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Actuarial Profession in the News ...

***Best's Review* Features ERM Article by FSA**

Assurant CEO **Robert Pollock** discusses how the company's holistic view of business exposure keeps risks at bay.

***Massachusetts Sun* Quotes FSA**

The *Sun* interviewed **Thomas Tierney** on the positive aspects of being in a field ranked number two in a recent job survey.

2009 Election—Open Call to SOA Leaders!

Do you have a desire to impact the future of your profession by joining the team that sets the direction of the Society of Actuaries? Have you ever considered being part of the SOA Board of Directors? If you enjoy thinking strategically and possess the leadership skills you know will contribute to the success of the organization, consider running for the Board of Directors or for a Section Council. The 2009 election process has officially begun. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please contact Sheree Baker, director of Governance, at sbaker@soa.org. If you are interested in serving on a Section Council, please contact Meg Weber, director of Section Services, at mweber@soa.org.

Spotlight on Section Activity ...

2009 Country Feature Article Competition

The International Section Council is pleased to announce our **2009 Country Feature Article Competition**. Here is a chance for International Section members to win a cash prize. The PRIZE is US\$2,000 for the writer and US\$500 for the Ambassador who co-authors and/or sponsors the winning entry. If you are not an International Section member, join the section for US\$25 and **enter before Feb. 28, 2009**. The winning article will be determined by the International Section Council. All feature articles submitted will be published in a future edition of *International News*.

Call for Essays: Visions for the Future of the U.S. Healthcare System

The Health Section is issuing this **call for Essays on the U.S. healthcare system**. What are visions for a system that is financially sound, broadly accessible, and operationally efficient; and what creative solutions will chart the path to this destination? You are invited to respond to this question with a 1,500-word essay, by **March 13, 2009**.

Vote for Your Favorite Speculative Fiction Story

The results of the 8th Speculative Fiction Contest, sponsored by the Technology, Actuary of the Future, and Futurism Sections, are **now available for viewing**. Read each of the stories submitted by our creative and imaginative actuaries. Vote for your favorite story by sending an e-mail with the title of your top pick to Gary Lange at gary.lange@cunamutual.com. **Please vote only once**, so that we have a true Readers' Choice Award. The voting deadline is **March 15, 2009**, so be sure and tell your actuarial friends about this contest and get them to read the stories and pick their favorite one, too!

Section Newsletters—Hot Off the Press!

The February 2009 issues of **Long-Term Care News**, **Product Matters!**, **Reinsurance News (Special Edition)**, **Taxing Times** and the **Taxing Times Supplement** are now online.

What's New in Research?

Individual Life Experience 2004-05 Pivot Tables Now Posted

The Individual Life Experience Committee's 2004-05 **pivot tables** are now available. If you have any questions, contact Jack Luff, SOA experience studies actuary, at 847.706.3571 or jluff@soa.org.

Credibility Theory Practices Project Begins

The MIB research team has begun work on the Credibility Theory Practices research project sponsored by the Product Development and Financial Reporting Sections and the Committee on Life Insurance Research. This study identifies and examines the credibility theory approaches in use by life insurers. For more project information, **see the RFP** or contact Ronora Stryker, SOA research actuary, at rstryker@soa.org.

Report on Infiximab for Individuals with Crohn's Disease

The SOA Health Section is pleased to make available a research report comparing health care utilization and expenditures for individuals with **Crohn's disease**.

Member Feedback Requested

The SOA produces a number of **publications**—print and online—designed to provide meaningful and helpful information to our membership, including *The Actuary* magazine, *SOA News Today*, *Image Watch*, section newsletters, *The North American Actuarial Journal*, *The Actuarial Practice Forum* and *The Future Actuary*, just to name a few. We welcome your feedback on our line of publications and look forward to your ideas and suggestions. Please send all comments to e-news@soa.org.

Upcoming SOA Educational Opportunities ...

Intercompany Long Term Care Insurance Conference

Registration is still open for this important LTC industry event, to be held March 29-April 1 in Reno, Nevada. This annual conference includes technical sessions in practice tracks, as well as cross-functional sessions, and brings together long term care insurance professionals from multiple specialties. The SOA is a prominent sponsor, and the Long-Term Care Section will hold an open, in-person Section Council meeting at the end of the conference. For more information and registration details, see the [Conference Web site](#).

Investment Symposium

Register today for the [Investment Symposium](#), March 30-31 in New York, which features sessions on asset class, financing and investment risk management, and investment strategy, showcases some of the industry's top investment and insurance professionals as presenters, and offers several networking opportunities.

Life and Health Spring Meetings

Registration is now open for the [Life Spring Meeting](#), May 18-19 in Denver, and the [Health Spring Meeting](#), June 8-10 in Toronto, where we'll be offering innovative sessions on hot topics and featuring inspiring keynote speakers.

Retirement 20/20 Webinar

[Retirement 20/20](#) is a strategic multi-year project to look at the possibilities that could exist for retirement systems outside of the traditional defined benefit/defined contribution framework. This webinar, March 19, will bring you up to date on what we've learned so far, provide an overview of the new Measurement Framework tool and give you a sneak peek at our future plans for the project.

Pay SOA Dues and Section Memberships Online

Please pay your dues and section memberships via our easy-to-use payment process. Using your credit card and our simple [online payment system](#), you can pay your dues, renew section memberships or sign up for new section memberships or IAA special interest sections. Those who *must* pay by check, such as organizations paying dues for employees, may [print out an invoice](#).

Listing of Deceased Members

Visit the SOA Web site for a [listing of the names](#) of deceased members and information on how to [submit an obituary](#). The SOA extends its condolences to the families and friends of John C. Angle, FSA; J. Martin Dickler, FSA; James M. McCready, FSA; J. Phillip Turner, ASA; Glenn T. Wilson, ASA; and David William Young, FSA.

Past Issues of SOA News Today

Missed an issue of *SOA News Today*? Just [visit](#) the SOA Web site.

SOA News Today is published twice a month. Just e-mail Jacquie Kirkwood, SOA senior communications associate, at e-news@soa.org. If you'd like to print a copy of *SOA News Today*, set your view setting to plain text. We hope you enjoy *SOA News Today*—news when you need it—news you can use!