



Olivet Underwriter



The Official Newsletter of the
Alpha Alpha Chapter
Gamma Iota Sigma

Michael A. Hines, Editor
MHines@olivetcollege.edu

“Our 15th Anniversary”
“Insuring for Our Future”

Spring 2002
<http://web.olivetcollege.edu/gis>

Going Out With A Bang...Again!

Down On the Bayou

The Alpha Alpha Chapter once again demonstrated its international leadership at the Gamma Iota Sigma International Conference. The Alpha Alpha Chapter hosted this year's conference. This is the third time Alpha Alpha has hosted the conference and this one was considered by the conference participants to be the best-organized conference ever! With a strong team headed up by President **Jason D. Wells**, we put together the best conference known to man. For the first night of activities down in “Na’leans,” the Gamma Iota Sigma students from around the world enjoyed an evening on the lanes of the famous Rock-N-Bowl. Other fun activities included the first ever Gamma Iota Sigma parade. The students dressed up in costumes and masks and followed a marching band down Canal Street to the Creole Queen River Boat. We all glided across the waters of the mighty Mississippi as we danced and feasted on some of New Orleans finest cuisine.

The Alpha Alpha Chapter came in second in award points to win the Edison L. Bowers “best international chapter” award, which went to the Sigma Chapter at Temple University this year. Although we came in second, we didn’t come home empty handed. We made a clean sweep of all the other international awards: Chapter Management, Membership Development, Alumni Relations, and Public Relations.

Two members of the Alpha Alpha chapter were awarded the top two individual awards in the international fraternity: **Lance Lancour**, our vice president of public relations, received the Alan C. Williams Leadership award for his outstanding contributions to the Gamma Iota Sigma Grand Chapter in his work as the international student representative. He was the first ever to receive this honor in a very touching ceremony that also recognized the continuing contributions of **Dr. Alan Williams**, executive vice

president of the Grand Chapter. President **Jason Wells** was recognized as the outstanding Gamma Iota Sigma member in the international fraternity, taking home the Warren L. Weeks Sr. Scholarship. Jason is the *first* to ever be awarded this scholarship *two years in a row*. Congratulations to Lance, Jason and all the other members who worked so hard to make this year a huge success.

Twenty-eight members and officers, and three alumni - **David Canu, Lorin Granger** and **Dominick Catinella** attended the conference along with **Stephanie Pingel** and advisors **Carol Barrick** and **Mike Hubbel**.

BEST ON CAMPUS, TOO!

Our chapter was recognized at the March 28, 2002 Olivet College Student Life Banquet as the *Student Organization of the Year*. This award recognizes campus leadership and support for the college community while demonstrating professionalism, ethics, teamwork, reliability, and creativity. Our chapter also received the *Outstanding Community Service Program* award for our extensive array of community service programs. Also receiving awards: **Jason Wells** received the *Responsibility Award* for his outstanding leadership – both on and off campus, and **Mike Hubbel** as the *Student Organization Advisor of the Year*. All the members of the Alpha Alpha Chapter deserve a pat on the back for all the hard work they did this year. It was another great year for all of us.

"Best of Luck" to Our Graduating Seniors

Beau Barnum
Jed Berry
Jeena Bowers
Ted Cohoon
Ben Kacprzyk
Lance Lancour

Tricia McNorton
Kendra Mesecar
Jeff Smith
La Tasha Thomas
Jason Wells

2002 MEMBER HONORS

The Alpha Alpha Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma presented the following awards at the March 28, 2002 Student Life Banquet:

Outstanding Member - **Andrew Torr**

Outstanding Officer - **Lori Heisler**

The following members were recognized at the Honors Convocation on April 10, 2002:

The Charles Trubac Outstanding Insurance Student - **Jason Wells**

Insurance Senior Award - **Jed Berry, Ted Cohoon**

Insurance Junior Award - **Michael Hines**

Special Contributions to the Insurance Program - **La Tasha Thomas, Lori Heisler**

Even More Honors!

