

# RISKY BUSINESS

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, FOX SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE

## Panel to Consider Stronger Regulation of Utah Mines

In the shadows of the Utah mountain where six miners were entombed and three rescue workers killed last month, a new mine safety commission will convene in Huntington on Tuesday.

The commission, created by Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. after last month's collapse at the Crandall Canyon Mine, is expected to hear testimony from mine operators and those who live in the tight-knit surrounding towns, many of them coal miners whose relatives have toiled underground for generations. The advent of the commission, which is meeting for the second time, is a sign that Utah is considering a greater role in regulating its 13 coal mines after 30 years of deferring to the federal government.

After Congress passed legislation in 1977 that led to the creation of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration, Utah began to disband its own mine inspection program. Other more prominent mining states, like West Virginia and Kentucky, continue to oversee their mines, while the federal agency ensures they abide by federal law.

"Without a doubt, we will be more involved in aspects of mine safety," Mr. Huntsman said in an interview. "The status quo is unacceptable."

Efforts to find the six miners trapped in the coal-blackened guts of Crandall Canyon, near Huntington, after the mine's initial collapse on Aug. 6 have long since ended. But their deaths and those of three rescuers, killed after the mountain buckled a second time, on Aug. 16, left some here calling for change.

"Everyone wants better safety and working conditions in the mines if that's possible," said Abe Aragon, a former coal miner from the nearby town of Price. "They've been mining like this forever, and sometimes things happen down there that can't be avoided."

"But if the mines can be made safer," Mr. Aragon said, "then that's really a good thing."

Mr. Huntsman expressed frustration at the federal mine agency's handling of the disaster and the process by which the Murray Energy Corporation, the mine's co-owner, received approval to conduct

retreat mining at Crandall Canyon. The procedure involves shearing thick pillars of coal and is often considered risky.

Critics have also faulted the agency for failing to swiftly put into effect the federal Miner Act, passed by Congress last year and intended to improve safety.

A report issued in February by the House Committee on Education and Labor concluded that the agency was too slow to address risks laid out by the Miner Act and to approve two-way, wireless communication systems that would allow miners and rescue workers to stay in touch when something went wrong underground.

According to the Miner Act, the federal agency must create regulations for the installation of the systems by 2009, but agency officials say they have not found a communications device durable enough to function in the extreme environment of a coal mine.

"The approval process is not what's taking time," said Mark Skiles, director of technical support for the agency. "What's taking time is the development process."

Congress has allocated \$23 million to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health for development of underground communications technology. Officials at the institute say that 40 new communication and tracking systems have been tested, and at least two are close to being ready for use in mines.

"On the one hand, we don't want to be satisfied with today's technology," said Dr. Jeffery Kohler, the institute's associate director for mining and construction. "On the other, we don't want to wait five years for the perfect system."

Officials from Utah, including Mr. Huntsman, have sought guidance from colleagues in West Virginia, where, without waiting for federal laws, state lawmakers imposed tougher regulations after a mining disaster in Sago in 2006. West Virginia ordered all of its 202 underground mines to submit plans by the end of July to install two-way wireless communications systems.



## Alumni Spotlight



The American Institute for CPCU conferred the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter professional designation on 3949 designees on September 8, 2007, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Included in the group was **Ishaan Patel, Class of 2003**, pictured with Dr. Norm Baglini, retired president and CEO of the AICPCU.

More than 8000 people attended the four day CPCU Society's Annual Meeting and Seminars.

The CPCU designation is earned through passing examinations, meeting an experience requirement and adhering to a Code of Ethics.

## H. WAYNE SNIDER DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURER



**GREGORY E. MURPHEY**  
CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
SELECTIVE INSURANCE

*Wednesday, October 3, 2007*

*11:40am-12:30pm*

*Walk Auditorium, Temple University*

**Gregory E. Murphey** has served as chairman, president and chief executive officer of Selective Insurance Group, Inc. since May 2000. He has been with Selective in various positions since joining the company in 1980.

Mr. Murphey has played an integral role in Selective's growth as a super-regional property and casualty (P&C) carrier. The company is currently ranked as the 46th largest P&C carrier

in the US, and recognized for the superior service it provides to independent agents and customers. Selective's dedicated employees are at the heart of the company's "high-tech, high-touch" business model that powerfully combines a unique field-based model with leading-edge agency automation technology.

A graduate of Boston College, Mr. Murphey holds the CPA designation and completed both the Harvard Advanced Management Program and the M.I.T. Sloan School of Management. He serves on the board of trustees of the American Institute for CPCU (AICPCU) and the Insurance Institute of America (IIA), as well as the Board of Directors of the Insurance Information Institute (III) and the Newton Memorial Hospital Foundation board of trustees

## Risk Intern Presentations

Friday, October 5, 2007

11:40am-12:30pm

Speakman 113

Are you planning on having an internship next summer but aren't sure where you want to work or what you want to take away from your experience? If you answered yes to any of these questions then you should consider attending this session. Three students who interned with various companies during the summer of 2007 will discuss their experiences and answer questions. **Jamil Bashir (Towers Perrin)** and **Mike Montagnon (Marsh)** will be on hand this Friday. Free pizza and soda will also be provided, so be sure to attend!

