



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

# Actuary of the Future Newsletter

October 2003 – Issue 15

# A Note from the Editor... Explore All the Possibilities

by Kristine M. Henderson

**T**he career opportunities of an *individual actuary* are dependent upon the skills he or she has obtained, how well they are applied and how they grow over time. So if you're already an actuary, you have developed your skill level and ability to apply those skills through your actuarial upbringing. Your professional future is now dependent upon you. In contrast, the survival of the *actuarial profession* is dependent upon the perceived value of actuaries as a group to business leaders, and whether those business leaders believe that the current state of actuarial training (exam and experience-based) will produce professionals with skills as valuable as those who currently serve their firms.

By expanding into some nontraditional areas over the past several years, I'm certain that I have enhanced my career potential as an individual. However, working outside core actuarial responsibilities, I may not have noticed the need for, or been active enough in, defending the core role of actuaries within my organization. I have only recently realized that I need to spend time and energy not only on my own career, but on enhancing the perception and understanding of core actuarial work and skills within my organization.

If you are working in an organization that employs enough actuaries to have an actuarial program, what is your program working towards? Is it only about exam support and salary studies? Is it

about developing the careers of individual actuaries? Is it about defending the core responsibilities of actuaries? What can you do to ensure that it is about all of these things?

This issue of our newsletter includes a balance of defending the core and creating the future for actuaries. Adrian Pask deals with a perennial issue for actuaries—communication, which when well done, can enhance the perception of actuaries throughout the organization, whether in core roles or nontraditional ones. Teresa Winer's article addresses actuarial opportunities in the viatical industry—what is more core to an actuary's work than the life contingencies underlying this industry? James Lam, a non-actuary, considers an arena actuaries are well suited to enter—risk management. Finally, Sudha Shenoy's article provides good career advice for actuaries.

Take note of all of the possibilities to enhance the reputation and role of the actuary—internal and external, traditional and nontraditional. And then choose how you will act to make a difference. 🚶



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## ACTUARY OF THE FUTURE

Issue Number 15 • October 2003  
Published by the Actuary of the  
Future Section Council of  
the Society of Actuaries  
475 N. Martingale Road, Suite 600  
Schaumburg, IL 60173-2226

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This newsletter is free to section members. A subscription is \$20.00 for nonmembers. Current-year issues are available from the Communications Department. Back issues of section newsletters have been placed in the SOA library and on the SOA Web site: ([www.soa.org](http://www.soa.org)). Photocopies of back issues may be requested for a nominal fee.

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