Expand your surplus lines awareness and knowledge and compete for the opportunity to win CA$H PRIZE$!

**WHO CAN ENTER?**
Risk Management, Insurance, Actuarial Science, Finance and Business Students

**WINNERS RECEIVE**
- 1st Place   |  $1,500
- 2nd Place |  $1,000
- 3rd Place  |  $500

**SUBMIT ONLINE**
Upload a file at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WSIAPaperSpring2020

**HOW TO ENTER**
Submit an 8-10-page research paper on one of the Spring 2020 topics:
- CTE/Head Trauma
- Product Recalls and the Meat Industry
- Wildfires

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**
Sunday, April 19, 2019 by 11:59 p.m.

Faculty who require this paper for a class are asked to select no more than two papers per topic to submit for the contest.

**WHITE PAPERS SHOULD...**
- Be the work of an individual student, not a pair or group of students
- Be 2,000 – 2,500 words (exclusive of title page and works cited), double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point Arial or Times New Roman font
- Include title page with author name, university, date
- Include works cited at the end of the paper
- Be submitted in a Word document
- Reflect your research on the trend/issue/topic, including source documents, which are in the works cited section
- Be submitted as final, clean copies
- Be written assuming the audience is versed in the topic and recent trends/news regarding the developing market

www.wsia.org
TOPIC 1 | CTE/Head Trauma

In recent years, athletes in the U.S. have felt the effects of a growing concern over traumatic head injuries. From single impact concussions to accumulated impacts resulting in Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), sports leagues from youth to the pros have come under increased scrutiny for their prevention and handling of head injuries. While CTE diagnosis is currently limited to post-mortem biopsy and life altering symptoms can present earlier in life, claimants are holding sports leagues at all levels of play responsible for potential neurological injuries that may have been sustained years or decades earlier. Indeed, some experts have called CTE, the ‘next asbestos’ as countless potential claimants grapple with debilitating neurological issues that may be traced back to the ball field.

Discuss how the excess and surplus lines industry will play a role in addressing and mitigating these potential losses that could befall U.S. athletics from youth to the professional level in the years to come.

TOPIC 2 | Product Recalls and the Meat Industry

Meat products, like many food categories, can present unique considerations from a product recall standpoint. In the world of product recall insurance, meat is one of the toughest classes of business to analyze from an underwriting perspective. Here in the U.S., all meat products are under the jurisdiction of the USDA, who in 2018 announced 125 recalls involving beef, poultry (including eggs), pork, mixed meat products and fish. The total volume recalled in conjunction with these 125 events involved 20,552,911 pounds, the majority being attributable to adulterated beef products.

Prepare an argument for an insurance carrier to consider underwriting meat on their product recall insurance program. This can be an argument for all meat products, or specific segments (i.e. beef, poultry, pork, etc.). Outline risk factors for businesses in each segment of the supply chain (uncooked vs. cooked, fresh vs. frozen, packaging/processing, etc.), and make the argument for which of these a carrier should place their focus. Feel free to include industry specific considerations and advancements in U.S. regulatory and product quality standards, along with how improvements in processes and technology may play a part in the safety of food processing in the industry.

TOPIC 3 | Wildfires

Wildland fires have always been a concern, especially in the western United States, but over the last decade the risk has greatly increased in both frequency and severity. This increase has been attributed to a combination of climate change and urban development into the wildland areas. Climate change has created longer periods of time with conditions that allow for the ignition of fuel sources and the ease in which the fire spreads. Urban housing developments over the last 30 years have continually encroached into the wildland with structures being built to blend into the surrounding landscape. As of 2017, it was estimated that 4.5 million homes in the U.S. were in these areas and are at a high or extreme risk of wildfire.

Most experts believe that wildfires will continue to increase in both their frequency and size over the coming decades. Although wildfires have been occurring for centuries, we are only now beginning to understand the science behind them. With new technological advancements and predictive analytical tools, how could the insurance industry (specifically E&S) respond to help mitigate these loss exposures while still maintaining profitability?