



The latest news, views, and announcements from  
the American Risk and Insurance Association

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## ARIA Member Profile



### Rob Hoyt, University of Georgia, The C. Herman Terry Risk Management & Insurance Program

I have spent 37 years as a faculty member in the RMI Program at the University of Georgia (UGA), including 12 years as the Ph.D. Coordinator, 23 years as Department Head, a brief stint as Interim Dean of the Terry College of Business, and 20 years as the Dudley L. Moore, Jr. Chair of Insurance.

During my career, I have observed changes to what we teach, keeping pace with the changes and growth within the industry. For example, I was the sole instructor of the capstone course in Corporate Risk Management for over 25 years, which is taken by every undergraduate RMI major – over 6,000 students during my tenure. One of those students was my own daughter, Sarah, who graduated from the RMI Program nine years ago and is a Construction Underwriting Manager for the Southeast Region at Zurich Insurance. While this course originally focused on traditional risk management, it has expanded in scope with a shift to enterprise risk management, broadening the discussion of the risks faced by companies, the tools used to identify these risks, and the techniques used to manage them.

From my various experiences, I have learned that successful careers most often involve engaging with others. My first ARIA meeting was in 1983 in Philadelphia when I was a Ph.D. student at the University of Pennsylvania. I have frequently quipped that the Huebner program saved some travel money that year – they gave me a bag of subway tokens and covered my registration. Since then, I have attended over 40 ARIA meetings. Suffice it to say, ARIA has been especially important to my academic career!

As an academic, I have sought to make significant contributions to the academic discipline of risk management and insurance in the three areas that define a successful university professor: namely, research, teaching, and service. In all three areas, connections made through my involvement in ARIA have played a key role in my efforts.

ARIA's two journals, the JRI and RMIR, have been important outlets for my research. In 2021, I received the Robert I. Mehr Research Award from ARIA for "the paper that best withstood the test of time," The Value of Enterprise Risk Management (with Andre Liebenberg – a former Ph.D. student at UGA and this year's ARIA Program Chair), which was published in the *Journal of Risk and Insurance* 10 years before.

## Member Profile (Continued)

Additionally, I attribute much of my success in research to ideas gleaned from presentations by others and feedback and constructive criticism received during numerous conference sessions at ARIA and Risk Theory over the years – and only a few were painful!

ARIA has given me valuable opportunities to share my instructional ideas, including receiving the Les Strickler Innovation in Instruction Award twice—once with Jim Trieschmann and once with Kathleen McCullough and Randy Dumm. I was also honored with the ARIA Excellence in Teaching Award in Quebec in 2007, which recognizes a sustained record of teaching excellence in Risk Management and Insurance. More recently, the creation of the Risk and Insurance Teaching Society (RITS) has further strengthened ARIA's support for teaching within our field. In service, I have been a member and chair of numerous standing and ad hoc committees for ARIA. I had the honor of serving first as President of the Risk Theory Society, as an ARIA board member, and then as President of ARIA. I have continued to be an active reviewer for the JRI and a reviewer and Associate Editor for RMIR. In 2023, I was honored to receive the ARIA President's Award "In recognition and appreciation for service to the mission and members of ARIA."

Most of us in ARIA share many connections with other members – former professors, former students, colleagues or former colleagues, and long-time friends. When I became ARIA President, my predecessor was Mark Browne, who I first met in a graduate class at the Wharton School and who was a new assistant professor at UGA when I arrived. My successor was Jim Carson. When I stepped down as Department Head after 23 years of service in that role, I was very proud to turn things over to Jim who was the first Ph.D. student I recruited to UGA and who after serving on the RMI faculty at Illinois State University and at Florida State University joined the UGA faculty 15 years ago.

Looking ahead, I think the future is very bright for risk management and insurance courses and programs at colleges and universities and I expect that ARIA will play a big role in these developments. Going forward, ARIA and its members will help schools build the business case for creation or enhancement of RMI courses and programs. And as it has for me, it will help Ph.D. students develop their academic skills and will help faculty members excel in research, teaching, and service throughout their careers.

## Research Highlight: Florida State Research Symposium

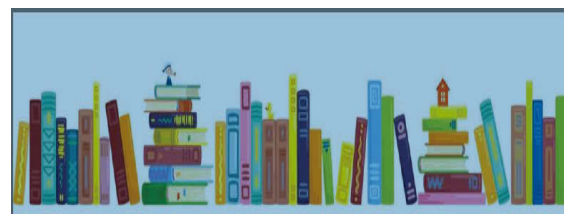
The 4th Annual Risk Management & Insurance Research Symposium, hosted by Florida State University's Dr. William T. Hold / The Alliance's Program in Risk Management & Insurance and sponsored by ARIA, took place January 22–24, 2026, at The Westin Tampa Waterside in Tampa, Florida.

The symposium brought together more than 30 researchers representing over 15 universities for nine paper presentations spanning a broad range of theoretical and empirical work in risk management and insurance, including health economics, catastrophe markets, insurance regulation, and corporate risk management. Each paper was paired with a dedicated discussant to provide detailed feedback.

"The goal is to give researchers a space to workshop new ideas and get rigorous feedback in a smaller, more focused setting than a typical conference allows," said Evan Eastman, Director of Research at FSU's Risk Management & Insurance Research Center.

