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New Members of the Council

GRAYDON BENNETT, FSA, FFA

Actuary, Assicurazioni Generali SpA St. Peter Port, Guernsey (Channel Islands), U.K.

Professional Background

I studied actuarial science and pure mathematics at the



University of Western Ontario in Canada before starting my actuarial career in a Canadian pension consultancy. After four years, I took a career break to travel through Europe, to visit friends in East Africa and South Asia, and to indulge in my hobby of mountain climbing.

I qualified as a fellow of the Society of Actuaries and settled in the United Kingdom, making the transition from pensions to insurance, and working for the international division of a large U.K. life insurer where I focused on regulatory financial reporting for Hong Kong, Singapore, and the Isle of Man. This was an eye-opening experience and impressed upon me that what appears to be a highly globalized and homogeneous financial services industry is actually deeply affected by regional particularities and cultural differences.

In early 2013, I moved to Guernsey in the Channel Islands to lead the actuarial reporting team of Generali Worldwide, a subsidiary of the Italian Insurer Assicurazioni Generali, specializing in international offshore employee protection and savings. I am also studying for the degree of Master of Laws with a specialization in insurance law through the University of London.

Society of Actuaries Experience (section and committee memberships and participation)

To date, I have had limited opportunity to volunteer with the Society of Actuaries but hope to provide many years of service in the future.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

I am involved with the activities of my local actuarial

organization, the Channel Islands Actuarial Association and currently sit on the Charity Committee of my church in Guernsey. Previously I was involved in a volunteer project at a primary school in Kenya.

Why are you interested in leading the International Section?

Having lived and worked in three countries, I have formed an appreciation of the international future of actuarial work. I am keen to engage with members of the SOA who work around the world and to further the international objectives and initiatives of the SOA. It is no secret that cultural shifts and a growing middle class in the developing world will increase those regions' need for financial protection systems and it goes without saying that actuaries must be at the forefront of the prudent management of these systems. I believe it is vitally important for security of the global financial system and for the future of the actuarial profession that the SOA be involved.

AWA K. AGUI, FSA, CERA, MAAA

Senior Associate, PricewaterhouseCoopers Chicago, Ill.

Professional Background

After getting my actuarial degree from the University of St Catherine, I spent two and a half years at Towers



Watson working in the pension department. Since 2012, I have been working at PwC in life consulting. I have experience with pension and post retirement welfare plans as well as an array of life insurance and annuities products.

Society of Actuaries Experience (section and committee memberships and participation)

International Section Member

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

- Chair of the High School Outreach for the Chicago Affiliate of the International Association of Black Actuaries
- Institute of Actuaries of Ivory Coast.

Why are you interested in leading the International Section?

I am originally from the Ivory Coast and I want to learn more about the state of the actuarial profession in Africa but also find out ways to help develop the profession there. I think the International Section would be a great opportunity for me to not only meet actuaries who are familiar with the African space but also, get opportunities to learn more about the advances on the ground.

I am also hoping to learn more about the actuarial profession internationally and how things vary from one continent/country to the next.

ATHENA TSOUDEROU, FSA, CERA

Ph.D. in Management Candidate, IE Business School Madrid, Spain

Professional Background

I joined Towers Watson in the United Kingdom as a new graduate and have been a consultant in the retirement line of business for four years. During this time, I worked in the London and Manchester offices and also spent six months on an assignment at the European Valuation



Centre in Lisbon, Portugal. My role involved providing advice and performing valuations and de-risking exercises for the trustees of U.K. pension plans, as well as performing pension plan accounting for U.K. companies. I had many opportunities to give training and presentations to other consultants, a part of my job that I enjoyed a lot and found very rewarding. Following my qualification as an FSA, I decided to focus more on my true passion, which is teaching, and take a different view of actuarial matters through academic research. Hence, in September 2014, I started my Ph.D. in Management, at IE Business School in Madrid, Spain.

Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

I have been a member of the International and Joint Risk Management Sections. Since my qualification as a fellow in March 2014, I am seeking opportunities for volunteering with the SOA, for example organizing and supervising exams sittings in Spain and getting actively involved in the local actuarial community.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

I was a board member of the Actuarial Society of Columbia University during my MS in the actuarial science program and later on a member of the Columbia University Alumni Club of London. I also took part in several volunteering days organized by the Fulbright Association in the United States.

Why are you interested in leading the International Section?

Living and working in Europe, I see the International Section of the SOA as a great way to keep a connection with the members of the SOA and offer back to the wider actuarial community. I hope my experience working in the United Kingdom would prove valuable for the current and future projects on the section council. Furthermore, having committed to a Ph.D. program for the next five years, I believe I would have a lot of flexibility to offer time and effort to the section council. I am confident that the council activities and projects would complement my own academic activities and research and I would take on this role with great enthusiasm.