If you have any questions regarding this event, please e-mail Karen Gaudet:

[k.gaudet@temple.edu](mailto:k.gaudet@temple.edu)

## Act Sci Intern Presentations

Friday, October 5, 2007

11:40am-12:30pm

Student Center 217D

Are you planning on having an internship next summer but aren't sure where you want to work or what you want to take away from your experience? If you answered yes to any of these questions then you should consider attending one or more of our Internship Presentation Sessions. Each session will feature three interns who had the opportunity to work at different companies during this past summer and will give you an outstanding perspective of everything from projects they worked on to the culture of the companies.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Nate Loughin:

[nloughin@gmail.com](mailto:nloughin@gmail.com)

## Etiquette Workshop

Friday, October 5, 2007

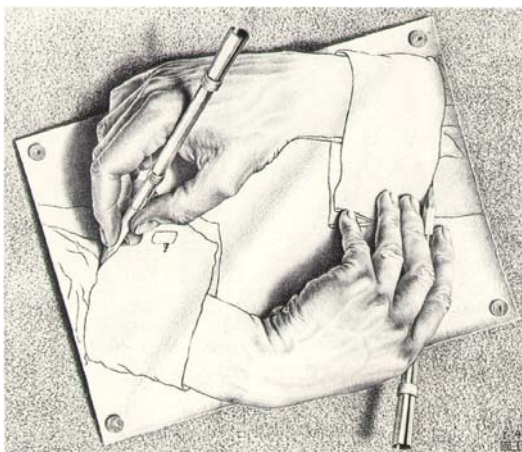
4:45-6:15pm

Tuttleman 300AB

Proper business etiquette is essential when it comes to networking. The GIS etiquette workshop is designed to cover the basics of business etiquette. Students will learn the ins and outs of networking and dinner etiquette. This workshop is a requirement for any students that want to be in the Resume Book or that are participating in BA 2101 through Gamma Iota Sigma. A sign-up sheet will be available on the Gamma Iota Sigma office door (the 4th floor of Ritter). Spots are limited for each, so sign up soon. **If you have already attended one of these workshops through Gamma Iota Sigma, you do not need to attend another one.**

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Ari Berman:

[ari.berman@temple.edu](mailto:ari.berman@temple.edu)



## Intern Testimonial: David Kramar

*David Kramar is a Risk Management and Management Information Systems major graduating in December 08. In the summer of 2007, David interned with the National Association of Surplus Lines Offices (NAPSLO) to experience the non-admitted insurance market first hand. Risky Business sat down with David to ask him more about the experience*

### RB: How was the internship in general?

DK: The internship was one of the most interesting experiences I have had in awhile. I moved to three different states with two different companies in the course of nine weeks. I spent five weeks in Stamford, CT with General Star underwriting risks that were vastly different from most other risk in the standard market. During my second week with General Star, I spent a week in the Manhattan office. Finally I went to Farmington Hills, MI to experience wholesale brokerage. The internship itself was great both because of the travel and the demanding skills that were required.

### RB: How well did you adapt to being away from your home town?

DK: Well, let's start off with the fact that NAPSLO pays for your housing. This makes everything much more enjoyable because I did not have to stress about finding a place to live or figuring out how to pay for it. Being far away from home was a good experience because it forced me to be more involved with my surroundings and find things to do. For example when I was with General Star I went to a Mets / Phillies game and when I was with Burns & Wilcox I went the APBA Detroit Gold Cup hydroplane boat races.

### RB: Did you have a mentor? If so, what were the benefits he or she provided?

DK: At both companies I had a mentor. It was very beneficial to have an underwriting mentor and a broker mentor because I learned about each specific side of the field. Also, at Burns & Wilcox I had a "buddy" who was a recent hire that helped me learn the city, find things to do, and meet the local crowd.

### RB: Did you feel your RMI classes better prepared you for the internship?

DK: Absolutely! During my internship I met with people that graduated recently or still were in school and everyone really liked how our program was set up and they wished they had the same experience as well. A lot of topics that we learn about in our Risk Classes really do come up in the field everyday!

## PEBA Evening Event

Thursday, October 18, 2007

5:30-9:00pm

The Down Town Club (6th and Chestnut)

Join the Penjerdel Employee Benefits and Compensation Association for a night that will surely be memorable. In attendance will be keynote speaker Rosemarie Greco, the director of Health Care Reform for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania speaking on "Prescription for Pennsylvania: A Potential Remedy for Health Care Reform". In addition, PEBA will honor Joseph Hessenthaler, Principal at Towers Perrin as the "Outstanding Achievement in Benefits and Compensation Award winner"

If you have any questions regarding this event, please e-mail Aaron Hill:

[aaron.hill@temple.edu](mailto:aaron.hill@temple.edu)

## Philadelphia CPCU Breakfast

Thursday, October 18th, 2007

8:00-10:00am

Union League (104 South Broad Street)

This is a great opportunity to attend a professional society meeting. As students will be involved with these types of organizations throughout their professional careers, this networking experience should prove invaluable. Several insurance executives will be present speaking to everyone, and there will be plenty of knowledge to gain. It should be an exciting and intriguing event for everyone attending.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Kevin Johnson:

[kjohnson05@temple.edu](mailto:kjohnson05@temple.edu)

## Worker's Compensation Fraud Workshop (hosted by RIMS)

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

8:00-10:00am

Consobocken, PA

Fraud continues to plague worker's compensation programs across the United States, despite efforts in many quarters to curtail this pervasive crime. Although there is no credible methodology for measuring the true scope and impact of W/C fraud, professionals agree that the extent is probably in the billions of dollars annually. This presentation will profile some classic examples of fraud by allegedly injured workers and outline a series of 'red flags' that employers can use to judge whether fraud is a problem.

Admission to this workshop is free. In addition, the Marriott will provide a free continental breakfast starting at 8:00am.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Kevin Johnson:

[kjohnson05@temple.edu](mailto:kjohnson05@temple.edu)

Don't forget to visit the Sigma Chapter website at <http://www.sigmachapter.org> for a full calendar of events, as well as other features!