Alpha Alpha Chapters members demonstrate leadership in other campus organizations too. The following members also received honors at the March 28, 2002 Student Life Banquet:

Award for Multicultural Leadership - **La Tasha Thomas**

The Adelpic Alpha Pi Leadership Award - **Beau Barnum, Jeffrey Smith**

MIAA Academic Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following Alpha Alpha Chapter members, who have been named to the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) 2001-2002 Academic Honor Roll for earning a varsity letter and maintaining a 3.5 or better GPA for the entire year:

Lori Heisler (second time; softball)

Amy Hillis (second time; volleyball & softball)

Tricia McNorton (third time; soccer & swimming)

Scott Miller (third time; golf)

Michelle Simmon (first time; soccer)

Jason Wells (third time; golf)

Ahmad Zeaiter (first time; wrestling)

Congratulations, Shelly the Agent

Congratulations to our incoming vice president of alumni relations, Michelle "Shelly" Simmon. She passed the State of Michigan Life and Health Insurance Examination, on her first attempt, to earn an agent's license. She is currently working in the Simmon Agency. Watch out world - here comes Shelly!

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Auto Glass Specialists – **Bill Deemer**

Blue Goose Michigan Pond – **Ted Cohoon, Michael Hines, La Tasha Thomas, Jason Wells**

Central Michigan Adjusters Assoc – **Amy Hillis, Mike Storer**

Central Michigan Underwriters Assoc – **Jason Wells**

Gamma Iota Sigma Warren L Weeks Sr – **Jason Wells**

Insurance Women of Metro Detroit – **Jamie Marshall, Shasta Stepke**

Intermediaries & Reinsurance Underwriters Assoc – **Jed Berry**

MAIA - Young Agents Council "Loretta Stoner" – **Michael Hines**

National Assoc of Professional Surplus Lines Offices – **Scott Miller**

Westran Insurance Scholarship Foundation – **Bill Deemer, Omar Hayat, Lori Heisler, Amy Hillis, Michael Hines, Leslie Hurd, Jamie Marshall, Scott Miller, Shasta Stepke, Mike Storer, Andrew Torr, Ahmad Zeaiter**

Jack Butterick Endowed Scholarship – **Shasta Stepke, Mike Storer, Andrew Torr**

James Crosby Endowed Scholarship – **Michael Hines**

Charles Trubac Endowed Scholarship – **Scott Miller**

Ruth Trubac Endowed Scholarship – **Amy Hillis**

Roy Westran Endowed Scholarship – **Ahmad Zeaiter**

Career Rave

On February 27, 2002 the members of the Alpha Alpha Chapter hosted the first annual "Career Rave" career skills development fair in the Upton Gymnasium. There were presentations on job-hunting strategies, dressing for success, internship hunting, scholarship hunting, meal etiquette, resume writing, and interview skills. State Farm employees **Anne Crandall, Jennifer Hardy, Patti Kellogg, Clair Stevens, and Brain Tindle**, and the experts of Gamma Iota Sigma assisted students from Olivet College in reviewing resumes and interviewing while enjoying the sounds of "house" techno music, flashing lights and fog. Many students came to the Career Rave to "get a dose of career ecstasy" - and had fun developing important life skills!

The new edition of our *Resume Book*, including graduating seniors and students interested in internships, will be published in October 2002. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive a copy, please e-mail us at gis@olivetcollege.edu or call 269-749-7626.

Another Record turnout for Golf Outing!

What a day! Industry, friends, students, and alumni from Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Minneapolis, New Jersey, and throughout Michigan faced a cold brisk day to play golf at Lansing's Royal Scot Golf Course. A record **94** participants, including a record-breaking **39** alumni, registered to compete for the coveted first prize trophies. At least two alumni from the Upsilon Chapter (Ferris State), and past national president and member of the Grand Chapter, **Steve Fino** of Nationwide, also participated.

We had **12** prize donors and a record **26** hole sponsors! In addition to other door prizes, **Bill Ballagh '88** also donated the registration gift packets for everyone, which included a copy of *The Greatest Course that Never Was*, courtesy of The Sleeping Bear Press.

Competition was fierce this year as several strong alumni teams - including some former insurance student/varsity golf team members competed in the golf scramble. In the end, the alumni team of **Jason Wells '02, Ted Cohoon '02, Lance Lancour '02, and Mike Kiser**, came out on top with a score of 9 under par. Second place at 7 under went to the defending champions alumni team of **Jason Conkin '97, Jeff Lamb '92, Eric Pollard '94 and Kevin Pollard '95** who actually tied with **Greg Huyck '88, Lee Peters '86, Ed Malek '86 and Steve Hummer '86** who lost on the fourth lowest handicapped hole by one stroke. Longest drives went to **Jason Wells '02 and Chris Dowding '82**, closest to the pin went to **Rick Rusche '85** and longest putt went to **Kevin Allard '81**. Hole-in-One prizes were again offered on the par 3 holes - \$10,000 Cash, Set of Ping Irons, Titanium Driver, and \$250 Gift Certificate. Once again the Hole-in-One prizes remained unclaimed. Maybe next year!

