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Editor's Note

By Carl Hansen

First of all, I am pleased to welcome Alan Cooke to the International News editorial staff. Alan also serves on the International Section Council. Welcome Alan! It is always nice to have willing volunteers.

Depending on when you are reading this, you may still have time to vote in the Society of Actuaries elections. I encourage you to participate in the process, by voting this year, or by running for a position in the future. I will finish my three year term on the International Section Council in October. It has been a good experience, but the time went very fast. During the last few years, I worked with many enthusiastic people with great ideas. The immediate future of the International Section is in good hands. The longer term future depends on a new group of people stepping forward to represent the membership. Please consider being part of that new group of leaders.

In this issue of International News, we feature the first of our articles for the 2009 Country Feature Competition—"A Flourishing Career on the Island of Aphrodite" by Nicholas Kallis and "A Beautiful Opportunity: A Brief Overview of the Brazilian Life and Annuity Market" by Michael Witt. The council was very pleased with the number and the overall quality of articles submitted this year. Look for more entries over the next two or three issues. Congratulations to Nicholas for winning the competition. I hope you will agree that the competition entries are all excellent articles.

One of the fun things about working on International News is the diversity of the articles we publish—by country, by topic, by actuarial discipline, etc. This issue is a good example as we cover a wide variety of topics representing (at least) four continents. We aim to inform our diverse readers of recent international activity, upcoming events, and developing issues in selected countries or regions around the world. Thank you to all of our authors, some who replied on very short notice. International Section members and our other contributors consistently rise to the occasion when asked. □



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