Brad Karl, Department Head of Risk Management/Insurance, Real Estate, and Legal Studies, added: "Each year we've seen the quality of submissions and the breadth of institutions represented continue to grow. We're excited to keep building this into a premier venue for RMI research."

Visit [wertheim.fsu.edu/rmiresearchsymposium](http://wertheim.fsu.edu/rmiresearchsymposium) for more information or contact Evan Eastman at [eeastman@business.fsu.edu](mailto:eeastman@business.fsu.edu).



## Teaching Highlight: Inaugural RISC Summit & Innovation Challenge

The inaugural RISC Summit + Innovation Challenge marked an important milestone for RISC—Risk Management and Insurance Strategic Collaborators—a national consortium of leading higher education institutions dedicated to advancing innovation and addressing the industry’s most pressing challenges. As founding members, participating programs came together for the first time to exchange insights, explore emerging issues, and shape a collaborative vision for the future of risk management and insurance.

Hosted by the University of Iowa in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Vaughan Institute, the event brought together industry professionals, students, faculty, and staff for a dynamic, future-focused experience. Attendees engaged in robust discussions on topics such as artificial intelligence, talent pipeline development, and emerging risk trends.



The Summit also highlighted a variety of experiential learning models, including: study abroad opportunities, partnerships with industry professionals for projects and mentoring, career services strategies, Executive in Residence programs, and Gamma Iota Sigma engagement.

One of the standout moments of the gathering was the RISC Innovation Challenge—a high-energy, “Super Bowl-style” competition where student teams presented creative solutions to real-world industry challenges. In front of an expert panel of judges from the innovation and insurance sectors, teams showcased their ingenuity while competing for \$20,000 in prize money.

By participating in this inaugural event, institutions were officially recognized as founding members of RISC. The Summit not only celebrated the Vaughan Institute’s two decades of impact but also amplified national recognition for the participating programs and underscored the industry’s evolving needs. The gathering set a strong foundation for future collaboration and reinforced the consortium’s role in shaping the next generation of risk management leaders.

For those interested in more information, please contact Jim Lewis at [jim-lewis@uiowa.edu](mailto:jim-lewis@uiowa.edu).

## Member Highlights

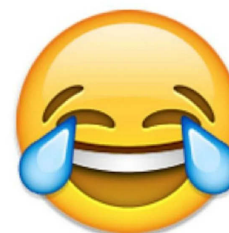


**Dana Kerr**, Associate Professor of Risk Management & Insurance at the University of Southern Maine, has been named the inaugural holder of the MEMIC/John T. Leonard Endowed Chair in Risk Management & Insurance. The successful fundraising and creation of this endowed chair position furthers USM’s mission to equip students with the skills necessary to excel in an evolving industry. This support not only enhances USM’s RMI program but also solidifies the university’s role in advancing education and career opportunities in risk management and insurance across Maine and New England. More than a dozen insurance industry partners contributed to the \$3 million endowment.

**Tyler Welch**, a PhD candidate in the risk & insurance program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will join the Fox School of Business at Temple University in July 2026 as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Risk, Actuarial Science, Healthcare Management, and Legal Studies, which is the same department he earned his BBA from.

Do you have any exciting personal or professional news you would like to share with ARIA members? If so, send the information to [membernews@aria.org](mailto:membernews@aria.org).

## Quarterly Quip



**Student:** "I missed class yesterday. Did anything important happen?"

**Professor:** "No, just education."

## Program Spotlight: Risk Management and Insurance Program, University of Colorado Denver



The Risk Management and Insurance (RMI) Program at the University of Colorado Denver was established in 2011 through a generous endowment from Pinnacle Assurance, reflecting a strong partnership between academia and the insurance industry in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region. Housed within the CU Denver Business School, the program prepares students for leadership roles in risk management, insurance, and related fields through a combination of rigorous academics and deep industry engagement.

The RMI curriculum emphasizes both foundational knowledge and applied learning, covering enterprise risk management, insurance markets, claims, and emerging risks. A signature course in Global Risk Management focuses on the excess and surplus lines market and includes a study trip to London, where students engage directly with underwriters at Lloyd's of London. The program also requires an RMI internship for graduation, ensuring students gain real-world experience prior to entering the workforce. Most faculty are current or former industry professionals, bringing practical insight into the classroom. Additionally, the program has three full-time faculty teaching undergraduate and graduate courses.

Student engagement is central to the RMI experience. CU Denver is home to the Beta Mu Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma, which supports professional development through guest speakers, conferences, career fairs, and industry events. Strong relationships with local professional organizations—including RIMS, CPCU, NAAIA, PIIAC, and LAAIA—provide students with additional networking and experiential opportunities. The program also hosts a Shadow Day each semester, pairing students with employers for firsthand exposure to the industry. To encourage students to take at least one RISK class, the program offers scholarships for any student enrolled in a RISK class each semester. Another incentive offered by the program is a free class, RISK 1001: Intro to Careers in Risk Management and Insurance, for high school students each summer that provides one free college credit should the student decide to enroll at CU Denver.

The RMI Program has experienced steady growth since its inception. From an initial graduating class of nine students, the program now enrolls over 200 students in RMI courses each semester, with more than 100 declared majors. Graduate students can select risk management and insurance as an emphasis in their MBA or MS in Finance and Risk Management degree plans. The program also offers an undergraduate and a graduate certificate in RMI for industry professionals.

To learn more about this program, visit: [Major in Risk Management & Insurance \(Bachelor's\) | CU Denver Business School](#).