Thanks to all who donated prizes, time, and money to make this year's outing the best yet!

2001 Golf Outing Hole Sponsors

Accident Fund Company	Federau Group
AIG	Frankenmuth Mutual
Amerisure	Fremont Mutual
Aon	Hastings Mutual
Auto-Owners	Jackson National Life
The ASU Group	J.M. Wilson Corp
Badger Mutual	MAIA – Young Agents
Blue Goose Michigan Pond	Mason McBride
Burnham & Flower	MI Council NAIW
Chubb Group of Insurance Cos.	Remerica Country
Chubb Group of Insurance Cos.	Simmon Ins Agency
Clair Stevens '80	State Farm
Dowding Industries, Inc	Terry Walsh

2001 Golf Outing Prize Donors

Accident Fund Company	Great Lakes Casualty
American Community Mutual	The Hartford
AIG	Nationwide Insurance
Badger Mutual	Rich Knapp '87
Bill Ballagh '88	Sleeping Bear Press
Farm Bureau Insurance	State Farm Insurance
Gary Chantrenne '87	Young Agents Council
Gary Morrison	Westrope & Associates

The planning committee included **Jason Wells** and **Shasta Stepke** – Co-chairs, **Ted Cohoon, Michael Hines**, and **Stephanie Pingel**. Hole-in-One spotters included **Michael Hines, Brandon Walters, Michelle Simmon**, and **Bill Deemer**.

Hope to see you all next year, on May 16, 2003!

Alumnus wins top State Farm Award

Clair V. Stevens '80 was presented with the Spirit of State Farm Leadership Award at a gala event in Chicago on April 27, 2002. He received a \$2,500 cash award and an engraved crystal trophy.

The Spirit of State Farm Leadership Award recognizes a State Farm agent or employee for their ability to inspire and challenge State Farm agents and employees to excel beyond what they thought was possible. Recipients have faced many challenges and have embraced change and motivated others to excel.

Clair serves State Farm as a team manager in the workers' compensation claims unit at State Farm's Kalamazoo Administration Building and supervisor of the catastrophe call center at the Michigan Operations Center. He has been with State Farm for 15 years.

In presenting the award, Clair was described as a role model, demonstrating leadership by helping others realize what they are capable of achieving when they didn't think it was possible. Clair has also been an effective mentor for his associates, with many going to him for information and guidance.

Clair earned the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in business from Olivet College in 1980, and the Juris Doctorate degree from Thomas L. Cooley Law School in 1985. He is a former director of the insurance program, a charter member and big supporter of the Alpha Alpha chapter, and currently serves Olivet College as an adjunct instructor, teaching our Business Law classes. Clair resides in Battle Creek with his wife **Nyla**, a 1992 graduate of Olivet College. Congratulations, Clair!

Etiquette Dinner

"Which hand should I hold my drink in during a reception?" "How do I introduce someone to someone else?" "Which bread plate do I use?" These questions and many more were answered by **Anne Crandall** of State Farm during our annual etiquette dinner on February 6, 2002, hosted by Gamma Iota Sigma for all members and all Olivet College graduating seniors as a campus service. The purpose of the program is to help members and other students with some of the finer points of etiquette - particularly in business reception and business meal situations. Anne also offered advice on lunch and dinner job interviews.

MAIA Convention

Networking and seminars were the focus of activities for 13 of our members at the beautiful Soaring Eagle Resort in Mount Pleasant, Michigan in February, during the Michigan Association of Insurance Agents (MAIA) annual convention. This was an outstanding opportunity to meet people in the business, learn what the agents are learning about, and have fun in a professional atmosphere. We also enjoyed visiting the great exhibits and hospitality rooms. Each of us was introduced at several workshops during the convention. **Jeena Bowers, Michael Hines, Kendra Mesecar, Jason Wells**, advisors **Carol Barrick** and **Mike Hubbel**, and Upsilon advisor "**Doc**" **Heeter** participated in a mock deposition. The deposition was presented to an audience of 200 agents as one of the general sessions. On a sad note, Doc Heeter, the Professor and Director of Insurance at Ferris State University, and advisor of the Upsilon Chapter, announced his retirement from teaching next year, and that this would be his last agents convention. He will be greatly missed.

During the education luncheon, the Young Agents Council "Loretta Stoner Scholarship" was presented to **Michael Hines** and the "Auto Glass Specialists Scholarship" was presented to **Bill Deemer**. We appreciate the opportunity as well as the assistance with registration and lodging expenses provided by the MAIA.

