

**The 34th Actuarial Research Conference -
Building Bridges Between Theory and Practice**

We were delighted to be given the opportunity to organize the 34th Actuarial Research Conference in Des Moines, IA. Many thanks to the organizations who committed both financial and personnel support as well as the many individuals who made the conference a success. In trying to build bridges, we tried a few innovations. Among them were

- Allowing single day registrations so that local practitioners were encouraged to spend a day listening to presentations in their area of interest.
- Scheduling Sunday Seminars to allow for free-form discussions over an extended period of time.
- Scheduling discussion sessions as part of the meeting to allow for more interaction.
- Holding the seminar at a corporate site in order to signal our commitment that this conference was not just for out-of-touch academic types.

We believe that all of these ideas contributed to making this an outstanding conference. Attendees also enjoyed themselves at a minor league baseball game (hearing our section belt out the Canadian National Anthem caused numerous heads to turn in the stands) and at dinner atop Des Moines' tallest building.

We thank the many presenters who were willing to contribute their papers to this proceedings volume and hope you find them to be of value.

Sarah Christiansen, The Principal Financial Group
Stuart Klugman, Drake University
December 22, 1999



34th Actuarial Research Conference--Building Bridges Between Theory & Practice

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Des Moines, IA, USA**

Hosted by:



Drake University and The Principal Financial Group

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