



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Want to Win an iPad?

By Alan Mills

This issue initiates a new feature: a **forecasting application contest**. The Forecasting and Futurism Section will award a **16GB iPad** to the section member who develops the best actuarial application of a judgmental forecasting method, incorporating best practices outlined in this issue's article titled "Best Practices in Judgmental Forecasting." In addition, we will feature the winning application in an issue of the newsletter.

To enter the contest, apply one or more judgmental forecasting methods to forecast an event or quantity applicable to actuarial work, and write a brief essay describing your method, how you implemented it, its results (if any), and how it compares to prior methods. Send your entry to Christy Cook (at ccook@soa.org) before Dec. 1, 2010. Only members of the Forecasting and Futurism Section are eligible to enter this contest. For contest details, visit the Latest News section of the Forecasting and Futurism Web page: www.soa.org/forecasting-futurism.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

You can be proud of your section council members and friends; they are working hard. Following are some of our current projects:

- **Newsletter.** In 2010, we will publish two newsletters, the one you're reading and another in the fourth quarter. The theme of the fall newsletter will be simulation modeling, with an emphasis on agent-based modeling and complexity science.
- **Forecasting competitions.** In addition to the application contest described above, this year we will also sponsor a major forecasting competition for all actuaries. We will announce the competition at the SOA Annual Meeting in October.
- **Meeting sessions.** This year we are presenting many sessions at actuarial meetings. At the Life and Annuity Spring Meeting, we sponsored two sessions

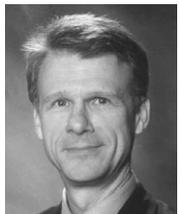
titled, "Predictable or Non-Predictable: Forecasting in the 21st Century" and "Product Development – Can We Admit Our Mistakes?" At the Health Spring Meeting we presented a session titled, "Applications of Complexity Science for Health Actuaries." And we will present two sessions at the SOA Annual Meeting, one titled "Is Prediction Possible?" and another about complexity science.

- **Survey.** We will soon survey you and other actuaries to find out how you use forecasting and futurism methods, and what you would like to learn about such methods. I urge you to provide your feedback; it will benefit all actuaries.
- **Wiki.** We are exploring Wiki technology in order to share information about forecasting and futurism methods with actuaries worldwide. The planned Wiki will provide information about forecasting and futurism tools that are useful for actuaries. It will also have a discussion forum for members.

Even though you have a vigorous section council, **we need your help**. If you would like to participate in any of these activities, or have suggestions about other projects you'd like us to consider, we warmly welcome you and your ideas. Please contact me (at alan.mills@earthlink.net) or any council member. E-mail addresses can be found on the inside front cover of this issue.

We hope you enjoy this issue. (Let us know what you think.) ▼

Alan Mills



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