Missing Alumni

Occasionally mail for our alumni is returned to us with expired forwarding addresses. Please help us stay in touch - let us know if you know where the following alumni are now: **Simon Camaj '95, Louise Newton Cook '89, Christian T. Hulstrom '98, and Lisa Minix Wester '93**. Please email gis@olivetcollege.edu or call 269-749-7626. Thanks!

JOBS!JOBS!JOBS!

Beau Barnum '02 – underwriting excess & surplus lines, Stewart Smith, Grand Rapids.

Jeena Bowers '02 – agent, Bankers Life & Casualty, Kalamazoo.

Jed Berry '02 – facultative reinsurance, CNA Re, Chicago.

Ted Cohoon '02 – underwriting multinational accounts, GlobalSource, AIG, Chicago.

Ben Kacprzyk '02 – claims adjusting, Progressive Insurance, Wyoming, MI.

Lance Lancour '02 – underwriting commercial middle markets, The Hartford, Troy.

Jason Wells '02 – client representative, Marsh, Detroit.

Graduate School

Tricia McNorton '02 will attend Windsor College in the fall, seeking a teaching degree.

Competitive National Internships

The **National Association of Professional Surplus Lines Offices (NAPSLO)** has awarded the following internship for this summer:

Michael Hines

Western World Insurance in Franklin Lakes, NJ and
JimCor in Marlton, NJ

The **Intermediaries and Reinsurance Underwriters Association (IRUA)** has awarded the following internship for this summer:

Andrew Torr

CNA Re and Aon Re
Chicago, IL

Other Summer Internships

Bill Deemer – Accident Fund, Lansing

Omar Hayat – Accident Fund, Lansing

Amy Hillis – Accident Fund, Lansing

Leslie Hurd – John Hancock, Marshall

Jamie Marshall – State Farm, Saginaw

Shelly Simmon – Simmon Agency, Lansing

Shasta Stepke – Dowding Industries, Eaton Rapids

Mike Storer – ALCOS Agency, Detroit

Ahmad Zeaiter – American Express, Kalamazoo

The Legacy Continues

The legacy of **Carol Barrick '98** and our positive impact in the business community continues as students in our Ethics and Presentations service learning course conducted the following presentations this spring:

AIG - **Andrew Torr & Holly Williams**

Aon - **Ryan Jackson & Jasson McBride**

Amerisure - **Bill Deemer & Mike Storer**

Kiwanis - **Lindsey Brunworth & Jamie Marshall**

Facilitator **Michael Hines** says the programs were a hit!

Interested in a customized Ethics Program conducted at your office or association meeting next spring?
Call Michael Hines for information at 269-749-7626!

ALUMNI NEWS & MOVES

Jesse Barnum '00 has announced his engagement to **Jude Gerke**. Jude is a broker for Mills & Motely in Grand Rapids. Jesse is a commercial claims adjuster for The Hartford in Grand Rapids.

Dave Bigger '01 has been promoted to casualty underwriter and will write mono-line excess and umbrella, risk management accounts and environmental in Chubb's Cincinnati office.

Dave Canu '00 is now underwriting excess casualty for Lexington (Southern Risk) in Houston's AIG office.

Dominic Connors '87 is now a business development consultant – associate markets at the Accident Fund.

Jon Fanti '96 has accepted the position of Unit Manager for Chubb in Chicago. Jon and **Marci Ritchie '97** marry on August 31, 2002 in Toledo.

Jeff Lamb '92 has been promoted to vice president of underwriting administration for Investors Underwriting in Red Banks, New Jersey.

Sarah Niethamer '01 married **Michael Reed** on June 15, 2002. They reside in Bellevue and own and operate Katz Roofing & Siding Inc. and Olivet Roofing.

Kevin Pollard '95 announced his engagement to **Nicolette Agost**. Nicolette is a human resources consultant for Mellon Bank. Kevin is a vice president for Heath Insurance Brokers in Chicago. The wedding will take place on July 20, 2002 in Holbrook, NY.

James Reincke '99 has accepted a farm underwriting position with OneBeacon in Lenexa, Kansas.

Rod Thuma '95 is now an investigator for the Special Investigation Unit at Michigan Farm Bureau Insurance.

