus will prepare the future chief risk decision makers (e.g., CROs) within corporations or the professionals offering strategic risk advice working for consulting firms, brokerages, or risk advisory groups. Students participating in the program will enhance their leadership skills through self-assessment, personal coaching, and engaging problem-solving exercises.
RMI Department Adopts A New Strategic Plan

The Department of Risk Management and Insurance adopted an ambitious new strategic plan in December 2010, guided by the bold vision of establishing “risk” as an academic discipline. The plan, which sets the department’s course for the next six years and beyond, is the result of a yearlong process that brought together the collaborative efforts of faculty, staff, students, advisory committee members, and friends of the department. The strategic planning committee, led by Department Chair Richard D. Phillips, held more than a dozen forums and workshops with the department’s stakeholders, creating a document that serves as the roadmap for achieving the department’s envisioned future.

The roots of the 2010 Strategic Plan can be traced to the early part of the decade, when the RMI Department embarked on an ambitious plan to reinvent itself in light of certain trends developing in the areas of risk and its management. As a result of the reinvention, the department’s mission now calls for us to define our roles and to be viewed as leaders of an academic discipline known as risk that seeks to understand how individuals, institutions, and societies make decisions across different domains of uncertainty.

Historically, corporate risk managers were tasked with the responsibility of protecting the insurable assets of their companies. They worked closely with brokers and carriers to find the most cost effective insurance options available. Colleges and universities responded to this need by offering degrees in insurance. Georgia State created their Department of Insurance in the 1950’s and excelled at educating insurance professionals that met the needs of that industry.

As the job description of risk managers began to evolve over time to include the management of risks beyond those that were insurable, the more innovative universities started making changes to their curriculums. Georgia State embarked on a course that substantially altered the content of its programs in 2004. Program content was added to include the study of both insurable and non-insurable risks. Our focus became truly risk management and insurance rather than just insurance and it met the needs of that industry.

Today, the field of risk management continues to evolve. We are seeing Risk Managers and Chief Risk Officers become involved in financial, legal, and operational risks. Since only some of these risks can be covered with insurance products, risk managers now require skills beyond what traditional insurance degree programs can offer. As Georgia State is dedicated to be a leader in risk management education, we find ourselves needing to lead our discipline forward. We are once again exploring changes to our curriculum that will lead to defining the field of “Risk”.

Very soon our department will effect changes to our BBA-RMI and MBA-RMI programs that will teach relevant skills to future Chief Risk Officers. We are dedicated to making our programs cutting edge and relevant and Georgia State is committed to playing a leading role in the continuing evolution of our discipline.

The 2010 Strategic Plan, comprised of six specific objectives, will be implemented in steps, with some initiatives already underway. The objectives are:

OBJECTIVE 1: Assemble and retain a core of permanent and networked faculty who excel in their discipline desiring to undertake the coordinated study of risk management problems.

OBJECTIVE 2: Place graduates of the PhD program at peer and aspirational universities in academic risk management programs and in departments of economics and finance.

OBJECTIVE 3: Become the aspirational risk management program for students from around the world.

OBJECTIVE 4: Enhance the quality of the learning environment for our students consistent with the programs and opportunities offered to students at the top 20 U.S. business schools.

OBJECTIVE 5: Grow and enhance a coordinated and focused external relations and marketing program that ensures clear and consistent communications with key stakeholders including prospective, current, and former students, recruiters and corporate supporters, and scholars and policy makers around the world.

OBJECTIVE 6: Ensure that the department has the financial and operational resources necessary to achieve the envisioned future.

Visit the “About Us” section of our website at RMI.GSU.EDU to view the entire 2010 Strategic Plan.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Business schools historically have defined the study of risk management in silos: financial statement risk and fraud covered in accounting departments; derivatives and capital markets risk in finance departments; and insurance and corporate risk management in insurance programs. Although risk transcends all these disciplines, the enormous opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration have been to a large extent unrealized.

No longer. The Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk (CEAR) at Georgia State University’s J. Mack Robinson College of Business, officially launched in 2009, is the world’s first center to unite these disciplines to promote economic research on the measurement and management of risk faced by individuals, households, institutions, and societies.

The center is a collaborative partnership between Robinson’s Department of Risk Management and Insurance, Department of Finance, and School of Accountancy; the Department of Economics of Georgia State University’s Andrew Young School of Policy Studies; and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

CEAR is conducting rigorous research grounded in theoretically consistent methodology; cultivating a common language for academicians, policy makers, and practitioners; and undertaking broad, multiyear projects that address fundamental topics as well as issues with immediate implications for business and policy.

Inaugural Director Glenn Harrison has set the agenda for CEAR, assembled a global network of preeminent risk scholars, and engaged leading practitioners and policy makers in its work.

In its first year of operation, the center has already convened six workshops; 14 seminars; and cosponsored conferences including the Foundations and Applications of Utility, Risk and Decision Theory Conference in Newcastle, England; the Copenhagen Conference on Risk and Time Preferences with the Copenhagen Business School; and the Sixth Annual Microinsurance Conference in Manila.

While providing a comprehensive summary of CEAR’s activities would require much more space than is allotted here, the following examples illustrate the center’s work addressing risk theory, practice, and policy:

**THEORY: Econometrics of Choice Under Risk and Over Time**  
January 10-11, 2011; Denver

A handful of experimental economists and econometricians stayed in Denver after the 2011 annual meetings of the American Economic Association and American Finance Association for a CEAR workshop on the measurement of risk attitudes. This was the center’s second workshop to focus on how economic theory, experiments and econometric methodology should be merged to develop more robust ways to jointly characterize the time preferences and risk attitudes of economic agents.

**PRACTICE: Insurance for the Poor**  
September 29-30, 2010; Atlanta

Insurance for the poor, an outgrowth of the microfinance boom, holds enormous potential as a safety net for millions of low income households worldwide. But the market for this new type of insurance is in a formative stage. CEAR brought subject area experts from institutions including Oxford, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, and the Munich Re Foundation to Atlanta to establish a research agenda designed to bridge academic research and practical reality for the purpose of accelerating the maturity of the market of microinsurance into a sustainable business model.

