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Chairperson's Corner: 2017 Wrap-Up

By Bin Fang

The only thing that is constant is change.

—Heraclitus

As we wrap up 2017, the United States continues to see turmoil and uncertainty in government, North Korea may have acquired the missile technology to put the continental United States within range, terrorist attacks are still in the headlines and robots are starting to create their own languages. The questions for the actuarial profession are: Are we well prepared for the perpetual changes in our society? Are we ready to adapt new technologies and help others to mitigate various risks?

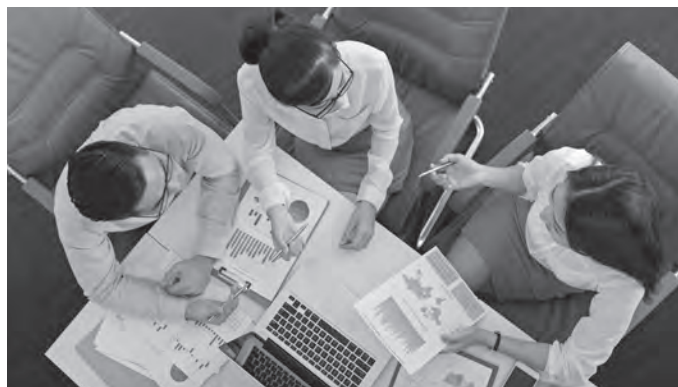
In the past year, the Actuary of Future (AOF) Section has focused on several key strategic initiatives, including strengthening our alliance with the Society of Actuaries (SOA) Candidate Connect program, supporting university conferences, presenting fresh topics at the SOA meetings and conducting many other activities.

SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES CANDIDATE CONNECT

We are very excited about this partnership. In November 2016, I was honored to present at the Candidate Connect event in Hartford, Connecticut, to more than 100 aspiring actuaries. Later in 2016, I made another presentation at the University of Houston actuarial club with the spirit of engaging local candidates in the greater Houston area, and we are currently planning to visit the group again later this year. In October 2017, I presented at the Candidate Connect event in conjunction with the SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit in Boston. I foresee great outcomes from this partnership in coming years.

UNIVERSITY CONFERENCES

In 2017 we kept our momentum strong. Council member Melissa Carruthers presented at the annual California Actuarial Student Summit in early 2017. In April, Melissa coordinated the AOF visit to the Columbia Actuarial Science spring end-of-semester event. If you want to know more about campus outreach, simply reach out to any council member.



SOA MEETINGS

In 2017 we made very informative presentations at various SOA meetings. Council members Laura Wiland and Dave Snell presented at the Women's Leadership Forum at the Health Meeting. Dave also presented at the Predictive Analytics Symposium with our partners in the Technology Section. Laura Wiland and Derek Ray presented at the SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit and cohosted a breakfast session. Continue to look for sessions hosted by the AOF at future SOA meetings.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The AOF section has continued a series of podcasts in 2017. The latest ones are by Melissa Caruthers and me. On behalf of the council, I want to extend my appreciation to our Section interns Mindy Lin and Edmond Eberle for all of their hard work.

The 2017 Actuarial Speculative Fiction Contest ended with a few highlights. AOF sponsored the contest with our partners in the Technology Section and Predictive Analytics and Futurism Section, and it helped to select the winner for the story with the Most Creative Actuarial Career of the Future among 24 entries. For those who are new to the event, the contest allowed a peek at the future of actuarial science, changes expected by other actuaries, plus general futuristic ideas and actuarial dreams shared by the most creative actuarial minds in the world!

In closing, I invite you to attend the upcoming events and mingle with our council members and friends. You may find useful information by visiting the Actuary of the Future Section online: <https://www.soa.org/sections/actuary-of-future/aof-landing/>. ■



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