



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# Being Active In the Risk Space

By Matthew Clark

**I AM SITTING IN O'HARE AIRPORT ON MY WAY HOME FROM THE ERM SYMPOSIUM** with the deadline for my "Chairperson's Corner" submission looming. Between the JRMS face-to-face meeting and the symposium, I realized how the people in front of me have had an impact on the actuarial risk space. The advancement of the profession is in our hands and I often take that for granted. In this column I will talk about how you can make a difference and leave your mark.

## PARTICIPATION

Participation is the first and most important step. The ERM Symposium is the crown jewel of the actuarial risk space. The talent that converges on Chicago every spring

is second to none. This event provides insight into cutting edge techniques and thinking in risk across the life, banking, and property and casualty industries. The sessions are just half the fun. The social inter-

action is unlike other actuarial functions. Just walking between sessions the conversations are filled with energy and information. If you have missed this event in the past, I encourage you to add it to your calendar for 2011.

By the time this issue is published, another exciting risk event will have passed. In May the Systemic Risk Summit will take place in Atlanta. What makes this an event worth mentioning is the collection of speakers as well as the format. This event is aimed at the serious practitioner with an even balance between speakers and discussion. The interaction and thought provoking conversation make this event another can't miss on my calendar. If you miss these events, the Joint Risk Management Section is also sponsoring several sessions at each of the SOA/CAS/CIA meetings throughout the year.

On a daily basis, there is still the INARM list serve. Seldom does a day go by without a thought provoking conversation in the risk space. This group covers a wide

range of risks by a variety of practitioners. If you are not already a member, I encourage you to join and participate in this group.

## EDUCATION & RESEARCH

I may be preaching to the choir, but I cannot address the development of the risk space without focusing on the Chartered Enterprise Risk Analyst (CERA) credential. Over the past several years this credential has evolved and received global attention. I encourage both students and experienced actuaries to consider the CERA credential. It is important to keep up to date on the evolution in risk techniques and methodologies. The ERM Symposium and related meetings are key forums to continue that educational process.

The SOA sponsors numerous research opportunities through each of the sections. The JRMS has several research projects in different stages in process. Keep your eye open for future projects that may be of interest to you.

## VOLUNTEER

By the time this issue is released, the SOA section elections will be upon us. I encourage each of you to exercise your right to vote. For those of you who are running for a position on a section council, I commend and thank you for your contribution to the profession. It takes the dedication of many people to support the many activities and initiatives of the section. While the elections are held once per year, there are still many opportunities for you to give back to the profession. Some suggestions include:

- Join a project oversight group for a research opportunity
- Contribute an article to this newsletter
- Join the ERM Symposium planning committee
- Volunteer to speak at an industry event

While volunteering is a personal decision and requires a personal sacrifice, I can say that I have found the experience very rewarding.

As usual, we have another great issue that I hope you enjoy! ■



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