Many of the September workshop attendees traveled to Manila in November for the Sixth Annual International Microinsurance Conference, where they participated in the scientific track of the conference organized by CEAR.
The center recently executed a cooperative agreement to partner with the Munich Re Foundation on ongoing research. The group will reconvene in November 2011 at the Seventh Annual International Microinsurance Conference in Brazil.

POLICY: Traffic Risk
February 21-22, 2011; Atlanta

Traffic congestion is an increasingly urgent problem for metropolitan areas around the world. With limited resources for expanding transportation infrastructure, alternative solutions are being sought through congestion pricing—the effects of which are contingent on driver reaction to pricing schemes and the extent to which travel time reliability is perceived to be affected by tolls. Scholars from Denmark, Sweden, Germany and the United States, along with representatives from the Brookings Institute and the Federal Highway Administration, discussed ongoing research and what needs to be learned in order to influence policy moving forward.

The workshop also served to launch a three-year project funded by the Federal Highway Administration’s Exploratory Advanced Research Program titled “Experiments on Driving under Uncertain Congestion Conditions and the Effects on Traffic Networks from Congestion Pricing Initiatives.” CEAR Fellow Lisa Rutström, a professor in the Robinson College of Business and Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, is principal investigator. The study includes field experiments in the Atlanta and Orlando metropolitan areas involving 200 to 300 drivers per area. The research team will equip the private vehicle of each participant with a GPS device to study how the risk preferences of drivers are reflected in their decisions to trade drive-time for drive-time reliability as road prices are manipulated for various routes and departure times.

For additional information on CEAR’s seminars, workshops, and research activities, visit cear.gsu.edu.

CEAR Engages Undergraduates

The Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk (CEAR) is conducting a multi-year research effort entitled “Insurance for the Poor.” The project is led by CEAR Director Glenn Harrison and Richard Phillips, RMI Department Chair, and is an outgrowth of the burgeoning worldwide interest in microinsurance and its potential as a safety net for millions of low income households.

Using Professor Harrison’s RMI 4150 Theory of Risk class as a springboard, the study will eventually engage undergraduate students in the design of a field project. Students will collect information about the poor in urban Atlanta. This information can then be used to design better microinsurance products that could be profitably offered by insurance companies. The class covers all of the basic theoretical issues of risk management, including risks that can be insured and those that cannot be. It also uses a parallel project for the poor in developing countries as a background text.

Munich Re Fellows Program

Under the auspices of the Horst K. Jannott (HKJ) Scholarship Program and the direction this year of Richard Phillips, RMI Department Chair, and Alfred Mettler, Clinical Associate Professor of Finance, the 31st class of the Munich Re Visiting Fellows will be on the Georgia State University campus from March 18 through May 11. Professors Phillips and Mettler replaced the retired Larry D. Gaunt, who directed the program from its inception in 1980.

The program brings 10 insurance professionals from around the world, each selected by their corresponding companies based on their leadership potential. The Fellows participate in a rigorous customized program of study that closely examines U.S. risk management institutions and practices. This year’s impressive group includes:

CARL BACK
Senior Vice President, Navigators Group, London, UK

JOANNA BEAN
Technical Standards & Control Manager, National Farmers Union Mutual, Stratford-upon-Avon, UK

GUILLAUME BONNISSENT
Special Risks Line UW for Kidnap/Ransom, HISCOX, London, UK

ADIL COURY
Executive Vice-President, Banesco Seguros, Caracas, Venezuela

PIETER TJERK FAAS
Branch Manager Non-Life Insurance, ASR Verzekeringen, Utrecht, The Netherlands

GORAZD JENKO
Director of Property and Casualty Insurance, Triglav Insurance Company, Kranj, Slovenia

SHUCHIROU MATSOUKA
Deputy Manager, Property Risks Outward, Reinsurance Department, Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance, Tokyo, Japan

SIPHO MTHABELA
Manager, Strategy/VBM, Munich Re of Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa

AIKO SCHILLING
Syndic/Legal Counsel, Munich Re, Munich, Germany

CHRISTIAN WECKERMANN
Underwriter Property Treaty, Munich Re, Munich Germany
The RMI Department’s physical space underwent a dramatic transformation throughout most of last summer. Almost every wall was demolished and then rebuilt in a new, more modern configuration, taking full advantage of the available space on the 11th floor of the Robinson College of Business building.

The redesign was necessary to accommodate the programming needs of The Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk (CEAR) – see CEAR Update on page 4.

All of the department’s student, faculty, staff, and collaboration spaces were redesigned and rebuilt for optimal efficiency. The remodeling project began on May 11, 2010 with the demolition of the center and south wings of the floor, and ended in mid-September with the construction of CEAR’s state-of-the-art seminar/collaboration rooms. Although the center is housed in the RMI Department, its collaborative reach is global in scope, with an international network of more than 100 researchers. A primary goal of the redesign was to create a physical environment capable of connecting CEAR’s geographically dispersed researchers and their ideas through the use of cutting-edge technology.

The CEAR Collaboration Room contains 250 square feet of meeting space, with permanent seating for 6 people, but can accommodate up to 10 comfortably. The room is equipped with two SMART Board Interactive whiteboards which facilitate on-site collaboration as well as bring together up to 30 remote users from anywhere in the world with an internet and voice connection. Once users are actively linked, they are able to share their desktop screens with one another, write notes in digital ink, annotate over documents and applications, and finally save everything to a single file. The collaboration room also includes an audio conferencing system where hands-free microphones and in-ceiling speakers allow users to comfortably interact with others across town or across the world.

The CEAR Seminar Room accommodates approximately 45 people with a combination of permanent classroom style seating as well as overflow seating. The room features everything a typical seminar room should—a large presentation screen, whiteboard, and lectern. However, the room design goes steps further to ensure that what happens at CEAR central can be shared with others around the world. To that end, the seminar room has a fully-integrated audio/video capture system connected to a high-definition camera and full-room drop microphones. The sophisticated system enables live video streaming and recording for future distribution and archiving.