2002-2003 OFFICERS

President – Michael Hines

President-elect – Michael Storer

V.P. Fundraising – Ahmad Zeaier

V.P. Recruiting – Shannon McHugh

V.P. Public Relations – Chris Walden

V.P. Community Relations – Omar Hayat

V.P. Portfolio Seminar – Amy Hillis

Assistant V.P. Portfolio Seminar – Stefania Perciballi

V.P. Alumni Relations – Michelle Simmon

Treasurer – Andrew Torr

Secretary – Lori Heisler

Assistant Secretary – Scott Miller

Historian – Shasta Stepke

Webmaster – Brandon Walters

RIMS Liaison – Bill Deemer

Planning Retreat

Outgoing and incoming (next year) chapter officers held a planning retreat at the Days Inn in downtown Grand Rapids in January to plan next year's activities. After reviewing our mission and discussing why our members join Gamma Iota Sigma, we conducted a SWOT analysis and developed a TOWS matrix to identify priorities and activities. We agreed the theme that we would propose for next year will be "Insuring our Success." We also recognized that is important to have fun along the way, to attract new members and build stronger relationships. The results appear on page 9, in the "2002-2003 Calendar of Events" adopted by our entire membership.

Recipe for a Great Valentines Day

Ingredients:

One ream of colored paper

One bottle of glue

One roll of tape

One package of colored marking pens

Six large bags of candy

Five Alpha Alpha Chapter members

51 residents of Marshall Manor

Time

Construct greeting cards and mix liberally with candy, Alpha Alpha members, Marshall Manor eldercare residents and time. Results: an afternoon of magic – special connections and good feelings.

Earth Day

On April 22, 2002, we joined with Earthbound, our student science organization, to plant a tree in the campus square. **Chris Walden** helped to organize the event, and **Mike Storer**, representing Gamma Iota Sigma, addressed the group in attendance, which included our college president **Don Tuski '80**.

A Word of Thanks

I would like to take this time to thank all of the members of the Alpha Alpha Chapter for all of your support in New Orleans at the international Annual Management Conference. Being awarded the Warren L. Weeks Sr. scholarship truly could not have been done without you. I would especially like to thank **Lance Lancour** for the most excellent job at International Student Representative and **Stephanie Pingel** for all their help. There is not a better group of people in the world than the Alpha Alpha Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma. Thank you.

Jason Wells

Our Bottom Line Looks Great!

Each year, our chapter conducts a number of fundraisers to pay the expenses of our educational trips, campus programs, community service projects, and recruiting and social events. This year's fundraisers yielded the following *net gains*:

2001 Valet Parking	\$ 200.00
2001 Halloween Policies	1,224.00
2001 Car Wash	222.00
2001 Raffle Ticket Sale	860.00
2002 Career Rave	1,000.00
2002 Banquet Service	250.00
2002 Golf Outing	6,226.06

Our fiscal yearend income is projected to be \$22,898.20, with expenses to be \$20,521.69. With additional income projected this summer, we expect to start the fall with a bank balance of \$4,135.47.

We sincerely appreciate your financial support!

Thank You Terri Miller and the Michigan Automobile Insurance Placement Facility

The Business Department's Conference Room at Olivet College looks great thanks to a very nice set of conference room chairs donated by Terri Miller and the Michigan Automobile Insurance Placement Facility. Terri answered the requested that we placed in the last edition of the *Olivet Underwriter* for used office furniture. Terri indicated that our plea had great timing, MAIPF was in the process of purchasing new conference room chairs and she had the old ones available. Thank you Terri for the chairs and everything that you do for the program.

If you have any used office furniture or equipment that you would like to recycle, we would be more than happy to give it a second life at Olivet. For more information please contact: Carol Barrick at cbarrick@olivetcollege.edu. Thank You!

RIMS Conference

Lance Lancour and **Jason Wells** were both selected by the Risk and Insurance Management Society "Anita Benedetti Student Involvement Program" to attend their weeklong annual conference in New Orleans, LA.

Lance and **Jason** networked with risk managers, brokers and underwriters, and attended numerous seminars. They both returned with a greater understanding of the business of risk, and especially noted a greater emphasis on the discipline of finance. Congratulations **Lance** and **Jason** for this distinctive national honor!

The Annual Management Conference

This year's Gamma Iota Sigma conference was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, and hosted by the Alpha Alpha Chapter. In addition to featuring the annual awards banquet [results reported on page 1], a series of workshops and corporate presentations were conducted. A good friend of our insurance program, Charles A. McAlear, presented the opening keynote speech of the conference. He focused on the need for professionalism in the insurance business, and the importance of preserving utmost good faith. The workshops focused on chapter management, member involvement, recruiting, alumni and industry relations, publicity, and special sessions for presidents, secretaries and treasurers.

