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Newsletter Editor

Carl Hansen
e: chansen@bwcigroup.com

Assistant Newsletter Editors

Jill Hoffman
e: jhoffman@munichre.com

Alex Slivinski
e: alex.slivinski@towerswatson.com

Vincent Xuan
e: xu.xuan@prudential.com

SOA Staff

Kathryn Baker, Susan Martz,
Staff Editor Section Specialist
e: kbaker@soa.org e: smartz@soa.org

Martha Sikaras, Julissa Sweeney
Staff Partner Graphic Designer
e: msikaras@soa.org e: jsweeney@soa.org

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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

I would like to take this opportunity to promote another Society of Actuaries publication that should be of particular interest to International Section members—the April/May issue of *The Actuary*. It includes a collection of articles with an international theme. Two articles in particular discuss living and working internationally from the perspective of a broad cross section of actuaries. Hopefully, we will see much more international content in all SOA publications in the future.

As you may know, the SOA membership is growing rapidly outside its historical roots in the United States and Canada. The SOA is now a truly global organization with members in more than 60 countries and territories. Members outside the United States may have very different needs. Unfortunately, the leadership of the organization may not fully appreciate this unless members outside the United States express their views on how they can get more value for their membership dues. Also, the SOA needs more leaders from outside the United States, or leaders with international experience. I encourage members with this background to consider standing for election to a section council or to other leadership positions within the organization. A more geographically diverse membership will bring a fresh perspective to the issues facing actuaries, as well as a new set of issues to challenge our traditional thinking.

This issue of *International News* includes a variety of interesting articles on index linked securities, excess mortality for grieving widows, and pensions in Islamic countries. Graydon Bennett gives an overview of the SOA's Ambassador Program on page 13, and we highlight several recent and upcoming international actuarial events.

Since I cannot remember when I started working on *International News*, I think it is time for others to have a chance to influence the publication. Vincent Xuan will be taking over as lead editor for the September issue. Thank you to all of you that have contributed to *International News* during my time as lead editor, especially to Vincent and Jill Hoffman for their efforts over the last few years. Also, thank you to Kathryn Baker at the SOA for her patience as we miss deadlines and make last minute changes. We are always looking for enthusiastic people to help find authors or content for *International News*. Please contact one of the editorial staff or the International Section council if you would like to be more involved. □



Carl Hansen, FSA, FCA, MAAA, is international director at BWC Group in Guernsey in the Channel Islands. He can be reached at chansen@bwcigroup.com.