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Chairperson's Corner

By Graydon Bennett

Tempus fugit! I'll let you in on a little secret: clichés sound less clichéd in Latin. I can hardly believe that this is the last time I will write a “Chairperson's Corner” for you to skim briefly before flicking to the next page.

By the time you read this, SOA elections for 2017 will be over—or nearly. The International Section was fortunate to have seven candidates for the International Section Council, and I encourage all section members to exercise their right to vote, both in this election and in the presidential and board elections.

If you missed the deadline to submit your name for the ballot, if you made it to ballot but were unsuccessful in your candidacy or if you want to get involved with the International Section but don't know how, then look no further than the SOA's *Volunteer Opportunities page* on SOA Engage. There are many ways to contribute to your section and to the SOA as a whole: writing newsletter articles, organizing webinars and seminars, mentoring a new actuary or getting involved in a research project. Professional volunteering gives you a platform to work with brilliant and engaged actuaries around the world whom you might not meet otherwise. I have personally found time spent volunteering to be time well spent.

The SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit is just around the corner and takes place October 15–18. I hope to meet many of you in Boston, a truly international city. The International Section, under the direction of Wendy Kwan and Quintin Li, has

organized a number of sessions from around the world, some of which are co-sponsored with other SOA sections:

- Life Reinsurance in Bermuda
- How Retirement Works Around the World
- Accident & Health Insurance Around the World
- Latin American Update: Insurance & Pension Regulatory Topics
- China Social Health Insurance Programs at 2030
- IAIS Global Insurance Capital Standards Update

We have also organized a jointly sponsored evening networking event with the Investment and the Joint Risk Management sections. Lastly, we will be hosting a hot breakfast where we will be treated to insights from representatives of the China Insurance Regulatory Commission. Don't miss it!

I would be remiss if I did not seize this opportunity to thank publically those actuaries and SOA staff who have made the past year an absolute delight. In particular, my officers have been invaluable in assisting me and the council with leading the section this year: Vincent Xuan (vice-chair), Milanthe Sarukkali (secretary) and Heather Ingram (treasurer). My thanks as well to the rest of the council, friends of the council, ambassadors, and our newsletter team.

I would also like to recognize the tireless “behind-the-scenes” work of SOA staff. Jane Lesch has been a tremendous section specialist, and I have been fortunate to work with Ben Marshall (staff partner) and Ann Henstrand (international director) as well. It has been a wonderful three years on the council.

See you in Boston! ■



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