

SRMI *Newsletter*

Spring | Summer 2026

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2026 newsletter from the School of Risk Management and Insurance.

We hope you will enjoy reading about the many ways SRMI engaged with students and the professional community, including the popular golf tournament, E&S Day sponsored by the Surplus Lines Association of California, and the Scholarship Gala.

Please join us in recognizing our SRMI students who are among this year's 11,000 graduates in the Class of 2026. We are incredibly proud of them and wish them continued success as they pursue their careers.

2026 Scholarship Gala

The Scholarship Gala took place on April 25, 2026, at the Titan Student Union (TSU) at California State University, Fullerton. Featuring the theme *"Stars of Tomorrow Shining Tonight"*, this special event celebrated the outstanding achievements of student scholars while recognizing the generosity of donors whose support helps make higher education more accessible. Bringing together students, faculty, alumni, community leaders, and supporters, the gala served as a meaningful occasion to honor academic excellence, perseverance, and leadership.

The gala also highlighted the transformative impact of scholarships, demonstrating how philanthropic support empowers students to pursue their educational aspirations, overcome financial challenges, and build brighter futures. Through inspiring stories of achievement and gratitude, the event strengthened the connection between scholarship recipients and the individuals and organizations dedicated to their continued growth and success.



Gala by the Numbers

- 57 scholarship recipients honored
- \$68,750 in total scholarships awarded
- 175+ attendees celebrating student achievements



2026 SRMI Golf Tournament

The 2026 SRMI Scholarship Endowment Golf Tournament on May 13th was a smashing success, as 100 of the finest RMI professionals enjoyed a beautiful day of networking and golf at Anaheim Hills Golf Course.

Catch the video at <https://lnkd.in/g-x2yu9U>.

Tournament winners:

- 1st place: RT Specialty (Guest, Marchal, Cody, Nicholas)
- 2nd place: USLI (Friel, Ferrer, Clansen, Walbeck)
- 3rd place: Albert & MacKenzie (Goorabian, Erland, Hauck, Mitchell)
- Most Honest: RT Specialty (Drapkin, Debenetto)
- Longest – Women: Diaz
- Longest – Men: Marchal
- Putting: Hauck



Please join us in thanking our generous sponsors for making this event possible ...

- ☆ Platinum | Surplus Lines Association of California ☆
- ☆ Gold | Arrowhead Intermediaries ☆ USLI ☆
- ☆ Silver | RT Specialty ☆ Safety National ☆ Automobile Club ☆
- ☆ Bronze | RE Chaix ☆ Arch Insurance ☆
- ☆ Golf Cart | Caryn Siebert ☆ Registration | Gorst & Compass ☆
- ☆ Closest to the Pin | Sedgwick ☆
- ☆ Longest Drive M | Brown & Riding ☆
- ☆ Tee Table | Albert & MacKenzie ☆ Bremer Whyte ☆ Lexitas ☆
- ☆ Hole | Arch Insurance ☆ RPS ☆ Gallagher ☆ The Zenith ☆
- ☆ Golf Cannon | iCopy ☆ Beverages | InZone ☆ Burns & Wilcox ☆
- ☆ Tournament Sponsor | Marsh MacLennan Agency ☆
- ☆ Special Tournament Sponsor | RE Harris ☆

We appreciate the contributions of the golf committee [#CarynSiebert](#), [#ManusFriel](#), [#DavidKodama](#), [#JohnPierson](#) and [#TimChaix](#).

Thanks also to these fine organizations for their support of SRMI:

- ♥ Kids' Chance of California ♥ CASA Golf Tournament - November 2026 ♥ Gallagher Bassett ♥ HIRMA ♥ OE CPCU
- ♥ LA RIMS ♥ AJ Gallagher ♥ Rainbow Risk Alliance ♥

Lastly, we thank the SRMI faculty and staff for their dedication in supporting our students: [#DrWeiliLu](#), [#DrXiaoyingXie](#), [#DrXinChe](#), Eunyoung Lee, [#DianaRich](#), [#CristinMcAllister](#), and Katie Zhang. Additional thanks to tournament helpers Jahir Pablo, Prateeksha Mehta, Linh Chung, Linh Truong, and Pamela Lukas. Our special thanks to [#OscarFloresMedia](#) for capturing this fine day with photos and video.