When over 220 Gamma Iota Sigma members hit the street, New Orleans and Bourbon Street never saw us coming! After long days of networking, meetings and learning how to manage our chapters, members went out and had a little fun on the town. What a wonderful city and what a wonderful experience for members from across the continent.

Raffle Results

Winners of this year's raffle:

Larry Heisler - \$50

Valerie Andrews - Weber Charcoal Grill

Brian Dickerson - Olivet College Sweatshirt

Steve Barnum - H.E.A.T. Golf Shirt

Special thanks to **Carol Barrick** for donating the new Weber Charcoal Grill prize and to **Terri Miller** for donating the H.E.A.T. Golf Shirt prize. Thanks to all for supporting our fundraiser, which helps us conduct our community service, recruiting and educational programs.

Camp YAC!

We would like to send a sincere thank you to the Young Agents Council (YAC) of the Michigan Association of Insurance Agents (MAIA) for inviting our students to the Young Agents Conference. **Frank Baretta, Bill Deemer, Leslie Hurd, Shelly Simmon, Shasta Stepke, Mike Storer, and Ahmad Zeaiter**, attended the YAC conference along with **Mike Hubbel** and **Carol Barrick** on June 5 to 7, 2002. The YAC conference is a great opportunity for the students to experience educational programs and to network with young people in the independent agency system. The Insurance Program would like to express a special note of thanks to **Steve Chappell**, the MAIA Staff Liaison for the YAC. Steve has been working for the past five years to build a stronger relationship between the Olivet students and MAIA, especially the YAC section of MAIA. If this year's conference is any indication, Steve's work has paid off. We all had a great time. Thank you!

Send your email address to gis@olivetcollege.edu, and we'll keep you informed of our activities and distribute this newsletter to you by email on a more timely and cost effective basis!

Philly Here We Come!

At this year's conference in New Orleans, the Grand Chapter Board of Trustees voted to move the Annual Management Conference from the spring back to the fall, to encourage more chapters to send new officers for the training workshops, at the beginning of the year before many activities take place. Given the short time between conferences this year, chapter awards will not be presented until the fall 2003 conference. The fall 2002 conference will focus on the training workshops, career workshops and corporate presentations. The Grand Chapter accepted a bid from the Sigma Chapter at Temple University to host next year's international conference in Philadelphia on October 24 to 27, 2002. It will be the fourth time since 1993 that the Sigma chapter has hosted the national conference. The Sigma chapter has proposed some great activities for the conference including the traditional Thursday night reception – chalk-up your cue sticks, a Friday night event at the Aquarium just across the river in New Jersey – we're trying to talk Gummer into a dive with the sharks, and an opportunity to visit historic sites relating the founding of our nation. Hubbel has also offered to take us on a hysterical - or was it historical - walking tour highlighting the beginnings of the insurance business.

Easter Egg Hunt

The ol' bunster came to town early again this year, with the help of Alpha Alpha Chapter members and the Circle K Club, chaired by **Amy Hillis** and **Lori Heisler**. The Big Bunny hid 1,000 Easter eggs with candy and prizes in the Olivet City Park on March 26, 2002. A million kids (well it seemed like it; actually about 60) scrambled to find the eggs. The hunt took all of 4 minutes to complete, but all who were involved had a rewarding experience.

Hey Alumni!!!

Looking for a great professional networking opportunity in Michigan or Chicago? Alumni of the Alpha Alpha Chapter are forming a Gamma Iota Sigma Alumni Chapter called The Great Lakes Chapter. One is also forming in Chicago. If you're interested in becoming part of an alumni chapter, email gis@olivetcollege.edu or call 269-749-7626 for more information about the new Michigan and Chicago chapters.

FROM THE ADVISOR

By: Carol Barrick

I am so proud to be a part of the Insurance Program here at Olivet College. Our students are not only the best of Olivet; they are some of the finest risk management and insurance students in the nation. Leading our students is **Mike Hubbel**, the best of advisors not only at Olivet, but one of the best advisors in the nation. This is not just my opinion, which could appear a bit biased, but also the opinion of Olivet College and Gamma Iota Sigma International. As we have proudly informed you in this edition of the *Olivet Underwriter* our students, the program, and Mike have won a remarkable number of awards for their achievements. Congratulations to all, you deserve it!

