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Incoming Chairperson's Message

By Bin Fang

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve our members as the chairperson of the Actuary of the Future (AOF) Section Council for 2017. In the past year, we had a fantastic group of council members, friends of the section, board partners and Society of Actuaries (SOA) staff working seamlessly together. On behalf of the entire section membership, I wish to especially thank our outgoing council members, Woolford London (past chairperson) and Dave Snell (tireless technology evangelist), for their hard work and dedication. They have volunteered their time and been instrumental in delivering outstanding value to our members, and we cannot thank them enough!

For 2017, Paul Andrejko will serve as our vice chairperson. We've also welcomed our newly elected section council members, Emily Hsu, Xiaochuan (Mark) Li, Derek Ray and Laura Wiland.

The existing relationship and network built with other SOA sections, college actuarial programs and employers are invaluable assets, and this council will continue building the momentum on innovation and career development, including identifying current actuarial employment trends and new opportunities in the actuarial field, developing business and leadership skills required to succeed in the actuarial profession, and coaching networking and professional development skills.

Our mission is to "identify and promote new opportunities, skills and new ways of thinking to help actuaries excel on their career journeys." In support of this mission, we have a variety of initiatives under way, including the following: We will plan series sessions at the SOA meetings and actuarial conferences, and we will reach out to potential students with an expanded list of college actuarial study programs. Stay tuned!

SECTION COUNCIL INFORMATION

Our council members have traveled west and east and put great effort into campus presentations at various universities since 2015. In September, Paul Andrejko, Melissa Carruthers and Woolford London visited Columbia University and had a successful event with the local students. In October, Andrew Bourge gave a keynote address at the Roosevelt University Career Fair related to the future of actuarial science. We will announce additional stops in the near future.

SOA is partnering with the Actuaries' Club of Hartford & Springfield to host the SOA Candidate Connect event in Hartford, Conn., on Nov. 11. The event is tailored for pre-ASA actuarial candidates and students, providing them with information, inspiration and networking opportunities. I have volunteered to host the session. Please stop by for a "meet and greet" if you are in the area.

Social media has created new ways of communicating and sharing information with others. As you may know, the AOF Section is on LinkedIn! We have more than 100 members and are growing. Whether you are a recent graduate looking for career direction or a seasoned actuarial professional expanding your career trajectory, there will be someone to mingle with. In addition, AOF podcasts are coming, and our members will be first in line.

In closing, I encourage all members to continue to support our work; through emails or direct calls, please contact us with any suggestions or ideas you may have. Some of you have already shared excellent ideas or suggested specific tasks, and some have inquired about participating on a more regular basis as a friend of our section or potential council member. We look forward to your continued support and involvement with our section throughout this year and into the future! ■



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