



Article from

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Chairperson's Corner

By Woolford London

"The future's so bright, I gotta wear shades."

—Timbuk 3

As we wrap up 2016, the United States has a new president, Britain has left the European Union and cars are starting to drive themselves. Evidence of risk continues to surround us and to highlight the importance of the actuarial profession in these uncertain times. The question facing the Actuary of the Future (AOF) Section exists in perpetuity: "What are we doing for our section and the profession? And are we discussing the things that will move our profession forward in this day and age?"

During the past year, the Actuary of the Future Section has made a concerted effort to extend goodwill toward rising actuarial students, with the goal of helping them to secure their place in our important industry. In the spirit of moving the section forward, here is a sample of the activities we engaged in over the past year.

SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES (SOA) CANDIDATE CONNECT

We caught wind of the SOA's Candidate Connect late in 2015, understanding that both our groups share many of the same goals. Leveraging the membership of both groups, we're able to get pertinent information to a larger group of actuarial students than ever before! We're very excited about this partnership. During 2016, AOF council member Andrew Bourg presented at a Candidate Connect event in Chicago, and we're currently negotiating to present at a separate event in Hartford. The webcast "How Do I Get a Job?" based on the AOF presentation at the 2016 Health Meeting, was very well received by Candidate Connect members. Possibilities for this partnership are endless.

UNIVERSITY CONFERENCES

We ended 2015 participating in an actuarial conference on the west coast of the United States. During 2016, we kept the ball rolling by participating in an actuarial conference on the east coast of Canada. AOF council member Emily Hsu and past

chairperson Ben Keslowitz represented the section at St. Francis Xavier University in beautiful Halifax, Nova Scotia. In addition, Emily was also present at the Actuarial Students National Association Convention in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Finally, the section hosted fantastic Q&A sessions with the University of Texas, the University of Georgia, Maryville University, Robert Morris University and Columbia University. If you're reading this and wondering how your university can get in on this action, simply reach out to any AOF council member.

SOA MEETINGS

During 2016, we continued to host valuable and informative presentations at various SOA meetings. Often cohosted with our partners in the Predictive Analytics and Futurism Section or the Technology Section, we covered topics involving Excel expertise, professionalism, programming languages and the aforementioned "How Do I Get a Job?" I'd like to highlight one of the more interesting sessions we hosted at the 2016 Health Meeting, titled "Actuarial Entrepreneur: Pet Health Insurance" (Laura Bennett and Lori Weyuker). This session won the Outstanding Session Award at the meeting and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Continue to look for sessions hosted by the AOF at upcoming SOA meetings.

Finally, the Actuary of the Future Section has launched a series of podcasts, which can be accessed on our section page on the SOA website (www.soa.org/aof/).

While we had to forgo our annual beanbag toss tournament this year, we hope to resurrect the tradition in time for the next SOA Annual Meeting. For those of you who are new to the section, beanbag toss is a fun lawn game that is frequently played at barbecues and during tailgating events—it's a great game that everyone can play! The social aspect of the game provides a great chance to network and learn all about what the AOF Section does and how we influence our profession's future.

Also, look for the return of the Actuarial Speculative Fiction Contest. ■



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