

My name is Yu Cao and I'm originally from Kunming, Yunnan, China. I am a senior studying Actuarial Science and Mathematics, while getting a certificate in Risk Management and Insurance. I will graduate in December, 2014. Coming to the University of Iowa as a student interested in actuarial science, I knew the insurance industry is always challenging but rewarding at the same time. However, at that moment, insurance industry for me was still a mystery, waiting to be explored. Fortunately, my four-year exploration has been great. Actuarial science courses have helped me build a strong foundation to understand risk management and insurance in a numerical way. At the same time, I have always been eager to get to know the industry from different perspectives because insurance is so much more than numbers.



Getting involved with the Vaughan Institute of Risk Management and Insurance has been one of the best decisions I've ever made. Right after being admitted as a Risk Management and Insurance (RMI) student, I had the opportunity to participate in the mentoring program, which matched me with two great mentors – Steve Merkey and Mark Mentzer. They have helped me expand my knowledge of the risk management and insurance industry with their career stories and expertise on their own fields. Moreover, having the honor to be chosen to attend conferences such as NAPSLO and RIMS definitely let me better understand how much potential this industry has and how many opportunities are available for young professionals. I also have to mention that being involved with Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS) greatly increased my interest in the industry because of its extraordinary speaker series, which always brings in insurance professionals with diverse backgrounds. Besides speaker series, opportunities like doing risk assessment for Ronald McDonald House and networking with RMI professionals have greatly contributed to my exploration within the industry.

Upon graduation, I'm looking for a job that I can apply what I've learned throughout my four-year college education. My main focus is to find an entry-level position as an actuary. My mentor Steve helped me develop my interest in property and casualty insurance. However, I will also be open to life insurance companies since I have some exposure on this field as well. My college involvements and leadership experience have enhanced my interpersonal and communication skills. Therefore, I believe a consulting firm will also be a good fit for me. Thanks to the Vaughan Institute and Gamma Iota Sigma, I now know that there are many more areas that I can look into besides being an actuary, such as underwriting and risk analytics. Jobs that offer training programs and/or rotation programs will be extremely valuable for me. I expect to prepare myself well through the training program so that I can be highly capable at my job. A good rotation program will be able to provide me with different insights within the industry and lead me to a career that I truly want to pursue.

Yu Cao

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Education

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

December 2014

B.S. Actuarial Science

B.S. Mathematics

Certificate in Risk Management and Insurance

Cumulative GPA: 3.48/4.00

Awards: Dean's List, 6 semesters; UI Honors Program, 8 semesters; Departmental Scholarship, Fall 2013

The Washington Center Business & Global Trade Program

June 2014 – August 2014

Exams of Society of Actuaries

Exam FM-Financial Mathematics (passed)

June 2013

Exam P-Probability (passed)

January 2013

Work Experience

Intern

Bennett Group Financial Services, LLC, Washington, DC

June 2014 - August 2014

- Advanced research skills by researching on different areas of the financial sector
- Explored and analyzed influences of current domestic and international affairs on the U.S. stock market
- Developed and coordinated with fellow interns on group projects that were presented to senior leadership
- Acquired experience investing in financial products via Investopedia Stock Simulator

Consulting Assistant

Kunming Foreign Language School GAC/ACT Center, Kunming, Yunnan, China

July 2011 - August 2011

- Provided potential students and their parents with quality services, including addressing questions and recommending suitable majors and universities
- Recruited new students for the center through one-on-one consultations
- Coordinated with students, teachers, and staff to create a better learning, teaching, and working atmosphere at the school

Related Experience

Gamma Iota Sigma Risk Assessment Committee

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Iowa & Western Illinois, Iowa City, IA

February 2014 - April 2014

- Analyzed Ronald McDonald House (RMH)'s insurance policies, operational handbook policies, and house security
- Provided constructive suggestions to better address the risks involved in corresponding issues
- Cooperated with the entire RMH Risk Assessment Committee and the Risk Manager of University of Iowa to complete the assessment and presented the results to the board of directors of RMH

Leadership Experience

Senator, University of Iowa Student Government (UISG), Iowa City, IA

September 2013 - Present

- Collaborated with senators on Diversity Committee to create initiatives to solve problems for culturally diversified students
- Utilized university resources to help international students get involved and create awareness of cultural centers
- Interviewed 2014-2015 executive officer candidates on behalf of Executive Interview Committee

VP of Industry & Alumni Relations

April 2014 - Present

VP of Alumni Relations, Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS), Iowa City, IA

August 2013 - April 2014

- Founded GIS Beta Alpha Chapter newsletter to inform members, alumni of GIS achievements and upcoming events
- Personally contacted and maintained all relevant GIS alumni data
- Planned Alumni Panel for current members by collaborating with executive board members

On Iowa! Leader, Iowa City, IA

March 2013 - August 2013

- Led approximately 30 first-year students taking part in the On Iowa! program
- Presented the Iowa Challenge to small group and answering all the questions they had about college life
- Designed and organized a Squad Olympics event for all On Iowa! leaders as part of the Engage Committee
- Awarded as one of the seven Distinguished Leaders at the On Iowa! Leader Awards and Recognition Ceremony

LeaderShape Institute, Washington, IA

January 2013

- Developed a vision for the future under the facilitators' guidance and presented it at the Vision Showcase
- Enhanced leadership skills by participating in group challenge courses and lectures, and exploring personal leadership style