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INCOMING CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

By Joan Barrett

Before I begin, I want to thank Margie Rosenberg for her great work as council chair last year. Margie has been, and continues to be, a tireless and articulate advocate for the need to "up our game" both in terms of education and research. As a result of her hard work, the Education and Research Section Council has set clear objectives for 2010, shown  [here](#).

While the council is firmly committed to these goals, they are not without their challenges. Our role as a council is to promote ideas and provide information about resources. In a way, our job is to make sure that people are talking to each other about education and research. To some extent, this will be easy. We have this newsletter. And we have newly designed Web pages that we can use to meet our objectives. Both media will give us a leg up, but that is not enough. We will have to find new avenues for outreach and new ways to sell the need to meet our objectives.

So how are we going to do this? First, we are going to reach out to our members in the form of a member survey. Our members clearly care about both education and research, so who better to ask for guidance? We are also going to reach out to others both in the profession and outside the profession. In some cases, this will be one on one outreach based on existing relationships. We will also seek other ways to get input.

What can you do to help? Here are some ideas:

- Volunteer for the Education Committee. Generally speaking, the Education Committee can find an opportunity for you to volunteer even if you only have a few hours a year to devote to the cause. Right now, there is a need for volunteers to write questions for the Financial Economics Models (MFE) exam. To volunteer contact Sarah Phelps at sphelps@soa.org.

Write an article and/or speak at a meeting. Every article published by the SOA provides a form of education and also may suggest an opportunity for research, even if that is not the intended purpose of the article.

- Suggest a research project to your practice council. Our section manages the CKER research budget and sections like the Health Section and the Retirement Section are always looking for good research projects to sponsor. They just need the good idea.
- Speak at a local university. If you have ever been at an actuarial career fair, you have seen first hand the eagerness of the students who not only want a good job, but a good actuarial job. Talking to them about the profession not only helps the students, it helps the profession.
- Help us build our Web presence. We are looking for both ideas about what to include as well as content for the site.

I am looking forward to being your council chair. I know that we can do great things together.



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