



expanding horizons



Share



Print-Friendly
Newsletter



Search
Back issues

Fall 2010, Issue No. 42

IN THIS ISSUE

[Chairperson's Corner](#)

[E&R Section Sponsors](#)

[Statistics Session at SOA](#)

['10 Health Meeting](#)

[Changes Coming to the](#)

[Syllabus for Exam MLC.](#)

[Models for Life](#)

[Contingencies](#)

[14th Annual International](#)

[Congress on Insurance:](#)

[Mathematics and](#)

[Economics](#)

[ARC Graduate Student](#)

[Presentation Awards](#)

[Letters to the Editor](#)

[Faculty Position: University](#)

[of Connecticut](#)

[Faculty Position: Robert](#)

[Morris University](#)

LINKS

CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

By Joan C. Barrett

In this day and age, no profession can remain viable without analytical tools sophisticated enough for today's complexity and simple enough for everyday use. While the actuarial profession has a long and proud history of providing just such tools, in light of recent events like the financial crisis and health care reform, we must rededicate ourselves to that end. To accomplish that, we must strengthen the partnership between practitioners and academia. But how?

We already have a number of sponsored initiatives designed to support the strengthening the academic arm of the profession:

- The SOA directly sponsors research through the Committee on Knowledge Extension Research (CKER), [section-sponsored research](#) and SOA initiatives.
- The SOA has established [Centers of Actuarial Excellence](#) to recognize outstanding programs and support research that expands the boundaries of actuarial research and to identify opportunities for applications.
- The Actuarial Foundation sponsors [scholarships](#) such as the Actuary of Tomorrow - Stuart A. Robertson Memorial Scholarship, the Woody Scholarship and the Actuarial Diversity Scholarship.
- Several SOA sections sponsor the annual [Actuarial Research Conference](#), an internationally recognized conference. The next conference will be held at the University of Connecticut in 2011. For information on past conferences visit.
- The Actuarial Foundation sponsors a number of [research prizes](#) including the Halmstad Prize and the James C. H. Anderson

[Expanding Horizons Home](#)

[Education and Research
Section](#)

[Individual Grants](#)

[SOA Doctoral Stipend](#)

[Contact the Expanding
Horizons Editor](#)

Memorial Prize.

- The SOA [provides support](#) for eligible faculty members and PhD students to attend meetings, to have certain exam fees refunded upon passing and makes grants to schools whose faculty members earn SOA designations.

Although these initiatives are quite impressive, real partnership comes through person-to-person, day-to-day efforts. So what can you do to help? Volunteer.

Some of the key volunteer opportunities include:

- The Education Committee is always looking for volunteers to participate in the curriculum process, writing questions, etc. This is a good way to stay in tune with the process.
- There are always opportunities to speak at either national or local meetings. This is a great way to transfer knowledge and network.
- Each section of the SOA has a newsletter with topics of interest to its members. Although these articles do not go through a rigorous peer-review process, it provides a nice forum for letting others know what you are working on.
- Many committees within the SOA are heavily dependent on academics. For example, the Halmstad Prize Committee is responsible for naming the best paper on actuarial research each year.

To volunteer, simply fill out this [form](#).

Even if you do not have a lot of time, please fill out the form. You never know when an hour or two can make a real difference for a project. More importantly, you never know when a volunteer effort will provide the networking opportunities you need.

Joan C Barrett, FSA, MAAA, is senior actuary at UnitedHealth Group in Hartford, Conn. She can be reached at Joan_C_Barrett@uhc.com.

Actuaries
Risk is Opportunity.®

475 North Martingale Road, Suite 600 Schaumburg, Illinois 60173
Phone: 847.706.3500 Fax: 847.706.3599 www.soa.org