



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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New SOA office in Asia welcomes questions from students and members

by Patrick Cichy

If you are an actuarial student or member residing in Asia, the Society of Actuaries (SOA) is closer than you think. Last year, the SOA launched its new Asia Committee to promote actuarial education in Asia and to strengthen support services to its members in the region. The Asia Committee's mandates are:

- To represent the SOA in promoting actuarial education in Asia
- To provide services to its members in the Asia region in the development of actuarial education, research, and professional support
- To build the image and awareness of the actuarial profession in Asia

Membership in the Asia Committee is open to all SOA members residing or practicing in Asia. Actuarial students residing in Asia will automatically

become general members of the Asia Committee as soon as they achieve the ASA designation. General members are entitled to attend the business meetings of the committee and to join in discussions.

The committee has also opened the SOA's first representative office outside North America. The office, which opened in November 1997, is located at 11/F — Bank of East Asia Building, 10 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong. Patrick Cichy, an SOA staff member from the U.S. office, administers the Hong Kong office. Questions related to the SOA can be directed to Patrick Cichy, Society of Actuaries Representative Office, G.P.O. Box 192, Hong Kong (e-mail: pcichy@soa.org).

Specialty guide on asset/liability management to be issued this summer

A new professional actuarial specialty guide, "Asset/Liability Management," will be distributed this summer to members of the SOA's Investment and Financial Reporting Sections.

The specialty guide was developed by a task force under the auspices of the Finance Practice Area Professional Education and Development Committee. The Asset/Liability Management Specialty Guide Task Force was chaired by Anthony Dardis.

A preliminary draft is posted on the Society's Web site (www.soa.org) under Libraries, then Finance & Investments. When available, the guide can be ordered through the SOA Books Department (phone: 847/706-3526; fax: 847/706-3599; e-mail: bhaynes@soa.org). Refer to AA-1-98. Individual copies are free to

members. A nominal fee is charged for multiple copies.

The SOA periodically prepares professional actuarial specialty guides to offer actuaries the opportunity to become more familiar with specialized practice areas. Each specialty guide focuses on one practice area and includes an overview of the practice area, a description of actuarial roles, and references for major topics within the practice area. A description of each reference is included along with an indication of the knowledge level required for the reference.

Topics of other specialty guides being developed include demutualization and equity-indexed insurance products. In addition, existing guides on Canadian taxation and Canadian financial reporting are being updated.

Fall exam prep seminars announced

Course 150 in Texas
James W. Daniel will conduct an 8-day intensive Course 150 seminar Oct. 3-10, Austin, Texas. The registration deadline is Aug. 21, and enrollment is limited to 15 participants.

More information is available from Dr. Daniel (phone and fax: 512/343-8788).

Courses in Philadelphia
Several intensive review seminars will be offered this fall in Philadelphia.

Temple University Actuarial Institute will sponsor seminars for the following courses: Course 140, Oct. 10-11; Course 150, Oct. 14-18; Course 151, Oct. 9-11; Course 160, Oct. 17-18; Course 210, Sept. 25-27; and Course 220, Oct. 1-4.

Casualty Actuaries of the Mid-Atlantic Region will hold review seminars for Course 100, Oct. 1-4; Course 110, Oct. 1-4; Course 120, Oct. 16-18; and Course 4B, Sept. 17-19.

Details are available from Bonnie Averbach, Program in Actuarial Science, Ritter Annex 475 (004-00), Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122 (phone: 215/204-8153).

Atlanta offerings
Georgia State University will sponsor exam preparation seminars in October for Courses 120, 130, 135, 140, 150, 151, 160, 210, 220, and CAS 4B.

More information is available from Vicki Abrams at Georgia State (404/651-2734).