Excess and Surplus Lines Day

On February 26, 2026, the School of Risk Management and Insurance (SRMI) welcomed excess and surplus (E&S) lines professionals for its annual **E&S Day**, presented by the **Surplus Lines Association of California (SLA)**. The event introduced students to the E&S sector and related career paths.

The day began with a networking lunch that brought together RMI leadership students and eleven industry leaders, giving students an open forum to ask questions and learn about the rapidly growing E&S marketplace. Additional RMI students joined a pizza lunch in the courtyard.



E&S Day's centerpiece was the keynote program, delivered in two afternoon sessions to approximately 200 students from FIN 340, FIN 351, FIN 360, and ECGE 350, along with students from FIN 320, FIN 355, FIN 415, and FIN 444. The keynote speaker was **John Washington**, Senior Vice President and Western Region Executive at Arch Worldwide Insurance Group, introduced by **David Kodama**, SLA's Chief Industry & Regulatory Officer.



Mr. Kodama provided an overview of the E&S industry and its importance in addressing emerging risks. He also described SLA's regulatory role since 1994 and how the association supports market oversight, solvency, and consumer protection. He noted SLA's commitment to developing future talent through internships, including opportunities used by many CSU students.

Mr. Washington explained how E&S differs from the admitted market by providing risk financing for exposures with limited actuarial data. He highlighted how E&S products have expanded to meet modern challenges such as cyber risk, ransomware, wildfires, and the cannabis industry. He described the E&S approach as entrepreneurial, collaborative, and adaptive, rooted in the long tradition of Lloyd's of London. He also emphasized E&S as the fastest-growing segment of the insurance industry, with 2025 premiums exceeding \$130 billion.



He outlined career options across underwriting, broking, actuarial work, claims, product development, finance, and analytics, and encouraged students to view insurance as "not about policies, but about possibilities." His tips included staying curious, building relationships early, embracing complexity, and remaining open to unconventional paths—along with being adaptable, collaborative, inclusive, and committed to continuous improvement.



Following the keynote and Q&A, students participated in roundtable discussions with guest professionals: David Kodama, SLA; Yusuf Mayet, SLA; Kelsey Sangha, Amwins; Vanessa Vidanes, Amwins; Andrea Gonzalez, LIU Specialty; Brandon T. Stevis, GenStar; Jim Faley, VELA; Tamar Morkos, Arch Worldwide Insurance Group; Jing Li, R.E. Chaix & Associates; Jared Medeiros, R.E. Chaix & Associates.

Thanks to SLA for its continued support of E&S Day.



2026 Risk Manager on Campus

The annual Risk Manager on Campus (RMOC) event is an opportunity for students to get up close and personal with a talented risk management professional. Between classroom sessions and Q&A panels, students learn about the profession and the path that lead to a career in the field.

Sponsored by the Spencer Educational Foundation, this year's RMOC was our very own CSUF graduate **Victoria Dinh, Senior Director, Risk Management, Anschutz Entertainment Group, Inc.**

Presenting to eight different classes and 355 students in BUAD 201, FIN 320, FIN 360, FIN 310, Ms. Dinh shared her story. Following graduation from CSUF, she went to work for Marsh, the world's largest insurance broker. In due course she became an Assistant Vice President – Casualty Placement. She left Marsh for Travelers, a large property and casualty insurer, where she was an account executive for national accounts. In 2021, she moved to the risk management department of Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG), where she was just promoted to Senior Director.

