

Gamma Iota Sigma Announces 2018-19 Trustee and Officer Changes

CONTACT:

Sharla Floyd
Director of Development and Strategic Initiatives
(484) 991-4471
Sharla.Floyd@GammalotaSigma.org

Yardley, PA, October 12, 2018 -- [Gamma Iota Sigma \(GIS\)](#), the insurance industry's premier collegiate talent pipeline, announced new members and changes to the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees as approved in its October 4 Board Meeting held during the 47th Annual International Conference in Chicago, Illinois. Chief Executive Officer Noelle Codispoti, CPCU, ARM, commented, "The strength, growth, and diversification of the GIS Board in recent years has been awe-inspiring, enhanced even more by the newest additions we are proud to announce. These remarkable industry leaders are not only passionate about and committed to the student experience and meaningful exposure early on to the limitless career opportunities in the industry, their vision will shape this exciting next phase of organizational growth and innovation. The future is bright for students under their leadership and engagement."

New Trustees Approved for a Three-Year Term:

- **Lauren Fitzgibbon** is Senior Campus Recruiter at Liberty Mutual, supporting the Actuarial function. Lauren graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2007 with a BA in Communication. She spent five years in HR at John Hancock in Boston and joined Liberty Mutual in 2015 as a Campus Recruiter supporting underwriting, claims, and business analytics in the Northeast.
- **Samara Jaffe** is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of HR Transform, which brings together the world's most prominent HR executives and the innovators creating the future of work, and Managing Director of InsureTech Connect, the world's largest event focused on insurance innovation and digital transformation. Prior to her current role, Samara held various roles at organizations focusing on strategy and business efficiency, including eight years with AOL where, as General Manager, she provided strategic and operational direction to facilitate consumer reach and revenue growth in the Autos, Real Estate, and Careers businesses. Samara is a graduate of the University of Southern California.
- **Sandy Tellefson** is the Manager for Education Services for the Certified Employee Benefit Specialist® (CEBS) program and the International Society of Certified Employee Benefit Specialists (ISCEBS) at the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans. In this role, she manages and oversees projects and activities related to educational services for current program participants. Sandy also leads the outreach efforts for universities and students, works with employer engagement for the CEBS program, and is the liaison for businesses and universities offering CEBS courses onsite. Sandy holds the CEBS professional designation, a master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a bachelor's degree in social work from Carroll University in Waukesha, WI.
- **Kim Waller** co-leads Willis Towers Watson Diversity Solutions, a practice group focused on driving new organic growth to the firm. As Executive Vice President, Kim has over 26 years of experience in the insurance industry. She has demonstrated value throughout her broad ranging career from production underwriter, to managing director of an MGU, to large account producer. In her

current role, Kim focuses on new and creative ways to drive revenue growth by leveraging the value of innovative insurance solutions in strategic partnerships with women and minority owned businesses.

- **Paul Winston** is Chief Operating Officer of Insurance Thought Leadership Inc. (ITL), which serves decision makers and innovators transforming the insurance and risk management marketplace with thought leadership, an innovation software platform, and advisory services. Prior to joining ITL in 2016, he served more than 25 years in a variety of digital marketing, editorial, and management roles with Business Insurance magazine, including Associate Publisher, Online General Manager, and Editor and Editorial Director. Paul was on the board of directors of the Spencer Educational Foundation from 2011-2016 and continues to serve on the scholarship committee as an ex-officio member. He also was a member of the advisory board of Illinois State University's Katie School of Insurance and Risk Management from 2001-2015. Paul is a graduate of DePauw University and currently resides in the Chicago area.

Current Trustees Approved for a Renewed Three-Year Term:

- **Mike Boa**, Chief Communications Officer at Casualty Actuarial Society
- **Zach Finn**, Clinical Professor & Director Davey Risk Management & Insurance Program at Butler University
- **Julie Fritz**, Director of Operations at WSIA
- **Will Hold**, Chief Executive Officer at The National Alliance for Insurance Education and Research
- **Ivy Kusinga**, Senior Vice President, Chief Culture Officer at Chubb
- **Chéré LaRose**, Director, Member and Candidate Communications at The Society of Actuaries
- **Michael Lombardi**, Senior Vice President, Northeast International Practice Leader at Lockton Companies
- **Eric Smith**, Senior Vice President Standard Commercial Lines at Nationwide
- **Jake Timmins**, Vice President, Property Broker at RT Specialty Group

2018-2019 Executive Committee:

- **Wesley Griffiths**, Second Vice President and Actuary at Travelers within the Business Insurance division, has been named President.
- **Cheryl Matochik**, Senior Vice President of Strategic Resources and Initiatives at the Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers (CIAB), named Executive Vice President.
- **Barbara Bufkin**, Executive Head of Business Development at Assurant, named Treasurer.
- **Dante Disparte**, Founder and CEO at Risk Cooperative, named Vice President.
- **Jake Timmins**, ASLI, Vice President, Property Broker at RT Specialty, named Vice President.
- **Alyssa Bouchard**, HR Program Specialist at Markel, named Secretary.
- **Noelle Codispoti**, CPCU, ARM, Chief Executive Officer.
- **Glenn Dorr**, Head of Business Development and Broker Relations North America-London Market at Hiscox, Immediate Past President.
- **Jon Perry**, Assistant Vice President, AWAC, named Alumni Representative.
- **Millie Workman**, CPCU, CRIS, MLIS, AFIS, Director of Training and Education at International Risk Management Institute (IRMI), named Industry Representative.
- **Debra Richardson**, University Texas at Dallas, Beta Phi Chapter, Faculty Representative.

- **Griffin Gaffner**, Insurance and Risk Management student at Olivet College, Alpha Alpha Chapter, elected co-International Student Representative (ISR) at the Leadership Symposium in August.
- **Larry Lewis**, Human Resources Management & Risk Management and Insurance student at Temple University, Sigma Chapter, elected co-International Student Representative (ISR) at the Leadership Symposium in August.

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 [Regional Conference Series](#), Virtual Career Fairs, the [GIS Career Center](#), and [opportunities directly with chapters](#). Next up is the October 30th Virtual Career Fair exclusively for Sustaining Partners, followed by the Regional Conferences January 25-26 and The Pipeline Virtual Career Fair February 12.

###

[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](#).

[About the GIS Annual International Conference](#)

First held in 1973, Gamma Iota Sigma's Annual International Conference is the largest and most prestigious event of its kind. The event is made possible by GIS [Sustaining Partners](#) and [Conference Sponsors](#), and convenes over 600 top students looking to enter the insurance industry across all functional areas with representatives from companies and organizations who recognize the importance of a talent pipeline and sustaining interest in industry careers for three days of intensive programming, including a two-day 88-exhibitor career fair, on-site first-round interviews, educational and professional development sessions, [industry-leading keynote speakers](#), and more. The Conference attracts the very best and brightest students from more than 60 colleges and universities throughout North America pursuing careers across all segments of risk management and insurance. For more information, visit: [GammalotaSigma.org/events/international-conference/](#).