

# RISKY BUSINESS

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

## HALLOWEEN HORROR: CANDY CORN NOT REAL CORN?!?

Good-hearted goblins should protect themselves from lawsuits before they drop Halloween candy in little kiddies' goodie bags this year, warns a group of lawsuit-busting food companies.

While millions of kids and countless parents knock on doors this holiday hoping for sweets, the group says "greedy trial lawyers" hoping to cash in on America's so-called obesity epidemic will be hot on their heels -- and looking to launch "monster lawsuits" against those who provide high-calorie treats.

To ward off these vampires, the Center for Consumer Freedom offers its version of garlic: a "Halloween Trick-Or-Treat Liability and Indemnification Agreement."

"It's scary how the United States is becoming a 'litigation nation,'" said Dan Mindus, senior analyst at the Center for Consumer Freedom. "Trial lawyers are lining up to sue restaurants and food companies on behalf of overweight clients. But Halloween should remain guilt and litigation free. Insisting that Trick-or-Treaters sign a waiver before munching down could be the silver bullet against

legal werewolves prowling for frivolous obesity lawsuits."

The agreement can be downloaded at <http://www.ConsumerFreedom.com>. It includes a number of clauses designed to protect Americans from legal liability.

By signing it, Trick-or-Treaters agree not to sue on the basis of:

- \* Failure to warn of potential for overeating because candy tastes too good and is provided at no cost;
- \* Failure to provide nutritional information or adequate educational information on exercise options;
- \* Failure to state that candy corn is not really corn;
- \* Failure to warn the lactose intolerant away from milk duds;
- \* Failure to offer "healthier options," "organic choices," or "lame treats no kid wants"; and
- \* Failure to provide information about other venues offering alternative, "healthier" Halloween goodies.

With this waiver, Halloween treaters can keep the trickster food police at the Center for Science in the Public Interest off their front porch. They can also protect themselves from lawsuits filed by attorneys dressed up as concerned citizens, who threaten to sue restaurants, food companies, school boards, doctors, and even parents for the nation's extra pounds.

During this season when food cops, public health zealots, and trial lawyers are promoting hysteria about the nation's expanding waistline, the Center for Consumer Freedom believes that Halloween should remain a holiday for wearing costumes, carving jack-o-lanterns, and indulging in candy.

"With this signed form, you can keep the trial lawyers lurking in the shadows, not screaming bloody murder about sugary treats. That's something we can all enjoy this Halloween." said said Center for Consumer Freedom senior analyst Dan Mindus

Adapted from the the Center for Consumer Freedom's website. CCF is a nonprofit coalition supported by restaurants and food companies.

## H. WAYNE SNIDER DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURER SERIES

**TERRI D. AUSTIN**  
CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER  
AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH, 2008  
11:30 AM - 12:40 PM WALK AUDITORIUM



Terri Austin was appointed to the position of Chief Diversity Officer for American International Group ("AIG") in January 2007. She provides executive oversight and leadership for AIG's worldwide diversity efforts and is responsible for expanding and implementing AIG's diversity initiatives in relation to its workforce, products, services, vendors, and customers.

Ms. Austin previously served as the Chief Compliance Officer for AIG's Domestic Brokerage Group and as the General Counsel for AIG Domestic Claims. Prior to joining AIG in 1990, Ms. Austin was an Associate at the law firm of Richards & O'Neil from 1986 to 1990, and an Assistant Counsel with the New York City Law Department from 1983 to 1986.

Ms. Austin received a Law Degree and a Masters Degree in Journalism from Columbia University in New York. She received a Bachelors Degree from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. She is an active member of the New York City Bar Association and has served on a number of non-profit boards. In July 2007, *Business Insurance* magazine selected Ms. Austin as one of 50 Women to Watch. In March 2008, Ms. Austin was named one of *The Network Journal's* 25 Influential Black Women in Business. In July 2008, Ms. Austin was named one of *Savoy Professional's* Top 100 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America



### Future of Worker's Compensation: An Actuary's Opinion

Friday, October 31st, 2008  
11:40 AM - 12:30 PM

Howard Gittis Center (SAC) North 217C

Rob Moss, Manager and Associate Actuary of the **National Council on Compensation Insurance** will detail worker's compensation, actuaries' role in ratemaking for worker's compensation and the role of national rating bureaus on the insurance industry. The National Council on Compensation Insurance is the nation's number one data collector of worker's compensation.