CEAR’s state-of-the-art Collaboration (left) and Seminar Rooms (right)
Moving out of the “old” space temporarily – former lobby area (left) and conference room (right)

The north wing of the department now holds faculty offices and PhD student work areas

Middle wing of the department after demolition. This site is now the CEAR Seminar Room (see page 4)

Former lobby and conference room areas became the new student work space/lobby and staff offices

The New Space

TOP ROW (left to right): A typical staff office, faculty office, and hallway

BOTTOM ROW: New student work area (left) and lobby (right)
PANTHERS ROAR ON WALL STREET:
Outstanding Georgia State Students Visit the Heart of America’s Financial District

In the fall of 2008, the Robinson College of Business launched Panthers on Wall Street, a four-day experience designed to immerse our most promising students in the heart of America’s financial district. The program typically includes 16 undergraduate and master’s students from our Accounting, Finance, and Risk Management and Insurance departments.

Last September, the third annual group of Panthers descended on New York City. With the economic upturn and companies beginning to hire again, this year’s group approached the trip with a heightened level of optimism. Most of the Panthers had never visited New York, and a few had never been on an airplane before the trip. Four students from the Department of Risk Management and Insurance made the trip this year: Michael Ivie (MBA FIN / RMI), Ryan McIver (MBA FIN), Domenic Innocenti (BBA ACCT / RMI) and Pratiwi Yap (BBA ACCT / AS).

The Panthers landed in New York on Sunday, September 12th and spent the day exploring mid-town Manhattan. The trip was scheduled for September rather than October as in years past. September is the height of campus recruiting season so the new timing was intended to give our students an advantage by getting in front of employers at an opportunistic time. The following three days were spent meeting representatives from Keefe, Bruyette, and Woods, AIG, Chartis, Bank of America, JPMorgan, Ernst & Young, and Deloitte. The Panthers also attended a networking reception hosted by AllianceBernstein which included representatives from Georgia State as well a number of major corporations. As in the past, the group received a guided toured of the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Since the NYSE has been closed to tourists, except for private tours, since September 11, 2001, this was truly a memorable event.

Bloomberg Terminals are now available on campus

When our students graduate and go off to work, most will likely find themselves in front of a Bloomberg. What is a Bloomberg? Bloomberg L.P. is a company formed by current New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. The Bloomberg Terminal and Bloomberg Professional Service is proprietary software that provides news feeds from all major news services, real-time price quotes on financial instruments, and messaging across its proprietary secure network. Bloomberg is used by over 300,000 professionals and tracks over 5 million financial instruments. Almost all financial firms and most major college business programs have subscriptions to this service. For professional mutual funds, hedge funds, private partnerships, insurance companies, banks, and other financial institutions, a Bloomberg terminal is considered an absolute requisite.

The Department of Risk Management and Insurance was able to secure a Student Technology Fee Grant to supply Georgia State University with 12 Bloomberg Terminals for two years. Bloomberg Terminals should assist students and faculty in research and spark a heightened interest in financial and insurance markets at a level not possible before. Bloomberg Terminals have been placed within Risk Management and Insurance (11th floor), Finance (12th floor), Accounting (5th floor), the Library, Aderhold Computer Lab, Law School Library, and in some of our satellite offices. It’s our hope that grants can be secured to continue this service for as long as students find it useful.
CONGRATULATIONS HONORS DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS

2011 RECIPIENTS

RMI Alumni Club Undergraduate Student of the Year Award
AMY HAVARD

Outstanding Personal Financial Planning Graduate Student of the Year Award
THADDEUS GILLIAM

Outstanding Risk Management and Insurance Graduate Student of the Year Award
MATTHEW HORVATH

Outstanding Mathematical Risk Management and Insurance Student of the Year Award
HONGJUN HA

Robert W. Batten Actuarial Science Award
HUAYE DONG

Floyd S. Harper Actuarial Science Award
JESSICA AHN

Eli A. Zubay Actuarial Science Award
PRATIWI YAP

Gamma Iota Sigma Leadership Awards
FINLEE VINES

Gamma Iota Sigma Service Awards
MICHAEL BROWN
KWESI OFORI-ATTA
ASHLEY PARKS

Pictures represent past award recipients.

RMI 4385 Professional Skills - Improve your chances of finding a job

For years, our students have repeatedly asked two questions:

> What can I do with my BBA-RMI or BBA-AS degree?
> How can I improve my interview skills so that I can land my dream job?

In the fall semester, the RMI Department launched an experimental class – RMI 4385 Professional Skills. This one credit class concentrated on answering these two questions. The department believes that as a top ranked risk management program, our students should have outstanding interview skills. The class introduced students to a number of guest speakers that discussed careers in seven disciplines. Speakers discussed careers as: Risk Managers, Underwriters, Actuaries, Actuarial Consultants, Claims Adjusters, Reinsurers, and Brokers. In an effort to reach as many students as possible, the class was open to any interested student when guest speakers made their presentations.

In addition to listening to and meeting these insurance professionals, students learned interview techniques and put their knowledge to the test during mock interviews. Guest interviewers came to class and conducted mock interviews to give our students real-world practice. As interview skills are learned, practice makes perfect. Students in RMI 4385 not only were interviewed, but watched their classmates go through the process. Critiques followed each interview and all students learned from each other.

Going forward, it’s our hope that more and more students will take advantage of this class.
Glenn Harrison is a professor of risk management and insurance at Georgia State University and the Director of CEAR – The Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk. He conducts research in the areas of risk, uncertainty, time preferences, and insurance.