Ms. Dinh gave an overview of the various risks encountered at AEG. The company is involved in managing large entertainment venues, sports arenas, tour promotions, music festivals, and will be providing venues for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. She talked about the challenges of securing coverage for highly unusual risks, like for an ice rink in the Coachella Valley, and sometimes having only days in which to make it happen. Beyond the insurance considerations, there is also the need to collaborate with many types of professionals, including talent managers, operations, logistics, food and beverage, and health and safety, all with competing demands and requirements. It takes skill to navigate multiple processes to end up with a safe and enjoyable event.



There are key skills that successful risk managers are able to master. Ms. Dinh identified the ones important to her: (1) communication; (2) analytical thinking; (3) leadership and management; (4) regulatory compliance; and (5) cross-collaboration. She gave examples of how she employed each of these to solve different problems, showing students how successful outcomes were achieved.



Throughout her visit, Ms. Dinh highlighted the experience and benefits she received while a student at the School of Risk Management and Insurance, especially the many opportunities to meet and network with industry professionals. Local risk managers were invited to join faculty and staff to enjoy Ms. Dinh's visit over lunches and dinners.

There was a special bonus event on Tuesday evening – a bowling and pizza networking event for students with 35 RMI professionals from the LA RIMS Rising Risk Professionals (RRP) group and the Emerging Insurance Professionals of LA/OC (EIP). Students were encouraged to find mentors, and received extra credit for their efforts.



The School of Risk Management and Insurance extends its sincere appreciation to Victoria Dinh for making the time to share her story with our students, and we appreciate the Spencer Educational Foundation for making this great event possible. Watch your calendars for next year's RMOC event.

SRMI Calendar

SUMMER 2026

June 22 – 26, 2026	High School Summer Camp
June 26, 2026	Board of Directors Meeting
July 10, 2026	iDay HR Planning Meeting

FALL 2026

September 11, 2026	SRMI Advisory Board Meeting
October 9, 2026	Virtual Resume and Internship Workshop
October 21, 2026	Insurance Day (iDay)

SPRING 2027

February 24-25, 2027	Excess & Surplus (E&S) Lines Day Presented by Surplus Lines Association of California (SLA)
April 23 or 24, 2027	Scholarship Gala
Spring 2027	Golf Tournament

2026 High School Summer Camp

The School of Risk Management and Insurance (SRMI) was pleased to welcome 40 high school students to its third annual High School Summer Camp, held June 22–26, 2026, at California State University, Fullerton. Made possible in part through the support of the Spencer Educational Foundation, the program introduces students to the exciting and diverse fields of risk management, insurance, actuarial science, and personal financial planning, while providing an early glimpse into college life at CSUF.



Throughout the week, participants engaged in interactive lectures and hands-on learning experiences led by SRMI professors, gaining foundational knowledge of key concepts that shape the risk management and insurance industry. Students also had the opportunity to learn from a panels of industry professionals representing a variety of backgrounds and career paths within the field. Through these discussions, participants gained valuable insights into the skills, experiences, and opportunities that define careers in risk management and insurance.

A highlight of the program is the opportunity for students to connect classroom learning with real-world applications through visits to leading organizations, including Pacific Life, Travelers, Auto Club of Southern California, and Disneyland. These field trips provide participants with firsthand exposure to industry operations and allow them to explore the wide range of career paths available within the risk management and insurance profession.

By combining academic instruction, professional engagement, and experiential learning, the SRMI High School Summer Camp inspires the next generation of leaders while increasing awareness of the many educational and career opportunities available in the field. The program reflects SRMI's ongoing commitment to developing future talent and strengthening the pipeline of students interested in pursuing careers in risk management, insurance, and related disciplines.





iDay 2026

BRIGHT MINDS BOLD FUTURES



Wednesday
October 21, 2026



10:00 am - 3:00 pm



CBE Courtyard, CSUF

The Student Gateway to Bright Careers



Join leading risk management and insurance companies in an on-campus career fair attended by 1,000+ students.

The day features keynote speakers, in-class industry presenters, mock interviews, and more!

Scan the QR code
for sponsorship
information and
registration



More Information: SRMI@fullerton.edu | SGMH 4280

SRMI deeply appreciates the invaluable support from insurance companies, associations, organizations, alumni, and industry friends.

