



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Letter from the Editor

by Howard Callif

It's hard to believe this issue completes my first year as editor. There have been many people stepping up and contributing to help make this an informative publication. Thanks to all of the authors! A print edition will be distributed at the annual SOA meeting in October 2008, which will showcase some of the articles published in the last year, in addition to the new content for our October issue. If you are attending the meeting, be sure to come to the section reception (002M) and get information on where you can get a copy. If you are reading the print edition, be sure to visit the SOA Web site to see the other newsletter editions.

Steven Craighead has offered to publish a regular column on the R programming language. This is a popular modeling language, and has been discussed in the education section newsletters. Shyamal Kumar published an article titled, *Using R for Actuarial Science*, some time ago, which is posted in the technology section newsletter link on the SOA Web site (soa.org/news-and-publications/newsletters/technology/compact-tech-section-details.aspx).



Howard Callif is a senior system architect at iPipeline in the Illustrations unit. He can be reached at howard@callif.org.

Matthew Wilson will continue his Cool Tech features, and keep everyone informed on the latest tools and utilities and will give valuable details on how to best use the technology. It would be wonderful to have a column for Excel and VB, as well as any other common technology (such as pricing tools, etc). Please volunteer to share your expertise!

A special thanks to Mary Pat Campbell, who has written many informative articles in the last year. Please consider following her lead, and submit your own article!

Please keep the comments and articles coming! If there are any issues or questions you have, feel free to e-mail me, or seek me out at the SOA meeting by leaving a note on the message board. I'd love to hear any ideas you have! 📧

Howard Callif