His research in risk primarily focuses on the characterization of attitudes towards objective and subjective risk. This characterization is not limited to conventional models emphasizing diminishing marginal utility, but includes alternatives that include “pessimism” or “optimism” towards probabilities, and loss aversion. In fact, he has stressed the possibility that traditional and alternative characterizations might both be present in observed behavior: some fraction of decision makers might be explained by traditional models, and some fraction by non-traditional models. This appears to characterize behavior in many settings, ranging from laboratory experiments with students in first world countries to field experiments with the poor in third world countries. A key feature of his research is the estimation of structural econometrics models of decision-making, and he is widely viewed as a pioneer in the development of “behavioral econometrics.”

His research on uncertainty is literally on the boundary of what we mean by “risk.” Decision makers can have subjective risk attitudes if they behave consistently with some stringent rationality assumptions. These assumptions allow one to characterize the behavior of individuals with imprecise subjective beliefs as if they actually had a precise subjective probability. The good news is that this assumption seems to be valid for some individuals: the bad news, of course, is that it is not true for everyone. So one has to be able to identify those individuals for whom the imprecision of subjective beliefs “matters” for behavior. The procedures for effecting this identification are just being tested in the laboratory, with field applications soon to follow.

A byproduct of this work on uncertainty is the development of a rich set of tools for identifying the subjective beliefs of individuals. These tools are being applied widely. One application is to a multi-million dollar research project funded by the Federal Highway Administration to study beliefs towards the value of tolls on congested highways in Atlanta. Another application is to elicit the subjective attitudes of Chief Risk Officers of major corporations towards the “stress points” in the global economy. Yet another application is to find out what weather forecasting experts, and TV weathermen, believe the chances to be of a severe hurricane season in the United States in 2011.

His research on time preferences is trying to ascertain how patient people are, and whether their patience is “well behaved” in the sense of being constant and consistent over time. This research is calling into question the received wisdom that people are, in general, extremely impatient, and that they trade off the future in an inconsistent manner. This is not to say that everyone behaves rationally towards time trade offs, but that the individuals that have problems with time consistency are identifiable. This finding has dramatic implications for the design of public policy.

His research on insurance decisions brings all of these foundational topics together. The reason is simple. Virtually every interesting risk management option, including the purchase of insurance, entails someone deciding to incur some payment now in the subjective expectation of some benefit in the future. The benefit might be a lower risk of the unfortunate event occurring (self-protection), or a better outcome if the unfortunate event occurs (self-insurance or purchased insurance). To evaluate these risk management decisions you therefore have to know the risk attitudes, discount rate, and subjective beliefs, of the insured. It is impossible to evaluate the welfare effects of behavior towards insurance without knowledge of these preferences and beliefs. What might look like irrational behavior might indeed be irrational, but could also be due to subjective beliefs that are not shared by actuaries, or discount rates and risk attitudes that are unexpected.

These concerns come to a head in the design of insurance products for the poor, a major focus of research by CEAR. Harrison has delivered a plenary lecture on these issues at the Munich Re Annual Microinsurance Conference in Manila (November 2010), and at the 25th Annual Conference of the Center for the Study of African Economies at Oxford University (March 2011).

ELIZABETH BROWN is an assistant professor of legal studies at Georgia State University. Her scholarship focuses on the regulation of financial services (insurance, securities and banking) both within the United States and overseas. Prior to entering academia, she worked at Clifford Chance in London where she focused on securities transactions, including intellectual property and advice on investment treaty and trade agreements, and at Baker Botts in Houston, where she represented clients in corporate and securities transactions. In addition, she worked for four years as an international economist for the International Trade Administration (ITA) in the U.S. Department of Commerce, first in the Office of Africa and later in the Office of East European and Soviet Affairs. While at Commerce, she counseled both Fortune 500 and smaller businesses on exporting and investing in the countries that she covered and participated in the negotiation of the bilateral investment treaty and trade agreement between the United States and Bulgaria.

Visit RMI.GSU.EDU for more information on members of the RMI faculty.
At over 2,000 pages the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) at first glance might appear to address many of the major problems that led to the recent financial crisis. The act, however, does not address one crucial area in need of regulatory reform -- the need to consolidate and reorganize financial regulators to better meet the risks posed by financial services.

A good portion of my current research agenda has been to critically evaluate the efficacy consolidating and reorganizing the 115 U.S. agencies that regulate financial services to change their focus from regulating particular institutions or products to focus on regulating the risks posed by financial services. My answer to this question is an unequivocal ‘yes’. There are several reasons to support this position. For example, financial products and services no longer fit within neatly demarcated silos for banking, securities, or insurance, but instead form a continuum in which products and services in one sector, such as banking, are increasingly fungible with and compete with products and services in another, such as securities. The U.S. regulatory structure does not recognize this, but instead, is organized to have agencies regulate products or institutions based on whether they fit within certain legal definitions for banking, securities, futures, or insurance products or firms. Consumers can obtain and write checks on a deposit account, which is regulated by bank regulators, or a money market account, which is regulated by securities regulators.

Another reason I support regulatory consolidation is because the complexity of the U.S. regulatory structure created numerous problems that we now have direct evidence contributed to the recent financial crisis. My recent articles, A Comparison of the Handling of the Financial Crisis in the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia and The New Laws and Regulations for Financial Conglomerates: Will They Better Manage Their Risks Than the Previous Ones?, explain in detail the problems created by this structure. For example, prior to the crisis, the United States had four federal agencies that regulated financial conglomerates on a consolidated basis. Which agency served as a conglomerate’s regulator usually depended upon what type of depository institution, if any, that the conglomerate owned. For instance, the Federal Reserve regulated Citigroup because it owned commercial banks, but the Office of Thrift Supervision regulated AIG because it owned a savings and loan institution, not a commercial bank. In addition, other federal or state officials regulated the subsidiaries of the financial conglomerates depending upon the type of products or services they offered.

These multiple regulators created the following problems, among others: (1) inconsistent supervisory and regulatory standards, particularly with regard to capital adequacy, (2) a failure by regulators to understand the risks (systemic, financial, operational, etc.) posed by subsidiaries in sectors outside of the primary area of responsibility of the holding company regulator, (3) regulatory arbitrage, (4) regulatory capture, and (5) a failure to address the problems of increasingly larger and more interconnected financial conglomerates that posed systemic risks that made regulators reluctant to let them fail.