To say it has been a busy and successful year would be an incredible understatement. The Gamma Iota Sigma calendar is as crowded as any business's agenda. It never ceases to amaze me what these students can achieve in addition to their excellent academic performance, participation in sports and other extra curricular activities, and most of them holding down jobs. We had something going on every week this semester, from community service events to industry meeting from hosting on-campus events to the big project of the year – hosting the international Gamma Iota Sigma management conference in New Orleans. The conference in New Orleans was the perfect stage for the students to show off their management, organizational, and teamwork skills. I was so impressed with the way that our students ran the conference; a group of seasoned business professionals could not have done a better job. The hotel they selected was perfect, the seminars and meetings were very organized, and the parade from Bourbon

Street to the river was truly amazing – we shut down the Canal Street for our parade and had our own marching band! The highlight of the conference was the awards banquet. I was bursting with pride, to the point of tears in my eyes, as our students received individual awards, group awards, and more than one standing ovation. What made the awards banquet so emotional for me was to sense the feeling of very competitive students from all over the US and Canada dropping their competitive guard and truly commending the accomplishments of their fellow Gamma Iota Sigma members.

As with all conferences, there were a couple of minor snags that were beyond our control. These snags could have turned into major issues, if our students had not handled the situation smoothly, calmly, and very professionally. Because of our student's professionalism, our guests never noticed anything but smooth sailing. It was a wonderful conference! Congratulations to all of our students.

It seems like as soon as we returned from New Orleans the regular spring semester wrapped up and Mike and Stephanie were off to New York with the students for the three week Intensive Learning Term (ILT). I had the opportunity to get out to New York and visit them for a short time. Mike structured a great three-week class in a fantastic setting – New York City! The facilities at St. John's University were top notch, but after a morning class at St. John's, the city became the classroom. By the time I got to New York the students who had been there for two weeks had settled in like city residents. There is no finer way to study CPCU 5, Insurance Company Operations, than a three-week ILT in New York - great job Mike!

As soon as the students, Mike, and Stephanie returned from New York it was time for graduation. It is really tough to say good-bye to our seniors. I have only known these fine young professional for a year, but it is still so hard to think that they will not be with us next year. These students have achieved incredible feats in the short year that I have worked with them. I will truly miss each and every one of our graduating seniors. Good luck to each of you and keep in touch.

Before I close, I would like to take the opportunity to compliment and thank **Stephanie Pingel**. She is the one who deserves much of the credit for the smooth, behind the scene flow of the Insurance Program. Steph possesses a great combination of skills; she is a very organized professional and someone who can perfectly relate to the students. Thank you Stephanie, for all of your hard work and your flexibility!

I am really looking forward to some of the projects that we have in the hopper for next year. We are working on opening a student-run career services office and we are also planning on implementing a high-school student-recruiting program. Have a great summer!

Carol Barrick

FROM THE ADVISOR

By: Mike Hubbel

I didn't think we could top last year. We did. But we'll *never* top this past year. But then I said that last year!

Some interesting Olivet College graduation stats this year: 4 of the top 20 GPAs were earned by insurance graduates, 2 of the top 5 GPAs were insurance graduates (**Jed Berry** and **Tricia McNorton**), of the 12 insurance students graduating: 2 graduated summa cum laude, 2 graduated magna cum laude (**Ted Cohoon** and **Jason Wells**), and 2 cum laude (**Jeena Bowers** and **Ben Kacprzyk**). And our insurance students earn more than good grades – they are the leaders of the student organizations on our campus. Consider the honors listed on page 1 and 2, and consider the accomplishments and rich experience – the depth of quality learning experiences – recorded throughout this newsletter. I think our new president, **Don Tuski '80**, would consider this an excellent example of the kind of “deep learning” that goes on at Olivet College – a developing concept he spoke about at a recent dinner honoring outstanding leaders in Michigan.

We chartered two new chapters - the first international chapter in Ontario and one in Louisiana, met with insurance officials in Toronto, hosted an international conference in New Orleans, met with chapters in Philadelphia and New York, conducted a constant stream of community service projects, and managed our largest operations budget ever. Given our exceptional accomplishments this year, we were disappointed in not winning the Bowers Award this year, but the Sigma Chapter at Temple University also had a very good year, and came up with more award points – we came in second. So this time, “we’re number two, but we try harder!” We did sweep the other awards for Chapter Management, Membership Development, Alumni Relations, and Public Relations. The conference also provided several special moments for me. It was great to hear from **Charles McAlear** once again – a true leader in the insurance business. He reminded us of the importance of preserving the utmost good faith of the insurance business during a very turbulent time in the corporate world, a time when many question the integrity of business executives. I'm so glad our students had a

