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Chairperson's Corner

By Emily Hsu

The Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang made history in many ways—geopolitics, technology, weather, diversity and the many records set by veterans, rising stars and newcomers alike. Nations around the world set aside their differences to cheer for the athletes and witness their journeys to the games.

Days before the 2018 Olympics were set to begin, the Actuary of the Future (AOF) Section Council braved one of Chicago's winter storms and held a daylong meeting at the Society of Actuaries (SOA) main office. The purpose of the meeting was to answer two questions: (1) who are our members and target audience? and (2) how can we be of value to them? Many ideas were discussed, and the council is committed to bringing these ideas to life in the coming months.

Many parallels can be drawn between the Olympics and the actuarial world. Uncertainties abound due to ever-evolving regional and universal legislation. FinTech and InsurTech disrupt the workings of the financial field and beyond. Unpredictable changes in climate, diseases and medical advances continue to occur. Professionals in similar/newer fields with specialized skills in data analytics and forecasting are challenging and expanding the traditional role of actuaries in the marketplace. Global mobility promotes more frequent exchanges of knowledge and expertise. All these are factors that currently (and will continue to) affect actuaries regardless of where they are in their careers.

Knowing that risk is opportunity, AOF wants to help actuaries remain relevant and viable throughout their careers. From guiding students and career changers through exams and the job search process, to providing working actuaries with the soft skills and industry know-how to advance their careers, to giving senior managers opportunities to connect with and pass on their experiences to the younger generation, the council has a lot planned. I am excited to be the chairperson of this action-packed year. Luckily, we are not alone on this mission. The AOF will leverage many existing relationships and build new ones with like-minded groups to bring you content that is aligned



with our goal. Keep an eye out for updates on our webpage, look for AOF sessions at various SOA meetings and make sure you have signed up for our emails!

What would you like to see from the AOF? How does our goal resonate with you? If you have any feedback or ideas, or if you would like to volunteer in any capacity, we want to hear from you!

Becoming and being an actuary is not a one-time accomplishment; it is part of a career-long journey with many big moments. Let AOF be your coach on that journey and keep you in medal contention for those big moments. ■



Emily Hsu, ASA, CERA, ACIA, is a senior actuarial analyst at Sun Life Financial. She can be reached at Emily.Hsu@sunlife.com.