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## **Actuarial Profession in the News ...**

### ***Best's Review* Cites SOA ERM Principles**

An [article](#) about how Assurant keeps risks at bay featured the SOA Guiding Principles to ERM.

## **Pledge to Join the New Social Insurance & Public Finance Section**

With the need to develop research and share information on the topics of social insurance programs and their related finance, the SOA and the organizing committee is establishing a new professional interest group, the Social Insurance & Public Finance Section. Professionals working in enterprise risk management, health, pension or academia, are invited to [pledge to join the section](#), which will explore relevant topics and trends related to social insurance and public finance.

The section aims to develop consistent, high quality continuing education opportunities and sponsor fundamental research into evaluating and managing social insurance programs, including public pension plans, government funded health plans, workers compensation insurance and unemployment insurance. Of particular immediate interest is the impact of the Baby Boomer generation and other trends on current social insurance programs.

## **Co-Sponsoring Opportunities for the 44<sup>th</sup> ARC!**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is hosting the [44<sup>th</sup> Actuarial Research Conference \(ARC\)](#) July 30 to Aug. 1, 2009. Throughout its history, the ARC has brought together academics and practitioners from all actuarial disciplines, serving as a forum to discuss issues in research and practice, findings and solutions, and developments in actuarial education. This conference is an excellent way to “put into practice” the goals of the SOA’s academic initiative.

Securing adequate levels of sponsorship is essential to conducting a conference of the highest caliber. We are asking businesses employing actuaries to consider sponsorship at this year's ARC. The conference will attract distinguished actuarial professionals and educators, with an expected attendance of about 150. Organizations who have already given their support include: American Family; CUNA; Insurance Services Office (ISO); Liberty Mutual; Midwest Actuarial Forum; UW-Madison Actuarial Club; Partner Re; and Secura. In addition, the following SOA sections have contributed funding: Health; Entrepreneurial Actuaries; Education and Research; Financial Reporting; Technology; Investment; Pension; and Forecasting & Futurism.

If you or your organization are interested in sponsoring the ARC or have questions, please contact Jed Frees at [jfrees@bus.wisc.edu](mailto:jfrees@bus.wisc.edu) or Margie Rosenberg at [mrosenberg@bus.wisc.edu](mailto:mrosenberg@bus.wisc.edu).

**Note:** Registration information will be available in an upcoming edition of *SOA News Today*.

### **Be an SOA Leader—2009 Election Time is Here!**

If you've ever considered being part of the SOA Board of Directors, here is your opportunity. You can impact the future of your profession by joining the team that sets the direction of the Society of Actuaries. 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. Please contact Sheree Baker, director of Governance, at [sbaker@soa.org](mailto:sbaker@soa.org), for more information.

### **Section Elections are Coming Soon!**

The 2009 elections for new Section Council members are approaching! Now is your opportunity to move from a member to a leadership position. Each year, one-third of the council is replaced with new volunteers—people like you—who plan and execute the activities of the sections. The [general roles and responsibilities of Council members](#) are available. If you're interested in becoming a candidate for election, contact your Section Chair by April 21.

### **On the Research Front ...**

#### ***SOA, LIMRA and InFRE Release New Research Report on Retirement Assets***

The Society of Actuaries' Committee on Post Retirement Needs and Risks, LIMRA and the International Foundation of Retirement Education (InFRE) are pleased to make available a [research report](#) based on the findings of a survey exploring how retirees make decisions about investing their assets and purchasing financial products. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Siegel, SOA Research actuary, at [ssiegel@soa.org](mailto:ssiegel@soa.org).

### ***CKER Travel Grant Forms Due—44<sup>th</sup> Actuarial Research Conference***

The Committee on Knowledge Extension Research (CKER) is offering \$500 (U.S.) travel grants to graduate students from the U.S, Canada, Mexico or other areas outside of North America, who will be presenting at the [44<sup>th</sup> Actuarial Research Conference \(ARC\)](#) July 30-Aug. 1, 2009, at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin.

Each student will need an ARC presentation verification form signed by an advisor, department chair or graduate program advisor. The [applications](#) and supporting materials are due to Erika Schulty at [eschulty@soa.org](mailto:eschulty@soa.org) (fax: 847.273.8519) by **May 11, 2009**. Grant recipients will be notified by **June 5, 2009**.

### **Learn More About Valuable Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities**

#### ***Enterprise Risk Management Symposium***

Sign up online by April 21 for this symposium, April 29-May 1 in Chicago, exploring hot risk-related topics and focusing on the lessons learned from ERM. [The ERM Symposium](#) will illustrate why a strong risk program is essential before, during, and after each relative cycle of results—both good and bad.

***Public Pension Finance Symposium***

Sign up by April 20 to get special pricing for this symposium, May 18-19 in Chicago, which provides an opportunity for attendees to hear leading thinkers present their papers and engage in lively discussion on the [measurement of public pension plan liabilities](#) and related issues.

***Product Development Symposium***

Registration is now open for this symposium, June 29-30 in Los Angeles, Calif., where industry experts and creative thinkers will explore the latest issues and [trends in product development](#) and pricing of life insurance and annuity products.

***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 Jacque Kirkwood, SOA senior communications associate, at [e-news@soa.org](mailto: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!