



# expanding horizons



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## CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

By Ron Gebhardtsbauer

I know you are all busy, so I'll keep this article short. First, I must thank Joan Barrett for chairing the Education and Research (E&R) Section Council last year. While we presented her with a plaque at the October SOA meeting in New York City, she's still doing great work for us. Joan just created a survey that we will be sending to you soon, to get your input on what we should be doing for our mission of supporting actuarial education and research. We kept the survey short too.

Second, we are excited to tell you that we awarded the 2013 Actuarial Research Conference (ARC) to Temple University, and formalized our [criteria for hosting future ARC meetings](#) (now up on our website). Please consider holding a future ARC meeting at your school or venue! The 2012 ARC is at University of Manitoba, so Temple nicely continues our tradition of spreading our conferences around the continent.

The upcoming 2011 ARC is at UCONN. We hope to see you all there, and encourage you to make a presentation of your research. As in the past, we are encouraging grad students (our lifeblood for future professors) by providing awards for the best presentations, and travel grants for them to attend the conference. [Details on the awards and travel grants](#) can be found on our website, including (for the first time) our criteria for assessing their presentations.

As you can see, we are putting more of our work on our website, so that you can find out what is going on. If you have any suggested improvements, please email our webmaster, [Jacques Rioux](#).

Third, we created a liaison position to the Preliminary Exams Curriculum Committee, so that we are more involved when the SOA considers changes to exams in the topics we teach in our schools. Gary Parker (of Simon Fraser University outside Vancouver) will be our liaison, and Mark Maxwell

[Conference \(ARC\) for 2014 and Later](#)

[SOA News Today Has a New Look! Improved Navigation!](#)

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(from UT at Austin) will be his backup.

Fourth, we are continuing to encourage research through our funding and work with CKER (the SOA's Committee on Knowledge Extension Research, which funds research, headed up by council friend [Curtis Huntington](#)) and the Halmstad Prize Selection Committee (headed up by council member [Sheldon Lin](#)). If you would like to work with either of these committees, I encourage you to email them. We also encourage continuing education through providing sessions at SOA meetings. Please email [annual meeting](#) rep [Tom Herzog](#); [health meeting](#) reps [Chuck Fuhrer](#) and [Vinny Kane](#); and [life meeting](#) rep [Tom Edwalds](#), if you have any suggestions for meeting topics, particularly if you would like to present.

Lastly, I want to thank all the current members of the council for giving their time every month to spearhead our efforts for you. Without them, nothing would get done. Please feel free to contact us when you think of something you'd like us to do. You can access our names and emails from the list below.

*Ron Gebhardtsbauer, FSA, FCA, MAAA, is the head of the actuarial program at Penn State University. He can be reached at [rug16@psu.edu](mailto:rug16@psu.edu) on any topic having to do with the E&R Section Council.*

The purpose of the E&R Section Council is to

- Facilitate expanding the knowledge base of the actuarial profession
- Promote ties among
  - business actuaries
  - academic actuaries
  - actuarial educators
- Seek ways to support and encourage actuarial education and research.

Education and Research Section Council Members

[Joan Barrett](#), Council Member & Basic Education Liaison, UnitedHealthcare  
[Sarah Christiansen](#), Council Member & Backup Secretary, SMC Actuarial Consultants

[Tom Edwalds](#), Vice Chair & Life/Annuity Symposium Rep, Munich Re  
[Ron Gebhardtsbauer](#), Section Chair, Penn State University

[Tom Herzog](#), Council Member & 2011 Annual Meeting Rep, NAIC

[Sheldon Lin](#), Council Member & Halmstad Committee Chair, University of Toronto

[Kristen Moore](#), Secretary, University of Michigan

[Gary Parker](#), Council Member, Treasurer & Liaison to CKER & Prelim.  
Education Curriculum Committee, Simon Fraser University

[Jacques Rioux](#), Council Member & Webmaster, SAS Institute Inc.

Meg Weber, Staff Partner, Society of Actuaries

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