Unfortunately the Dodd-Frank Act did little to change the underlying structure that led to these problems. It eliminated one agency, the Office of Thrift Supervision, but created a new agency, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and two new offices, the Federal Insurance Office and the Office of Financial Research. It did attempt to reduce the ability of financial conglomerates to engage in regulatory arbitrage by making the Federal Reserve the primary federal regulator for all systemically significant financial conglomerates. Even on this issue, however, it was not completely successful. For example, while the act clearly makes the Federal Reserve responsible for all bank and thrift holding companies, it requires a determination by two-thirds of the voting members of the Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) that a financial company, which does not own a bank or thrift, poses a threat to U.S. financial stability before such a firm could be regulated by the Federal Reserve. Getting seven of the ten voting members of the FSOC to agree on such a determination is not likely to be easy, particularly given their different regulatory philosophies and the turf battles that some of them have waged in the past.

One regulatory system that would meet the principles that I’ve advocated for is the twin peaks model employed by Australia. In the Australian structure, one agency regulates prudential risks for all financial firms and the other regulates market conduct and consumer protection risks. My research and others has shown this structure performed better in the recent financial crisis than the U.S. structure and, as a result, the Australian government did not take feel compelled to bailout any of its major financial institutions. Even if the twin peaks approach is not appropriate to regulate U.S. markets, at a minimum the results of my work and others make it clear the United States should reconsider consolidating and reorganizing its agencies to regulate financial services based on regulatory objectives aimed at controlling certain risks rather than its current market sector approach.

PAPERS


As Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Educational Foundation, Inc. for fiscal year 2010-2011, I am proud of the Foundations’ accomplishments and appreciate each of our donors who have made our achievements possible. This year, we have engaged in:

**STRATEGIC PLANNING:** EFI board members provided input on the Academic Program Review and RMI Department strategic planning process through various breakout sessions. Thank you to all of the members who participated in the process. We especially acknowledge Bill Panning from Willis and Adam Litke from Bloomberg who both flew in from New York to speak with the external reviewer team.

**FUND RAISING AND STEWARDSHIP:** In addition to past activities, this year EFI sponsored the first ever RMI Charity Golf Tournament and we launched a new strategy designed to help fund the department’s PhD program and therefore support the future of academic risk management. As always, we are pleased to work with our partners who are pleased to work with our partners who to sponsor the Bermuda Walk, Corporate Campaign, and the Alumni and Friends Campaign.

**BRANDING:** We are in the midst of reassessing the foundation’s identity and whether it should be changed to send a clearer message of who we are and what we do. Stay tuned!

The current board is active, we’ve done a lot but there is more to do. We are always seeking alumni to augment our scarce resources. As we continue to strive to be the top RMI program in the country we need our alumni to “step up” and give something (anything!) back to the RMI department in time and with financial contributions. I thank you for your consideration and look forward to continuing to support my alma mater.

Sincerely,

J. Brady Young
Strategic Risk Solutions
The Educational Foundation, Inc. hosted the Inaugural Invitational Charity Golf Tournament to benefit the Department of Risk Management and Insurance, which took place on September 20, 2010 at the Atlanta Athletic Club. The tournament served as the Department’s first such fundraiser that we hope to make an annual event. In addition to raising funds for the Department, future tournaments will serve to encourage industry networking and forge new partnerships between the RMI Department and the private sector.

Over 80 golfers representing companies from across the insurance and related industries market participated in foursomes. The tournament began with a shotgun start, and included contests such as putting, closest to the hole, closest to the water, longest drive, and the infamous “players choice.” There was no shortage of excitement, even in the 90° weather. The tournament ended with a silent auction and an outdoor barbeque—the RMI Scholarship/Donor Recognition Dinner—honoring the participants, the department’s 2010 scholarship recipients, and our donors. A good time was had by all. Congratulations to all of our winners!
EFI Board Member Spotlight

MIKE DEKONING, FSA, FCIA, MAAA
President & CEO, Munich American Reassurance Company

Mike DeKoning is President and CEO of the U.S. life reinsurance business for Munich Re. This covers all lines of business, including ordinary life, group life & disability, long term care and individual disability. Mike has accountability for all aspects of Munich American Re’s business and sits on the Board of the Company and its subsidiaries which include LifePlans, one of the largest underwriting, claims and administration TPA’s serving the long-term care market. He became an EFI Board member in 2008 and has since been an active member of the Investment Committee, ensuring the Foundation’s assets are properly managed, and serving as a strong supporter of the RMI Program. Of his board service, he says, “It’s a great opportunity to help shape the future education of risk management and actuarial professionals to ensure that it not only meets the education requirements of the various professional organizations but also the business community at large.”

STUART KIMBLE
Senior Vice President–Risk Management Services, Aon Risk Services South

Stuart Kimble has served on the EFI Board since 2005. He is currently Sr. Vice President at Aon Risk Services South, Inc. His career spans 30 plus years in varying roles including Risk Control, Property/Casualty brokering and Account Management. He currently manages a number of the largest accounts in Aon’s Risk Management Practice in varying business segments including construction, manufacturing, retail, distribution, and employee staffing. Stuart has served on numerous committees and as Board Chairman. Of his Board service, Stuart says, “For me it is an opportunity to help in some small way, to make a difference in the lives of the risk management students at GSU and to help support and raise awareness the overall program in the local and national communities.” We thank him for his service.

THOMAS A. PLAYER
Attorney, Morris, Manning & Martin

Tom Player is one of the longest serving members of the EFI Board, joining in 2002. His background is insurance law and, now, sculpting. Yes, you read it right. At Furman University he concentrated on applied art. But when it came to choosing a career, he chose law, finishing at the University of Virginia. He says, “Funny, I was happy practicing law for more than forty years. Clients said ‘I was creative.’” Several years ago he turned to his life-long interest in art and began a new career in sculpting. His careers in the creative and the analytical are not too shabby. As a lawyer, his last two assignments were as lead attorney representing Goldman Sachs in a large reinsurance transaction and as lead insurance counsel for Bank of America in its acquisition of Countrywide. As a sculptor, he was invited to show a bronze piece entitled The ATL in the prestigious 77th Annual Exhibit of the National Sculpture Society. His works are shown at the Edward Dare Gallery, 31 Broad Street in Charleston and can be seen on his website at www.tomplayersculpture.com. We appreciate his years of service.

