



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# Actuary of the Future

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# Interview with Tonya Manning

By Efre Epstein

**O**n January 17, Tonya Manning, FSA, and chief actuary of AON Consulting appeared on a four-minute segment on CNN. However, on this night she was not being peppered with questions about pensions, personal finance or the economy. Instead, her interviewer was comedian/actor/entertainer D.L. Hughley. Intrigued and curious that the job of an actuary had ranked among the top three 'recession-proof' careers, the host of the eponymous comedy/news program *D.L. Hughley Breaks the News* had invited Ms. Manning to give further insight about the profession.

Ms. Manning was tested from the start as Hughley facetiously inquired, "Let me get right to it ... what the h\*ll is an actuary?"

But Ms. Manning held her own while offering up household names such as Jack Nicholson (who portrayed an actuary in *About Schmidt*) and Milton Friedman (who sat for multiple SOA exams). Later in the interview, she took on Mr. Hughley at his own game by telling her favorite actuarial joke.

**Q:** What's the difference between an extroverted actuary and an introverted actuary?

**A:** The extroverted actuary is going to look at your shoes AND their shoes when they're talking to you.

Judging by the e-mails she received, it is obvious that many an actuary enjoyed watching Ms. Manning show the world that FSAs can have a lighter side, and by the end of the segment it seemed that she may have won our profession a new admirer in Hughley. "I'm going home to rent *About Schmidt*, I promise you," he said. No word as to whether he has applied to be the SOA's new celebrity spokesperson ☆



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## Call for Speakers/Ideas: The 2010 SOA Spring Meeting—Actuary of the Future Sessions

**T**he 2010 SOA Life and Health Spring Meetings will be held in May and June 2010. We will be starting our planning for AOF sessions soon. If you have ideas about topics of the sessions you would like AOF to sponsor, or are interested in speaking on certain topics, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Mark Yu, [Mark\\_Yu@SwissRe.com](mailto:Mark_Yu@SwissRe.com).