

Student Spotlight: Gia Gervase



My name is Gia Gervase and I am a senior graduating in May 2015 from the University of Iowa with a B.B.A degree in Finance. I am also pursuing a Risk Management and Insurance Certificate through the Vaughan Institute within the Tippie College of Business. I am originally from Wheaton, Illinois where I attended Wheaton North High School. I have been involved in several student organizations during my time at the University of Iowa that include Zeta Tau Alpha, a national sorority. As a member of Zeta Tau Alpha, I became involved as the Director of Activities and served on the 5k Committee for our annual Breast Cancer Awareness race, where we raised over \$70,000 dollars for breast cancer research. I have also been involved in Women in Business where I served as the Vice President of the Mentoring program and was successful in increasing membership by 200%. I also spend my free time volunteering with Special Olympics Iowa and am currently raising money to participate in Dance Marathon 2015, an organization dedicated to raising money for pediatric cancer patients in the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

My involvement in the Risk Management and Insurance industry started when I was ten years old. My mom, whom is my biggest mentor, specializes in Employee Benefits working specifically with Architects and Engineers, Lawyers, and Accountants in Illinois. She would bring me along on her client visits and through that I discovered the endless (and fun!) career opportunities within the industry. The exposure I gained from observing my mom in action led me to pursue a career in finance and get a certificate in Risk Management and Insurance. My interest in insurance grew further when I joined the student organization Gamma Iota Sigma, the University of Iowa's risk management and insurance fraternity. Through this organization I gained valuable experiences that included going to the International Conferences in Charlotte, NC and Dallas, TX over the past two years. Through those conferences I was exposed to a large network of industry professionals across the country as well as educational sessions that helped increase my knowledge base of the industry. I was also fortunate to have gained leadership experience serving as the Vice President of Industry Relations and currently serving as the Vice President of the award-winning mentoring program through the Vaughan Institute of Risk Management and Insurance at the University Of Iowa.

The insurance industry attracted me due to the fact that it is a competitive, relationship-oriented, and problem solving industry where I feel I will be constantly challenged and will be able to utilize my skills on a daily basis. I am currently looking for a full-time trainee program in underwriting or production underwriting that will allow me to further build my skill set and develop my analytical mind in order to establish a great foundation of knowledge. I am also interested in any opportunities that I will be able to build relationships with clients or the insured and have the opportunity to take on new challenges everyday. I am thrilled to start my career in the insurance industry and cannot wait to see where my career path leads.

Gia Gervase

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EDUCATION

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA **Expected May 2015**
Accelerated Admission into Tippie College of Business
The University of Iowa Honors Program
B.B.A Finance
The Emmett J. Vaughan Institute of Risk Management & Insurance
Certificate in Risk Management & Insurance
GPA 3.35/4.00

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Transportation Intern- Market Specialist **Sept. 2014- Present**
TrueNorth Companies, Cedar Rapids, IA

- Identify and analyze client risk exposure
- Negotiate coverage terms and costs with insurance markets
- Participate in client presentations and market strategy sessions
- Assist in designing risk transfer solutions to fit unique risk and exposure

LEAD Intern- Specialty Human Services Division **May 2014-Aug. 2014**
Great American Insurance Group, Chicago, IL

- Performed underwriting support functions on various property and casualty policies
- Engaged in executive level decision making with members of upper management
- Created a donation evaluation and tracking system that was implemented for future use
- Exposed to underwriting training, loss prevention, claims, and agency visits

Vice President of Mentoring Program **May 2014-Present**
The Emmett J. Vaughan Institute of Risk Management & Insurance, Iowa City, IA

- Voted program of the year for Tippie College of Business in 2014
- Worked alongside Vaughan Institute program director and board of industry professionals
- Coordinated all annual events for mentors and mentees within the program

Vice President of Industry Relations **Nov. 2013-May 2014**
Gamma Iota Sigma- Beta Alpha Chapter, Iowa City, IA

- Received outstanding member award for dedication and leadership
- Identified and arranged speakers from the Risk Management and Insurance industry for bi-weekly chapter meetings in order to enhance member's knowledge of industry
- Fostered professional relationships with companies, industry leaders, and alumni

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Iowa Tour Guide **Sept. 2013-Present**
The Office of Admissions, Iowa City, IA

- Increased leadership ability by giving campus-wide walking and bus tours, residence hall tours, and/or host lunch with 40+ visitors at a time
- Worked on interpersonal skills with various people creating a friendly, welcoming atmosphere while representing the university with tact and enthusiasm

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- RIMS Student Spotlight of the Month – December 2014

- University of Iowa Dean's List – 2011
- Chosen to be UI student ambassador for GIS International Risk Management and Insurance Conference – October 2013 and 2014