Any questions regarding this event, contact Tiffany Calhoun: Tiffany.Calhoun@temple.edu

### Professional Societies Workshop

Friday, October 31st, 2008  
11:40 AM - 12:30 PM

Howard Gittis Center (SAC) North 217AB

Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters (CPCU), Risk and Insurance Management Society (RIMS), and Penjerdel Employee Benefits and Compensation Association (PEBA) representatives of local chapters will speak with our students about their respective professional societies. Students will have the opportunity to network with these professional and ask questions.

Any questions regarding this event, contact Tiffany Calhoun: Tiffany.Calhoun@temple.edu

### Halloween Happy Hour

Friday, October 31st, 2008  
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

The Draught Horse



Attention **Ghouls and Boys**. (Yeah I said it) This is your chance to show off that awesome costume idea that you have been working on since last year! The Sigma Chapter is hosting its annual **Halloween Happy Hour** complete with drink specials, appetizers and a costume contest! As the winner of last year's contest I can say that the competition is pretty intense. This isn't your Rite Aid brand costume contest. It's a winner take all battle of the best.

Any questions regarding this event, contact Tiffany Calhoun: Tiffany.Calhoun@temple.edu

### Philabundance Community Service

Saturday, November 1st, 2008  
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

302 West Berks Street, Philadelphia PA

**Philabundance** works to end hunger and malnutrition in the **Delaware Valley** by acquiring food and distributing it through organizations serving people in need. Volunteers help with product recovery, work in the warehouse, provide administrative support, and assist with maintenance projects and special events. **Philabundance depends on volunteers** to help us distribute millions of pounds of food throughout the Delaware Valley each year. As always we will be meeting at the corner of Cecil B. Moore and Broad Street at 8:15 AM.

Any questions regarding this event, contact Monika Shah: Monika.Shah@temple.edu

## Halloween Fun Facts - How apropos!

- ◆ Orange and black are Halloween colors because orange is associated with the Fall harvest and black is associated with darkness and death.
- ◆ Jack o' lanterns originated in Ireland where people placed candles in hollowed-out turnips to keep away spirits and ghosts on the Samhain holiday.
- ◆ Pumpkins also come in white, blue and green. Great for unique monster carvings!
- ◆ Halloween was brought to North America by immigrants from Europe who would celebrate the harvest around a bonfire, share ghost stories, sing, dance and tell fortunes.
- ◆ Halloween candy sales average about 2 billion dollars annually in the United States.
- ◆ In 1962, the Count Dracula Society was founded.

- ◆ Tootsie Rolls were the first wrapped penny candy in America.
- ◆ The ancient Celts thought that spirits and ghosts roamed the countryside on Halloween night. They began wearing masks and costumes to avoid being recognized as human.
- ◆ Halloween is the 2nd most commercially successful holiday, with Christmas being the first.
- ◆ Bobbing for apples is thought to have originated from the roman harvest festival that honors Pomona, the goddess of fruit trees.
- ◆ Black cats were once believed to be witch's familiars who protected their powers.
- ◆ Signs of a werewolf are a unibrow, hair palms, tattoos, and a long middle finger.

Adapted from www.halloween-website.com

## Intern Testimonial: Kevin Johnson - United States Liability Insurance Group, Wayne PA

**Kevin Johnson** is a senior graduating in December of 2009, and majoring in **Risk Management and Insurance and Finance**. In the **Summer of 2008**, Kevin interned at the **United States Liability Insurance Group**.



*Risky Business* recently sat down with **Kevin** to talk about his experience with **United States Liability Insurance Group**.

**RB: What sort of work were you assigned to do while at USLI?**

**KJ:** I completed various projects throughout the summer. One of my major projects was creating policy form comparisons for a new form. We were changing our policy form in New York and the NY Department of Insurance requested a side by side comparison of the old form to the new form. I worked on that for various policy forms that we were submitting to NY. I also sat in on several customer meetings and learned how we market business.

**RB: Did you have a mentor to work with?**

**KJ:** I did not have an official mentor, but I developed a strong relationship with the head of Professional Liability and he was always there to answer any questions I had.

**RB: Did your RMI classes end up helping you during your internship?**

**KJ:** Absolutely! My co-workers were shocked about how much I knew about the insurance

industry. They also were surprised about how involved Gamma gets our students outside the classroom through CPCU and RIMS meetings.

**RB: What was the best aspect of your summer as an intern?**

**KJ:** Obviously it was the free lunches and workout facilities. It was a treat to have a free lunch everyday and be able to workout before, during, or after work. There was also a "March Madness" outdoor basketball tournament that we would watch during lunches.

**RB: What do you think about the overall internship experience?**

**KJ:** The internship was amazing! I met a lot of great people that really made my experience a great one. Also, there were about 30 college students working there. Some work in administration, but it was nice to be around that many college students all summer long. The company has an amazing corporate culture and I would recommend USLI to anyone.