

My name is Shaina Barth, and I graduated from The University of Alabama in May 2011. I was a major in Finance with a specialization in Insurance and Risk Management. Just before graduation weekend, I went on a trip to Vancouver, BC, Canada for the Risk and Insurance Management Society's Annual Meeting. I attended this meeting on the Anita Benedetti Student Involvement Program scholarship. This was an amazing scholarship that covered the costs of my plane ticket, hotel stay, all breakfasts and lunches, and \$200 spending money. I wanted to attend this conference because the RIMS annual conference is the biggest conference for Risk Managers, and since this was my field of study, this was the best exposure I could get into the industry. Over the course of my studies at Alabama, I had two internships, one at an Insurance Broker, and one at an Insurance Underwriter. Through these internships I realized Risk Management and Insurance was the career path I wanted, and going to RIMS would be a great way to network in that industry. The RIMS conference this year had two very interesting Keynote speakers. The first was Apolo Aton Ohno, the Olympian Gold Medalist Speed Skater. He has won more gold medals in the Winter Games than any other US Olympian. Apolo told his story about his childhood, and how he became interested in speed skating. The way he brought his story back to risk was discussing how he trained himself, and tried to minimize all other outside risk so that the only way he would not win races would be out of his control. He was training multiple times a day, and was on an extremely strict diet, that way he could never go back and say "if only I...". He was a great speaker, and signed free copies of his new book No Regrets after the speech. The other Keynote speaker was Stephen J. Dubner, the coauthor of Freakonomics and Super Freakonomics. This was also a very interesting speech. He told funny stories about funny coincidences. It didn't have a lot to do with Risk Management, but it was very entertaining. He also signed free copies of Superfreakonomics after the speech. Aside from the Keynote speakers, there are seminars throughout the day, and the exhibit hall to go visit. There are a bunch of different seminars to choose from ranging from all sorts of topics. The Exhibit Hall is where Brokers, Carriers, Loss Control firms, and Consultants all set up these "booths", that

are more like large structures, to attract the Risk Managers. The companies with these booths use this opportunity to advertise their firm, talk with risk managers, and promote their company. There was also a lunch & learn. This is where you sat at a table according to what topic you were interested in, and professionals at the table led the conversation on that hot topic. Students were welcome to participate in anything that the Risk Managers participated in. Also, for the students, they set up a round table discussion that they called "speed-networking". This is where a couple students sat around a table, and a Risk Manager came and told their story, gave advice, answered questions, and handed out their business card. After 10 Minutes they would switch to a different table, and a different Risk Manager would come to our table and start all over. This was a great chance to learn other people's stories, to get advice from people in the industry, and to get business cards for networking. I met many students from all over the country through the Anita Benedetti Student Involvement Program. It was great to meet men and women that were also interested in the same field as I was. Every night there are many receptions and parties thrown by the brokers and carriers. This is a great opportunity to socialize with other students, as well as professionals. One night ACE had Sugar Ray play at a big party in the conference hall. We also attended many broker receptions with great food, and great people.

This was a great experience for me to meet other students interested in the same industry that I am, that may one day be my peers, or business partners. Also, it was a great way to meet professionals in the industry, and get advice from them, and network. Going to RIMS was very beneficial to me as I move on in my career because going to this conference is a privilege in many organizations, and now I can say that I have experienced it. The Anita Benedetti Student Involvement Program is a very generous program that promotes education and student involvement in the Risk Management field. I am very grateful that Dr. Rabel nominated me for the program, and that RIMS chose me for this scholarship. It was an unforgettable experience that I will carry with me throughout my career.