LISA ZONINO
EVP – Global Head of Human Resources, CIT (Worldwide HQ)

Lisa Zonino is one of our newest EFI Board members, joining in 2010. She is Executive Vice President and Global Head of Human Resources for CIT, responsible for their human capital strategy including the development and implementation of the Company’s global employee programs, policies and benefits initiatives. Prior to CIT, she led the Global Risk Practice for Egon Zehnder International, a global executive search firm, where she was responsible for recruiting and talent assessment in the financial services sector. Before joining Egon Zehnder she held senior administrative and operating roles in the risk and finance functions at Morgan Stanley. Zonino began her career at Bankers Trust Company where she held various business management roles in Risk Advisory, Capital Markets and Private Wealth Management. She wanted to join the Board because she is taken by the RMI Department’s mission and the importance they place on a broad ranging study of risk management. She is currently assisting with the EFI Board Governance Committee.

2nd Annual Recognition Dinner

This year’s RMI Scholarship/Donor Recognition Dinner took place in September following our inaugural golf tournament (see page 13). We honored over 50 undergraduate and graduate students for their achievements, awarded over $150,000 in scholarships, and acknowledged donors, alumni, and other friends of the department for their continued support. Certificates were presented to the scholarship recipients by J. Brady Young, EFI Board Chair.

UPDATE: The Bermuda Fund

For the past seven years, The Department of Risk management and Insurance has been trekking to Bermuda in order to raise moneys for our Bermuda Scholarship, now called the BFIS / GSU Bermuda Scholarship. To date, we have raised more than $142,000 and currently have five Bermudian students in the program: Ade Brown, Courtney Coddington, Tori Smith, Shannan Swan, and Danae Trott. Going forward, our strategy will be somewhat different.

Beginning this month, the Robinson College of Business and Bermuda College will sign a matriculation agreement so that students at Bermuda College working towards their Associates Degree in Business Administration can apply to Georgia State and finish their degree here. Bermudian students will need to have completed at least 60 credit hours at Bermuda College with a GPA of at least 3.0.

It’s our hope that up to five students per year will elect to participate in this program. Students who come to Georgia State University will be allowed to pay tuition at in-state Georgia rates so long as they maintain their 3.0 GPA.

In addition to signing this new agreement with Bermuda College, the department will also increase its marketing efforts on the island. Beginning this fall, RMI will host a “Career Preview Day” for interested high school senior and Bermuda College students. Since most students are unfamiliar with insurance careers, even though insurance is the largest employer on the island, this event will introduce students to the industry by immersing them in a real firm’s daily business.

Introducing the PhD Fund

In our quest to retain the highest caliber of student in our PhD program, we have formed the PhD Fund, which serves to supplement the traditional stipend that PhD students receive, making us competitive with our peers. The PhD Fund will also enhance the number and quality of opportunities available for our students to engage in. Our PhD students eventually educate the future generation of risk managers and actuarial scientists. Consider making a direct contribution to the PhD Fund today.
Many Thanks to Our 2010 Donors

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Amounts reflect all contributions received between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010

PERRY BINDER, assistant professor of legal studies, is a regular contributor on educational issues to The Huffington Post. His latest piece, “Lessons of Justice for College Students: Big Coal,” appeared on October 27, 2010.


AJAY SUBRAMANIAN, Bruce A. Palmer Associate Professor of Risk Management and Insurance, coauthored several papers including: “Manager Characteristics and Capital Structure: Theory and Evidence” (with Sanjai Bhagat and Brian Bolton), forthcoming in Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis; “Fund Flows, Performance, Managerial Career Concerns, and Risk-Taking” (with Ping Hu, Jayant Kale, and Marco Paganii), forthcoming in Management Science; and “Leverage and Debt Maturity Choices By Undiversified Owner-Managers” (with Richard Fu), which is forthcoming in the Journal of Corporate Finance.


SHAUN WANG, program director and professor of actuarial science, coauthored “Is the HECM Program Sustainable? -- Evidence from Pricing Mortgage Insurance Premiums and Non-Recourse Provisions Using Conditional Esscher Transform,” (with RMI PhD alumnus Hua Chen
and RMI Professor Emeritus Samuel Cox), which appeared in Insurance: Mathematics and Economics, Volume 46, Issue 2, April 2010, Pages 371-384. Dr. Chen is an assistant professor at Temple University.


Associate Professors CONRAD CICCOTELLO and AJAY SUBRAMANIAN coauthored “Commercializing Public Technology through Cooperative R&D” (with R. Fu) which appeared in Economics Letters 108 (2), 113-115 (2010).

Richard Luger Joins RMI Faculty

RICHARD LUGER joined the RMI faculty in the fall as an associate professor of risk management and insurance. He holds a joint appointment with the Department of Economics at the Andrew Young School of Public Policy. Professor Luger is an expert on econometric methodology, financial econometrics and computational methods. His research interests cover a wide array of topics related to econometrics, especially for the analysis of financial markets data. His research has appeared in such academic journals as Economic Letters, Journal of Empirical Finance, and Computational Statistics and Data Analysis.

Prior to joining Georgia State University, Professor Luger was an assistant professor in the Department of Economics at Emory University, and before that he worked as a research economist at the Bank of Canada. He is originally from Canada and earned his doctorate in economics from the University of Montreal. He also received a master’s degree in economics from McGill University, a bachelor’s degree in applied mathematics from Concordia University, and a bachelor’s degree in computer science from the University of Montreal.

