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Speculative Fiction Contest and the Predictive Analytics and Futurism Section Award

By Ben Wolzenski

In this year's Speculative Fiction Contest there were 23 entries: short stories with a maximum length of 6,000 words. In addition to the overall award by the Society of Actuaries, the Predictive Analytics and Futurism Section (PAF) awards a prize for "the best use of futurism methods." The entries this year made enjoyable reading for eight reader-evaluators: three members or friends of the PAF Section and five volunteers who

made their interest known through the new Society of Actuaries volunteer database (thanks, volunteers!).

Eighteen of the 23 stories mentioned actuaries, which was perhaps less surprising than that five of the 23 did not. Most stories were built around subjects familiar to actuaries: fourteen involved artificial intelligence, predictive analytics or models generally; a dozen more involved insurance. Other subjects used more than once were longevity, space travel, time travel and genetics.

Congratulations to the winner of the PAF award, John A. Major, ASA, MAAA, for his short story "2064: A Calculated Risk." Thanks, too, to the other 22 authors who submitted entries!

You can access all the entries on the SOA website. Use the search tool to look for "12th speculative fiction stories" and then choose the "2017" date in the results. At the time this article was written, that yielded just the 23 individual entries to the 2017 contest. ■



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SOA Explorer Tool
Find Fellow Actuaries Around the Block or Around the Globe

The SOA Explorer Tool is a global map showing locations of fellow SOA members and their employers, as well as actuarial universities and clubs.

Explorer.SOA.org

SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

The advertisement features a map of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge area. Two location pins are shown: one near Dubuque, Iowa, with a portrait of a woman, and another near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with a portrait of a man. The map includes various highway shields (52, 18, 61, 20, 151, 380, 218, 30, 30) and labels for 'Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife...', 'Mississippi River', and 'Dubuque'.