



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Actuary of the Future Webcasts!

Recapping our 2010 Webcasts and Discussing our Plan for 2011

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About a year ago, Mark Yu (2010 AoF Council Chair) contacted me after I indicated a desire to volunteer with the AoF Section. Mark asked me how I would like to assist and I indicated an interest in helping with training/webcasts. Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of working with the AoF to plan two webcasts aimed at our section members' development needs. The following is a summary of the two webcasts sponsored by AoF in 2010, along with a few thoughts regarding our plans for 2011.

MAKING THE TRANSITION: FROM ANALYST TO MANAGER

Our first webcast of the year was held on Aug. 17, 2010 and addressed the topic of transitioning from an actuarial analyst to a manager. It was a success, with 71 sites registered!

Two amazing presenters, with very different backgrounds, shared their stories. Our first presenter was Dave Dickson. Dave is an active member of the SOA, AAA and CIA, and spent most of his career working for the Independent Order of Foresters. Dave discussed various topics including skills required to be a successful actuary, management skills and career management. Our second speaker was Chad Runchey. Chad is manager in the New York office of Ernst & Young, and followed with considerations for consulting actuaries. Some subtopics Chad addressed included growing client relationships, developing your personal brand and generating business.

After the formal presentation, we really delved into the topic through an interactive Q&A session. Serving as the moderator for the webcast, I was definitely intrigued by the high-level questions submitted by the audience. Based on these questions and the comments in the post-webcast survey, this topic was spot on for our section.

HOW TO CONTROL YOUR CONTROLS

Wanting to tackle a more technical topic, our second webcast discussed actuarial controls. Held on Dec. 16, 2010, this was truly an all-AoF affair as the three presenters and moderator are all AoF section council members. I had the pleasure of being the first speaker and discussed the definition of a control and the purpose controls serve.

Ashwini Vaidya then discussed why controls are important. Finally, Dave Snell (AoF Council Vice-Chair) addressed how to have effective controls. Following the formal part of the presentation, we had a spirited Q&A session led by the webcast moderator Jennie McGinnis (AoF Council Chair). With 43 sites in attendance, this was another successful webcast!

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2011

For 2011, we are also planning two webcasts, and want to keep one focused on career development, and the other on a technical topic. While still in the preliminary stages (please note that I'm writing this while the Leafs still have a chance to make the playoffs!—or late February for you non-hockey fans), we wanted to share with you our plans for 2011.

Wanting to build off the success of the "Making the Transition" webcast, we are looking at a summer 2011 webcast on how to be an effective boss. In this webcast, we hope to dive into subtopics such as having an impact on your organization, becoming a creative problem solver and what you can do to manage the perception others have of you.

For our second webcast of the year, we are looking at a potential late fall 2011 webcast on behavioral economics. With this webcast, we hope to address methods of predicting human behavior in response to emerging conditions.

Again, please note these may be subject to change. Naturally, if you have any suggestions for topics/speakers, please do not hesitate to let us know; you can reach us at aof@soa.org.

Thank You!

Finally, AoF would like to formally thank the SOA for all their hard work in bringing these webcasts to life. There is a lot of behind the scenes work performed, discussions with the section council on dates/topics, coordinating with speakers, discussions with the vendor, etc. In particular, Amy Wojcik was instrumental in ensuring the success of both of our 2010 webcasts. Thank you for all your help and we look forward to working with you in 2011! ☆