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To join the section, SOA members and non-members can locate a membership form on the International Section Web page at <http://www.soa.org/International/>.

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Editor's Note

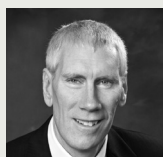
By Carl Hansen

Welcome to the May issue of *International News*. I certainly hope that readers in North America have finally been able to thaw from a winter to remember. As of late March, Washington's famous cherry trees were still sleeping soundly under a blanket of new snow with more northern areas still firmly in winter's icy grip. The "polar vortex's" influence on the United Kingdom was a steady diet of torrential rain and gale force winds from before Christmas through February. Some of the battered coastlines and flooded areas may not recover for some time. I expect that we may be seeing much more interest in climate issues from the actuarial community.

It is the time of the year to think about contributing to the leadership of the International Section and the SOA by standing for election. As the SOA becomes a more internationally diverse organization, it needs more strong voices and experience from outside of North America. Please consider volunteering your time.

This issue of *International News* includes the last two articles from the 2013 Country Feature Article Competition—"Fluctuation Funds In Annuities And Universal Life Products In Argentina" by Fernando Mesquida on page 5 and "Behind the Growth of the Chinese Life Insurance Market" by Sun Feng on page 10. We hope to feature some excellent articles from this year's competition in our next issue.

Also in this issue, we have several other articles of international interest. Three authors give us first hand accounts of recent conferences—the Caribbean Actuarial Association's Annual Meeting in Jamaica in December, the Living to 100 Symposium in Orlando in January, and the Global Conference of Actuaries in Mumbai in February. I hope you enjoy reading this issue! □



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