Award-Winning Faculty

MARTIN GRACE was honored by the American Risk and Insurance Association as recipient of their 2010 President’s Award, recognizing his outstanding service to the organization.

GEORGE ZANJANI and ROBERT KLEIN received the prestigious 2010 American Risk and Insurance Association Award for the Best Perspectives article published in the Risk Management & Insurance Review during the previous year, for their paper entitled “The Perfect Storm: Hurricanes, Insurance and Regulation (12, 81-124, 2009).

EDWIN PALMER received the coveted 2010 Crystal Apple Award for excellence in teaching. This award is especially meaningful, as it is based on direct input from surveys by Robinson’s MBA students.


SHAUN WANG was recognized by the American Risk and Insurance Association as the recipient of the 2010 Mehr Award, presented each year for the paper published in the Journal of Risk and Insurance (JRI) ten years ago that has best stood the test of time. The award winning paper, entitled “A Class Distortion of Operators for Pricing Financial and Insurance Risks,” was published in the JRI in March 2000, V. 67(1), pp. 15-36. Richard Phillips, RMI Department Chair, received the Mehr Award in 2008. Phillips and Martin Grace received the awards in 2009.

CONRAD CICCOTELLO received the 2010 Best Paper Award in Corporate Governance at the Financial Management Association’s Annual Meeting in October for his paper, “Does Distance from Headquarters Matter? Information Acquisition and Monitoring by the Board of Directors” (coauthored with Georgia State faculty members Zinat Alam, Mark Chen, and Harley E. Ryan Jr. The award is sponsored by Loyola University in Chicago.)
Congratulations are in order for two members of the RMI Department’s legal studies faculty. NANCY MANSFIELD was promoted from associate to full professor and MARGARET (“PEGGY”) SHERMAN was promoted from assistant professor to clinical associate professor. The promotions will be effective August 2011.

Professor Mansfield, who has been a member of the Georgia State University faculty for almost 30 years, is the academic coordinator for law-related courses in the RMI Department’s legal studies program. She holds a joint appointment in the Institute of Health Administration where she is a Senior Research Associate. Dr. Mansfield teaches various business law courses including the Legal and Ethical Environment of Business, the Regulatory Environment in the Executive MBA program, Health Law in the Masters of Health Administration program, and the “Law & Society” learning community. She currently serves as the university’s Faculty Associate for Scholars and has received numerous national and college-wide awards for teaching excellence.

Professor Mansfield’s research is currently focused on health law and employment law issues, for which she has received various awards including the Holmes-Carodoza Award from the Academy of Legal Studies (1997); the Ralph Bunche Award for Outstanding International Paper, Academy of Legal Studies in Business (2009); and Best Paper Award for Best Conference Paper, Mid-Atlantic Academy of Legal Studies in Business (2009). She served as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Legal Studies in Business in 2000-2001.

Professor Mansfield was educated at Smith College and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She received her law degree from the University of Georgia.

Margaret Sherman has been a member of the RMI faculty since 1999 where she teaches business law and personal financial planning courses. She specializes in technology and e-commerce, mergers and acquisitions, and general corporate law. She has over 13 years of domestic and international experience as a corporate attorney, representing primarily technology companies. During her career in private practice, Professor Sherman managed an in-house Legal Department; completed over 30 acquisitions; participated in numerous lawsuits, arbitrations and mediations; negotiated licensing, distribution, and development and other technology-related contracts; prepared copyright and trademark applications; assisted in various securities filings; advised clients regarding various employment laws; and represented clients in loan transactions.

Professor Sherman received a JD from Vanderbilt University School of Law and a BA degree from Southern College.

After nearly 30 years of service to Georgia State University, William Feldhaus officially retired last summer from his position as associate professor of risk management and insurance and as undergraduate program advisor. He is still active in the department, teaching several senior level RMI courses.

Feldhaus is also an alumnus from Georgia State University, receiving an MBA in 1972 and a PhD in risk management and insurance in 1980. He also holds a BA degree from Miami University (1965).

His research activities have resulted in publications in the Journal of Risk and Insurance, Journal of Insurance Issues, CPCU Journal, Risk Management, Best’s Review, National Underwriter, Journal of Accountancy, and other journals. Dr. Feldhaus served as editor of The Hold Harmless Agreement, a popular reference book published by the National Underwriter Company, and has contributed to several insurance and related textbooks. He was a contributing author of a research study for the United Nations (UNCTAD) on risk management in developing countries. Feldhaus serves as an educational consultant for a number of organizations including NAPSLO and PLUS. He was instrumental in the development of the Associate in Surplus Lines Insurance (ASLI) and the Registered Professional Liability Underwriter (RPLU) professional designation programs.

In 2010, he received The Professional Liability Underwriting Society (PLUS) Founders Award, given to a member of the organization in recognition of lasting and outstanding contributions. Feldhaus has been a primary resource and key proponent of the Registers Professional Liability Underwriter program since the early 1990s and his work was instrumental in developing the RPLU Program’s course study guide materials and exams.

Feldhaus is a well known speaker to numerous industry groups. He conducted seminars for the Risk and Insurance Management Society on the techniques of risk management. He appears often at insurance industry meetings and seminars. He has also appeared as a speaker at corporate meetings for IBM, BellSouth, Capital Holding and other major organizations.

Deborah Gaunt retired from her position as instructor of risk management and insurance, after more than 26 years of service to Georgia State University, where she taught undergraduate and graduate courses in property and liability insurance and risk management, life and health insurance, employee benefits, and personal financial planning. She is still involved in the department’s Munich Re Visiting Fellows Program, now in its 31st year (see Munich Re story on page 5).

Gaunt received an M.I. from Georgia State University. She is a Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), a Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC), and a Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU). She holds professional designations in risk management, research and planning, and reinsurance. Gaunt is also a Certified Financial Planner™. Prior to joining Georgia State, she was both a commercial property and liability underwriter and senior marketing representative.

