

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH SECTION

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH SECTION COUNCIL

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INSTRUCTIONS

Please vote for up to three candidates.
Ballots with four (or more) votes are invalid and will not be counted.
The top three candidates will receive three-year terms.
Only names of persons who have indicated they would serve, if elected, are listed on the ballot.

INFORMATION ABOUT NOMINEES

For each section, the candidate who submitted his information first appears first on the ballot. All others follow in alphabetical order. Biographical information and answers to the question are as provided by the candidates. Biographies are limited to identification of employment, major fields of professional activity, service in the Society of Actuaries, and other relevant experience.

CANDIDATE QUESTION:

Why are you interested in leading the Education & Research Section as a council member?

Mark Maxwell, PhD, ASA, Associate Professor and Program Director of Actuarial Science at Robert Morris University, Moon Township, PA

Professional Background: Actuarial science program development including: student recruitment, exam preparation, classroom teaching, student placement, and employer networking.

Society of Actuaries Activities: Contributor to the Technology section and *Conversations*. Presented "Building an Actuarial Program" at the 2007 annual meeting of NCTM. Published "Building a Successful Actuarial Science Program: Five Key Components" in *FOCUS*. Supervise preliminary SOA examinations. Attended 41st ARC. RMU hosted 42nd ARC.

Relevant Experience: E&R section member 2003-present. Mathematics Chair 2004-2006. Actuarial Program Director 2003-2005 and 2006-present. Offer intensive exam preparation seminars for P/1 and FM/2.

Why are you interested in leading your section? As an E&R council member, I am eager to work with friends who are passionate about the stewardship of the profession. Goals include:

- Ensuring that all college students have access to the profession. Promote a level playing field that allows employers to identify talent and best prepares future actuaries.
- Encouraging actuarial research that meets the needs of professionals. An opportunity would be to apply techniques from financial mathematics to insurance.
- Educating a wider audience about the profession - including high school students, faculty, and businesses that can benefit from the unique talent set of actuaries.

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Gary Parker, PhD, ASA, Professor and Program Coordinator, Statistics and Actuarial Science, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC

Professional Background: Papers on insurance portfolios with stochastic interest and mortality; and other related topics. Product design actuary specializing in indexed products, investment guarantees and risk management. VP corporate actuarial.

Society of Actuaries Activities: E&R Section Council member 2007-2008. Member of E&R Section since 1992. Member of ASTIN and AFIR sections of IAA. Associate Editor of *NAAJ* 1997-2001. Supervisor for SOA exams since 2004.

Relevant Experience: Everett Curtis Huntington Prize in 1995; Editorial board of ASTIN Bulletin since 2002; Member of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries; Member of the Statistical Society of Canada and its Finance Committee; Speaker and session organizer at CIA and SOA meetings.

Why are you interested in leading your section? With seven years experience in product design, pricing and risk management, I would like to assist the E&R section in promoting ties between practicing actuaries and academic actuaries. I wish to support actuarial education and research that are relevant to the changing roles of actuaries.

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Nariankadu D. Shyamalkumar, Ph.D., ASA, Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Professional Experience: Academic actuary and an undergraduate advisor at a program with a 100 year history. Research interests; Statistics: PhD Thesis in Statistics (won the L.J. Savage Award in 1996); interests in Bayesian Nonparametrics and Robustness; Probability: Recent papers appeared in premier journals like the *Annals of Applied Probability*, and the *Journal of Theoretical Probability*; Actuarial Science: Phase Type Distributions, Risk Measures, Estimation of Mortality, and Parallel Computing

Society of Actuaries Activities: Technology Section Council Member 2004-07, Newsletter Editor 2005-07, Secretary 2004-05; International Section Web Liaison, 2003-04, Latin American Committee 2003-04, Representative to Mexico 2002-04; Regular Author – *CompAct*, *ARCH*, and *Expanding Horizons*

Why are you interested in leading your section? I would like to see increased levels of participation by students, and the section serving as a catalyst for open source actuarial software projects. I believe my profile will allow me to significantly add to these and many other efforts of the E&R section.

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Joan C. Barrett, FSA, Senior Actuary, UnitedHealth Group, Hartford, CT

Professional Background: Product development, valuation and pricing for several lines of business including CDHP, LTD, LTC and individual health

Society of Actuaries Activities: General Officer, Group Life and Health Education Committee. Member, Health Section Council. Publications include "Overview of Reserve Practices in Group Insurance", Society of Actuaries Study Note 385-25-93, "Using the Internet as a Pricing Tool", *Health Section News*, January 2000, "The Complete Actuary: Building Teams", *The Actuary*, March 1994. Speaker at several SOA meetings.

Relevant Experience: Instructor of Mathematics, Miami University.

Why are you interested in leading your section? I simply want to give back to a profession that I am very proud to be a part of.

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Wai-Sum Chan, FSA, PhD, Professor, Department of Finance, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Professional Background: An academic actuary who held teaching and research posts at the National University of Singapore, the University of Waterloo and the University of Hong Kong before his present appointment. Research interests include actuarial education, stochastic modeling and financial econometrics. He has had over 70 research articles published in scholarly journals.

Society of Actuaries Activities: Member, Task Force on Enhancements to Life Experience Studies; Professional Development (PD) Advisor (6 candidates); Facilitator, Associateship Professionalism Course (APC) in Hong Kong; Common Core Faculty (CCF), Course 7 Seminars.

Relevant Experience: Council member and chairman of the Education Committee, Actuarial Society of Hong Kong, 2001-present.

Why are you interested in leading your section? Financial risk analysis has become more essential than ever to the decision-making process due to economic development and globalization. Unavoidably, there are many analysts from different disciplines who are equally influential when compared to actuaries. I believe that actuaries need to be more interdisciplinary. I hope to join the Council and promote multidisciplinary education and research.

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Sarah L.M. Christiansen, PhD, FSA, MAAA, President, SMC Actuarial Consultants, Inc. Georgetown, TX
Professional Background: General Actuarial Practice, emphasis on Valuation, Asset Adequacy and Monte Carlo Testing

Society of Actuaries Activities: Member CKER (Committee on Knowledge Extension Research), 1999 – present; Committee on Finance Research, SOA, 1996-2005, Chair 1998–2004; Education and Research Section Council 1997-2000, Chair, 2000, 1992-1995, Vice Chair, 1995

Publications: “Discussion of Managing Longevity Risk in the U.S. Retirement Plans through Mandatory Annuitization” *NAAJ* Vol. 11 No. 2 pp 154-156; “Representative Interest Rate Scenarios,” *NAAJ* Vol. 2 No. 3 (1998), pp. 29-60.

Why are you interested in leading your section? In my opinion this section needs to have input from both academics and practitioners. I am an ex-academic as well as a practicing actuary. The need to strengthen our profession requires that we improve relations with academia, and that means that we need to improve our relationships with universities. We need to encourage research both on a theoretical and a practical basis. Whenever possible we should be encouraging the theoretical researchers to develop practical tools as well. Thank you for your consideration.