2002-2003 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2002

August	9	Westran Scholarship Golf Outing	
	19	Help New Students Move-in	
	21	Stand Up	
	23	Advisory Committee Meeting	
	24	Car Wash	
	27-29	Call-A-Thon	
	September	11	Halloween Insurance Policy Sales Begin
		13	First of the Year Social
14		Insurance Appreciation Day	
18		Resume Workshop	
18		Insurance Hall of Fame Valet Parking	
October	25	All Campus Service Day	
	27	Last Day for gifts for Silent Auction	
	1	Resume Due	
	1	Silent Auction begins	
	2	Mock Interviews & Etiquette Dinner	
	13	Holiday Raffle begins	
	18	Bread Lift	
	23	Career Fashions & Job Hunting	
	24-27	Management Conference – Philadelphia	
	26	Canned Food Drive	
	30	Halloween Policies Due	
November	30	Thanksgiving Basket Assembly Begins	
	31	Halloween – Washington Heights Youth Ministry	
	1	Advisory Committee Meeting	
	5	Second Social	
	6	Silent Auction – Last Day	
	13	Holiday Raffle Sales Begin	
	19	Distribute Thanksgiving Basket	
	20	Holiday Gift Basket Assembly Begins	
	20	“Career Rock” Skills Development Fair	
	December	1	<i>Olivet Underwriter</i>
	4	Distribute Holiday Gift Basket	
	4	Holiday Cards	
	TBA	2002-2003 Officer Applications	

2003

January	11	Induction Dinner
	15	Officer Interviews & Selections
	15	Holiday Raffle Drawing
	24-26	Planning Retreat
February	5	Interview Workshop
	14	Nursing Home Visit
	18	Third Social
March	4-6	MAIA Convention – Grand Rapids
	20	CMUA Meeting – Klock Commons
	28	Advisory Committee Meeting
	28	Car Wash
	TBA	Fourth Social
April	3-6	Spring Trip – Chicago
	6-10	RIMS – Chicago
	16	Easter Egg Hunt – Olivet City Park
May	22	Earth Day Project
	16	Golf Outing
	20	<i>Olivet Underwriter</i>
June	4-6	MAIA YAC Conference

chance to hear him and his most important message. The renaming of the Grand Chapter Leadership Award (first won by Alpha Alpha member **Jeff Lamb** in 1992) to recognize the considerable contributions of executive vice president **Dr. Alan C. Williams** was also a special moment. Dr. Williams has been a great personal friend and advisor for me. It was most appropriate that the first winner of this newly renamed award, The Alan C. Williams Leadership Award, was again an Alpha Alpha Chapter member, **Lance Lancour!**

On a sad note, we learned this year that our great friend and the advisor of the Upsilon Chapter at Ferris State University, “**Doc**” **Heeter** would be retiring after next year. “Bad Doc” as he is affectionately known, has been a great friend of the Alpha Alpha chapter and yours truly. We will miss the fun times – the tube trips on the mighty Muskegon, the barbecued brats, the crazy skits, the African hunting stories, dinners together in some of the greatest cities in the US and Canada, and, as he would tell you, “partying like rock stars” at the conferences we attended together. We wish “Bad Doc” and his wife **Pat** the best in their new adventures, and hope to stay in contact with them. Perhaps we’ll be able to talk him into a guest lecture or two!

We conducted an intensive learning term in New York City where an Olivet Alumnus, **Steve Wheeler '78** hosted a private tour of the NYSE - even taking us onto the trading floor during trading! We met with professionals from AIG, Chubb (for a fascinating and entertaining loss control tour of the Broadway show *Mamma Mia*), General Cologne Re, Marsh and an old friend and risk manager of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, owners of the World Trade Center. Our meeting room fell very quiet as **Emil Petrick** described the loss, which included a risk management colleague, **Barry Glick**. After Emil described the insurance claim, we presented him with our last Olivet College Insurance Program coffee mug to replace the one he lost in the collapse, which is now somewhere in the landfill on Staten Island. A sobering reminder of why we are in this business. To serve others in their time of need. Not a bad calling in life. See you at Insurance Appreciation Day, September 14!

There is no greater calling than to serve others in their times of greatest need.

Mike Hubbel

Keep us informed of your news & moves...

Please call 269-749-7626, fax 269-749-7185,

email gis@olivetcollege.edu, or write

Olivet College Insurance Program, Olivet, Michigan 49076

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