Students & Alumni... We want to hear from you

Send us your news... Do you have a great new job or internship? Have you won any awards lately? Are you involved in an interesting community service or professional project? Contact Ellie Diaz, Public Relations Specialist, at RMIalumni@gsu.edu or 404.413.7465.
STUDENT NEWS

MAS/MRM dual degree student CAMILO E. GONZALEZ GUERVA was honored by The Actuarial Foundation as recipient of the their Actuarial Diversity Scholarship. Guerva, who was awarded $3,000, joins 23 other students nationwide recognized with this prestigious scholarship.

DOMENIC INNOCENTI (BBA-RMI) completed an internship with Southern Company Generation where he assisted with compliance and audit work on the plants in Georgia.

DAVID PACER (BBA AS and Finance, December 2011) received an International Education Fee scholarship to study abroad in France and completed an internship with ING in summer 2010.

THOMAS HEATH (MS RMI, December 2010) recently took a position with AIG’s New York office, in the Enterprise Risk Management department.

DARRAGH ROSS (MAS, December 2011) completed an internship with the Housing Authority Insurance Group in summer 2010 and will be completing another with Buck Consultants this summer.

Two RMI students, DAVID PACER (BBA-AS) and TERRY FANG (MAS), have been selected to participate in the 2011 edition of Panthers on Wall Street, a four-day experience designed to immerse our most promising students in the heart of America’s financial district.

Robinson’s Professional MBA students and RMI’s masters students were treated to a special presentation on “Healthcare in the U.S. and the Impact of Reform” by RICK ELLIOTT, President and CEO, United Healthcare of Georgia. Elliott is also a member of the Educational Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees.

ALUMNI NEWS

LISA A. GARNER (PhD-RMI ’92), associate professor at Drake University, received the non-College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Teacher of the Year Award for 2010-2011. This award was given at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (CPHS) Day, and recognizes a Drake University teacher who is not a faculty member in the CPHS. Dr. Gardner’s responsibilities include teaching Statistics for the Life Sciences, where she teaches pre-professional health care majors, including nearly every student who is subsequently accepted into Pharmacy School at Drake.

KATHY KRONE (MS-RMI ’94) was named Executive Director at global executive search and assessment firm Russell Reynolds Associates. She will work with the firm’s financial services team.

JOEL REOTT (BBA-AS ’78), director of actuarial and product development for the Georgia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co, spoke at a webinar on how insurers can improve their performance through the use of analytics.

Busy Time for Department’s Student Organizations

ACTUARIAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION: The ASA hosted several networking events, as its members seek to link alumni of Georgia State Actuarial Science programs with current students. They cosponsored (with the other RMI Department student organizations and Robinson’s Finance Society) a presentation on the state of the reinsurance market after financial crisis by Michael DeKoning, President and CEO of Munich American Reassurance Company and a member of our own Educational Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees.

GAMMA IOTA SIGMA: Gamma Iota Sigma’s Zeta Chapter is reactivating its presence on the Georgia State campus. If you are interested in assisting students in this process, please let us know by contacting Ednisha Riley at eriley@gsu.edu so we can connect you.

MATHEMATICAL RISK MANAGEMENT STUDENT ASSOCIATION: The MRM Student Association has been busy this year organizing job search strategy workshops and hosting a speaker event series that included a presentation by Yimin Yang, Group Vice President Credit Risk Management, Suntrust, entitled “Bank’s Risk and Risk Management including Tools, Systems and Skill Sets.”

GRADUATE RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: GRMA sponsored a presentation by Laurie Solomon, Director of Risk Management, The Coca-Cola Company, on enterprise risk management and career opportunities in the field.

SAVE-THE-DATE RMI Spring Picnic

Hosted by the RMI Department’s student organizations, you are invited to attend this year’s RMI Spring Picnic.

WHEN: SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2011 — 1:00 to 5:00PM
WHERE: GRANT PARK
840 Cherokee Avenue SE, Atlanta, GA 30315
INFO & RSVP: Ednisha Riley at rmievent@gsu.edu or 404-413-7491
Zanjani to hold AAMGA Distinguished Chair in Risk Management and Insurance  
(continued from page 1)

The AAMGA Distinguished Chair is funded by a $1 million gift to the Department of Risk Management and Insurance from members and associate members of the association. The gift is the largest of its kind involving a business school and an insurance trade association.

About Zanjani’s appointment AAMGA Past President Wesley C. Duesenberg, Jr., said, “George possesses a rare understanding of insurance markets in the context of the broader financial system as well as the role of academic research in guiding policy and practice in the insurance industry;” Duesenberg, who is president of Southern Insurance Underwriters, added, “We look forward to the scholarly attention that George will bring to the wholesale and surplus lines industry segments as the AAMGA Distinguished Chair of Risk Management and Insurance.”

“The association’s investment in the AAMGA Distinguished Chair will advance the wholesale insurance industry in both the short- and long-term,” according to Risk Management and Insurance Department Chair Richard D. Phillips. “Under George’s leadership, this funding will allow us to conduct research that will help current and future industry professionals transfer risk using wholesale markets more efficiently. It also will deepen our already strong relationships with the insurance industry which, in turn, will strengthen our ability to prepare students for the challenges they will face as insurance professionals.”

Zanjani is an accomplished researcher whose papers on topics including capital allocation, the impact of terrorism risk on insurers, and catastrophe risk financing have been published in the *American Economic Review, Journal of Financial Economics, Journal of Public Economics*, and the *Journal of Risk and Insurance*, among others. He has served on working groups formed by the Committee on the Global Financial System and the Presidential Working Group on Financial Markets. A vice president of the American Risk and Insurance Association, Secretary of the Risk Theory Society, and an Associate of the Casualty Actuarial Society, Zanjani holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago.

The American Association of Managing General Agents (AAMGA) is the wholesale insurance community’s international trade association. Founded in 1926, the AAMGA today represents over 500 corporate members and is respected as the leader in and voice of the wholesale and excess and surplus lines insurance industry.

(Special thanks to Jenifer Shockley, Public Relations Specialist, J. Mack Robinson College of Business, for her contribution to this article)