



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Student organization young, yet effective

by Curtis E. Huntington

Most practicing actuaries in North America are aware that several actuarial organizations exist. Few actuaries, particularly in the United States, are aware of ANEA/ASNA, which is celebrating its eighth birthday this year. Yet, ANEA/ASNA is an organization that represents an important sector of the profession — our students.

Founded by students at Laval University in Quebec City in 1987, the initials ANEA are French for Association Nationale des Étudiants en Actuariat. In English, it is the Actuarial Students National Association or ASNA. The organization has spread to other colleges and universities in French Canada, then to schools in Ontario. Current plans are to extend membership to other campuses throughout Canada and to establish relationships with U.S. schools offering actuarial science programs.

The Canadian Institute of Actuaries (CIA) has extended significant recognition to ANEA/ASNA. They have invited ANEA/ASNA delegates to attend meetings and special receptions, to have representatives at the head tables of special dinners, and to participate fully in their meetings.

Kevin Reimer, a recent ANEA/ASNA president, is currently serving on the editorial board for *The Future Actuary*, the Society of Actuaries (SOA)/Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS) newsletter for students taking beginning exams.

Besides coordinating information on the usual actuarial club activities on various Canadian campuses, ANEA/ASNA organizes an annual convention, usually held in January. It is entirely organized by students, from making hotel arrangements to arranging for guest speakers.

At the 1995 convention in Montreal, I was invited to discuss the role of the North American Free Trade Agreement on future employment prospects. With a theme of "Aspiring to Become an Actuary," more than 230 students attended formal sessions and enjoyed the camaraderie of students from member schools. The organizing committee's professionalism and the scope and breadth of activities offered to delegates was very impressive.

The January 1996 convention site is the University of Waterloo.

Many activities were tape recorded during the 1995 convention. The resulting promotional videotape, shown at the recent CIA meeting in Vancouver, is available to schools and other organizations interested in the ANEA/ASNA.

university actuarial programs, usually written by a member of the local actuarial student organization. Reflecting the organization's outreach to some of the western provinces, the latest issue contains program descriptions of the University of Calgary; Simon Fraser University, Vancouver; and the University of Manitoba.

In this issue, Reimer described his participation in recent CIA meetings and thanked the CIA for their continued support. He said, "Through this means of communication and understanding, we can learn from each others' organization and better serve the actuarial profession and its students as a whole."

As the Society of Actuaries continues to discuss implications of the recent Education Task Force report,

ANEA ASNA

The organization also prints a magazine twice a year. Reflecting its Canadian origins, all articles are in French and English. The most recent issue, Volume 7, Number 1, contains several interesting articles. Andrea Phelps, FSA, FCIA, wrote an article, "The Fall of Confederation Life and the Impacts on the Industry," and Mary Millard, FSA, FCIA, has one on "Academia and Industry — One Actuary's Perspective." There also is a brief discussion on "The Ontario Conference of Casualty Actuaries" and a longer review on the "CIA Investment Seminar" held last November in Montreal.

A highlight of other recent issues have been profiles of various Canadian

the views and input of students, those most immediately impacted by some of the proposed changes, will be very interesting. ANEA/ASNA provides a formal link to access many of our Canadian students. As the organization continues to expand, hopefully more U.S. schools will participate in its activities.

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