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SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Technology
Section

CompAct

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INTRODUCTION TO NEW CO-EDITOR

by Rich Junker

A few short months ago I dipped myself into the Technology Section, seeking to identify a role that would fit my natural bent. Proofreading articles appealed to me, and there was a need. The surging current took over, and before I knew it I found myself in mid-stream, coursing along as new co-editor of the *CompAct* Newsletter! That's the way it is with every volunteer organization, you are leading as soon as you get your bearings.

The latest issue is loaded with introductions to new and powerful tools. I'm astounded at the warp increase to the pace of innovation over the past three or so years. Each of us has a personal history, a peculiar skill, of applying new technology. I was pricing life insurance when the first Lotus software came out, and rode it through the years, automating no end of formerly manual processes. Despite our skill of accommodating change, veteran actuaries need mentors and wizards to help us sift through the incredible mass of new tools and apps, available to us. We also need to unlearn some of the tools that we have relied on in the past.

I am a consulting actuary, with a long-time focus on modeling life and annuity products in direct companies. In that role, I've been blessed to among the first to pioneer the hottest hardware and the most powerful software.

The Technology Section will be an ever more valuable Section for actuaries in coming years. It fulfills practitioners' need to identify new tools rapidly, that improve the quality and productivity of their work output. It's just too much to try to dig it out for yourself, when carrying

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a full workload already. With the continuing education standard now enhanced with the "Attestation of Compliance" requirement in place, your Technology Section stands as a preeminent resource for keeping your skills up-to-date.

When the Internet first emerged 15 years or so as a mainstream phenomenon, it was my golden discovery. I have always loved sharing cool websites and calculation engines with friends and colleagues. To serve as co-editor with Eddie Smith puts me alongside a person of similar temperament. And a person possessed of an amazing knowledge of Web 2.0 in all its manifestations.

We are the few, you the readers, are the many. If our publication is to meet your needs during Eddie's and my stewardship, your contributions will be the rocket fuel that propels the success of the *CompAct* Newsletter.

I look forward to serving you.



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