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EDITORIAL

Climbing the education ladder

by Robert Shapiro

Actuarial education is the ladder we've all climbed on our way toward a successful and rewarding career. This ladder, while necessary to reach our goals, sometimes seemed endless, and when we got to the top rung of that ladder, we found out we were not really done. While the conditioning we gained from the effort helped us learn how to digest large quantities of material, much of the practice-specific material became irrelevant in the rapidly changing business environment.

Since 1988, I've been involved in Society efforts to examine how inadequately our actuarial education prepares us for future careers in a broader arena outside our usual range of traditional roles and markets — first, with the Actuary of the Future Task Force, then with the Actuary of the Future Section, and finally, as a member of the Board Task Force on Education. I believed, as did many others, that repairing a few rungs was not enough. Fewer actuaries were now

needed to perform traditional services to traditional clients and employers. The time had come to remove the old ladder and build a new one.

This issue of *The Actuary* gives more details about what is going into the new education and examination system. This new system aims to prepare actuaries to add value, beyond narrow expertise, to a number of business enterprises.

We owe it to those who will be climbing our actuarial education ladder to help the design team construct the most stable, most relevant, yet just as challenging, system possible for future actuaries. One way to help is to participate in the discussion and give us the benefit of your experience. If you haven't filled out the survey in the back of the August "Report to the Membership" book, please take the time to do that now. If you're going to the October annual meeting in Boston, sit in on Session 107. Let's give the profession's future a leg up.

Meeting and seminar calendar

October 13-14	Financial Risk Management: A Case Study The Westin Hotel/Copley Place, Boston
October 15-18	Annual Meeting Marriott Copley Place & The Westin Hotel/Copley Place, Boston
October 23	Stop Loss and Large Claims The Dolphin, Orlando
December 3-5	Critical Issues in Underwriting Pointe Hilton at Squaw Peak, Phoenix
December 7-8	Fair Value of Insurance Liabilities Conference NYU Salomon Center, New York University New York City