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Members of the Beta Phi Chapter of the Gamma Iota Sigma Fraternity at the University of Texas at Dallas pose for a group photo at the 2017 GIS Conference.

RMI Program Is Alive and Well at The University of Texas at Dallas *by Debra Richardson* story on page 18

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Cover Story:

RMI Program Is Alive and Well at The University of Texas at Dallas

by Debra Richardson

The Risk Management and Insurance program at The University of Texas at Dallas is alive and well and thriving, thanks to the generous support of the Texas insurance and risk management industry. Launched in 2015, the RMI program has become an integral part of the Bachelor of Science in Finance, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, and Bachelor of Science in Global Business degree programs.

The University of Texas at Dallas (www.utdallas.edu) is an innovative Tier One research institution, as assigned by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education, in the heart of North Texas. UT Dallas has grown since its founding in 1969 to include 141 degree programs in eight schools, with cutting-edge curricula

serving a variety of undergraduate and graduate student interests (<https://www.utdallas.edu/parents/fastfacts>). Total enrollment 27,641 (18,388 undergraduates).

The RMI program is housed in The University of Texas at Dallas Naveen Jindal School of Management (JSOM). JSOM is the largest of UT Dallas' eight schools, with a fall 2017 enrollment of more than 9,100, about one third of whom are graduate students (www.jindal.utdallas.edu and <http://jindal.utdallas.edu/finance/bs-finance>). In addition to rigorous courses in finance, data analytics, business valuation, financial modeling and accounting, RMI students take courses related to their professional field. Principles of Risk Management

and Insurance, Business Liability RMI, Commercial Property RMI, Enterprise Risk Management, and Insurance Law and Contracts are currently offered. Two new classes are being added in the spring 2019 catalog to help all business majors understand the complex world of risk management and insurance.

Students pursuing careers in underwriting, claims, sales, marketing, risk control, risk management, data analytics, and other important areas are connected to students pursuing degrees as actuaries through the UTD Gamma Iota Sigma Beta Chapter. The Beta Phi Chapter at UT Dallas was chartered March 2016 with 26 members and has grown to more than 105 members. The Chapter achieved "Superior Chapter" sta-



University of Texas at Dallas risk management and insurance students participated in the 2017 Spencer 5K Funrun Presented by Sedgwick during the annual RIMS conference in Philadelphia, April 23-26, 2017.

tus for 2017, being one of only eight chapters among the 78 GIS international chapters and the first to ever achieve this honor in the chapter's first year of chartering. The chapter is on track to maintain Superior status for 2018 as a result of extensive activities in alumni relations, community service, chapter management, public relations, and membership development. The chapter's activities are posted on Instagram at utd_gis and www.utdgis.com.

During the 2017/2018 academic term, RMI and Actuarial Science Students attended major industry events on grants and funding provided by the industry and were active in trade association monthly luncheons and meetings. Highlights of the year include the ILAT Annual Conference, RIMS International Conference, Insurance Council of Texas Mid-Year Symposium, IRMI Conferences, Houston

Marine Insurance Seminar, Gamma Iota Sigma International Conference, several wholesale & surplus insurance association conferences, and the IICF Gala. Students volunteered at numerous community service events, partnering with AIG, Texas Mutual, Junior Achievement, Spencer Education Foundation, American Cancer Society and more.

Scholarships were awarded by the Insurance Council of Texas Education Foundation, DFW RIMS, Fort Worth CPCU, Spencer Education Foundation, and others in recognition of the students' academic and community service accomplishments. For more

information on UTD and the RMI program, visit <http://jindal.utdallas.edu/rmi> or contact Debra Richardson at debra.richardson@utdallas.edu.

We appreciate your support as we work to deliver the next generation of talent to the industry!

Debra Richardson, MBA, CPCU, CIC, CRM, AINS, is director of the Risk Management and Insurance Program at the University of Texas at Dallas/Naveen Jindal School of Management. She is also faculty advisor for the Beta Phi chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma at UTD. The school is located at 800 W. Campbell Rd., Richardson, TX 75080. ●