

## **Gamma Iota Sigma Concludes 47th Annual International Conference, An Unprecedented Success**

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Yardley, PA, October 12, 2018 -- [Gamma Iota Sigma \(GIS\)](#) presented the [47th Annual International Conference](#) at Chicago's Navy Pier October 4-6, made possible by [Sustaining Partners](#), [Sponsoring Organizations](#), and key grants. Total attendance was well over 1,100, including 626 top students and their advisors, representing nearly 65 colleges and universities across North America, who convened for [three days of exceptional programming](#) and intensive exposure to a broad representation of the industry and the many growing and diverse career paths available to these future leaders, underscoring GIS's role as the industry's preeminent collegiate talent pipeline. *Amplifying Disruption* took center stage as the conference theme through the recurring engagement of the emerging insurtech trend, inspiring keynote addresses, provocative [GammaSAID](#) diversity and inclusion sessions, inaugural award categories, and the new feature of Insurance Nerds Day.

The event surpassed prior years by leaps and bounds in terms of attendance, engagement, and innovative content. Over 500 industry professionals presented an 84-exhibitor career fair; participated in critical industry and faculty roundtables and meetings of the Board, Advisory Council, and GammaSAID Council; lead educational sessions and leadership seminars; engaged with students through a host of networking events; and participated in Saturday's Insurance Nerds Day programming. Nearly 600 interviews for internships and entry-level positions were conducted on-site. Seasoned Sustaining Partners and recruiters from newly engaged sponsor companies alike highlighted the unprecedented opportunity and efficiency of a single access point to top talent.

GIS was thrilled to present an exceptional line-up of conference keynote speakers: Dante Disparte, Founder and CEO of Risk Cooperative; Susan Johnson, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer with The Hartford; Joyce Trimuel, Chief Operations and Diversity Officer with CNA Insurance; Tim Turner, Chairman and CEO of RT Specialty; and Jay Weintraub, CEO and co-Founder of InsureTech Connect. Additionally, a dynamic panel on insurtech moderated by Jack Richards, co-President of the Chi Chapter at Drake University convened industry experts Kristen Dardia, Principal Data Scientist with Verisk; Kirstin Marr, President of Valen Analytics; Matt Mosher, EVP and Chief Operating Officer with A.M. Best; and Abel Travis, Head of Innovation with AF Group.

On the heels of the explosive momentum of the GammaSAID Council and GIS having chaired Dive In events in Dallas and Philadelphia during the Global Dive In Festival, diversity, inclusion, and authenticity were explored throughout the conference and were especially front and center in Thursday's programming, from a rousing, interactive presentation by Dr. Leroy Nunery in the Recruiters Roundtable to a full complement of critical topic sessions led by Chief Diversity Officers and students from the GammaSAID

Council. GammaSAID, Solutions for Authenticity, Inclusion, and Diversity, is a groundbreaking student-focused initiative fostering meaningful dialogue and action across the industry, providing exclusive engagement between students, young alumni, and Sustaining Partners' Chief Diversity Officers.

The Friday Night Annual Awards Dinner, sponsored by RT Specialty, acknowledged [winners of the prestigious 2017-2018 student, chapter, and alumni awards](#). Also announced during the ceremony were the GammaSAID Council's first-ever Chapter Diversity and Inclusion Awards and the Inaugural Industry Diversity and Inclusion Champion of the Year, which recognizes the exemplary efforts of Sustaining Partners and was bestowed upon CNA Insurance and The Hartford.

On Saturday morning, students and advisors held a note- and letter-writing community service project to benefit both [Cradles to Crayons](#) and [Operation Gratitude](#) in partnership with the [Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation \(IICF\)](#), kicking off the IICF's Week of Giving. GIS is proud to continue its longstanding collaboration with the IICF by engaging members in the [5<sup>th</sup> Annual GIS Week of Giving](#) as the collective student contribution to the IICF's industry-wide call to action and service. The morning activities were followed by [Insurance Nerds Day](#) programming, featuring 20 engaging Learning Labs, a Distracted Driving Luncheon presented by Travelers, and an engaging line-up of speakers for Nerdy Nanotalks. The Conference culminated in a lively closing reception.

GIS leads the industry in developing and sustaining a robust student talent pipeline, as evidenced by its programmatic expansion and diversification, innovative and collaborative outlook, and explosive membership and chapter growth over the past five years. There are many ways for companies to engage directly with GIS and its students, from the critical [Sustaining Partners Program](#), offering unparalleled benefits and exclusive access, to Conference sponsorship, participation in the January [Regional Conference Series](#), Virtual Career Fairs, the [GIS Career Center](#), and [opportunities directly with chapters](#). Next up is the October 30<sup>th</sup> Virtual Career Fair exclusively for Sustaining Partners, followed by the Regional Conferences January 25-26 and The Pipeline Virtual Career Fair February 12.

The next Annual International Conference will be held in Dallas, Texas at the Hilton Anatole.

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### [About Gamma Iota Sigma](#)

Incorporated in 1965 and boasting an annual membership of over 4,200 students and 25,000 alumni from a growing network of [over 80 colleges and universities throughout North America](#), Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS) is the industry's premier collegiate talent pipeline with over 50 years of experience engaging students and preparing them for careers in insurance. GIS is the only organization of its kind and is the solution to the industry's talent gap issue, pursuing a mission to promote, encourage, and sustain student interest in careers across all functional areas in insurance. GIS is committed to growing and supporting the number of highly qualified students entering the industry; to that end, not only has its core programming meaningfully expanded and diversified to include such initiatives as [GammaSAID](#), [One Campus at A Time](#), and the recently launched [2018 ITC Student Program](#) in collaboration with InsureTech Connect, the number of GIS students and active chapters has more than doubled in recent years and continues to grow. In partnership with [Sustaining Partners](#), corporate supporters, professional organizations, trade associations, and other industry collaborators, the full spectrum of GIS programming provides its members with valuable interaction with the industry, as well as the tools to pursue and succeed in an insurance career. For more information, visit: [GammalotaSigma.org](#).