



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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The SOA's golden year

Celebrating its 50th anniversary meant a wide array of activities for the Society of Actuaries.

A book on the Society's history, *The First 50 Years: Society of Actuaries 1949-1999*, was developed to convey the remarkable accomplishments of the SOA and the people who helped shape its growth and worldwide influence. SOA members James Hickman, emeritus professor and dean, University of Wisconsin School of Business, and Richard Schreitmueller, former SOA board member, were lead reviewers and authors of special sections. Hickman also created a 50-year timeline, which shows actuarial developments juxtaposed with world events, that was inserted in the book and the October issue of the *North American Actuarial Journal*.

Selected actuarial papers that have stood the test of time comprised the *Society of Actuaries 50th Anniversary Monograph*. These papers appeared over the past 50 years in the Society's *Transactions*. Three other monographs presented works chosen by special interest Section councils as representing important actuarial thought in insurance financial reporting, product development, and finance and investment.

The SOA's refereed journal, the *North American Actuarial Journal*, published a special 50th anniversary issue featuring articles on the theme of professionalism and public responsibility. In addition, a series of four articles, "Actuaries in History," extended over each regular issue in 1999, highlighting actuaries' contributions to operations research, credibility theory, and computer science and actuaries' accountability to the public.

The Actuary, the SOA's member newsletter, marked the occasion with a look at the first issue, along with a story about the first editor, Andy

Webster, by 1996-99 Editor Bill Cutlip.

Throughout the year, members and others could view archival items representing the SOA's and the profession's history. A traveling display booth presented these items at the SOA spring meetings and annual meeting.

In honor of the 50th anniversary and the approaching new millennium, the SOA's Futurism Section surveyed its members on 25 questions about the future. Results were heralded in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Best's Review*, and other important news outlets.

A "Happy Birthday, SOA!" card contest offered the next generation of actuaries a chance to get involved. The contest was open to children and grandchildren of SOA members, awarded monthly prizes in three age categories from June through September, and honored a grand prize winner in each category.

Nearly 3,000 registrants and guests gathered to celebrate the SOA's golden year at the 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting in San Francisco, Oct. 17-20.

Presentations by four renowned public figures and a major entertainer were woven throughout the three-day event, which included about 140 continuing education sessions. A gala dinner and a special closing general session, complete with balloon drop, confetti, and a massive birthday cake, helped say "happy birthday" to the SOA in a spectacular way.

Elegant gifts from 25 actuarial organizations congratulated the Society on its 50th year, reminding all involved of the profession's growing globalization.

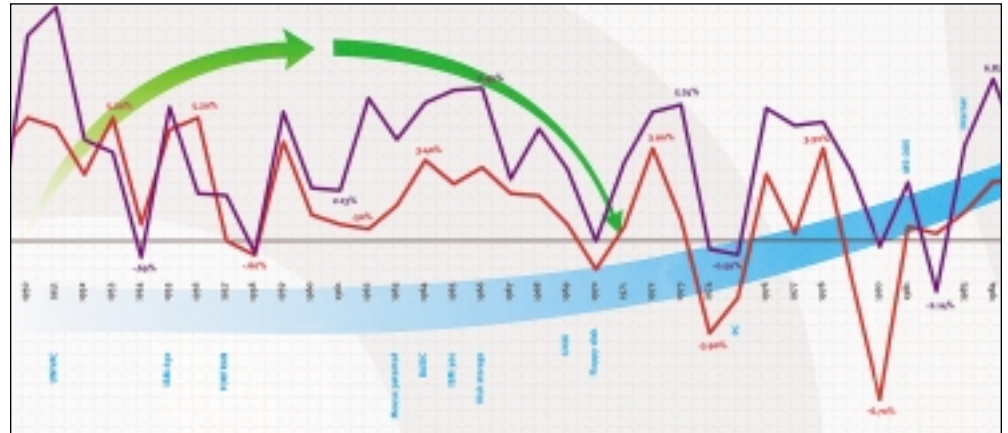
For the first time, a portion of the annual meeting's cost was underwritten by sponsors. Sixty-three organizations contributed \$840,000 toward the event.



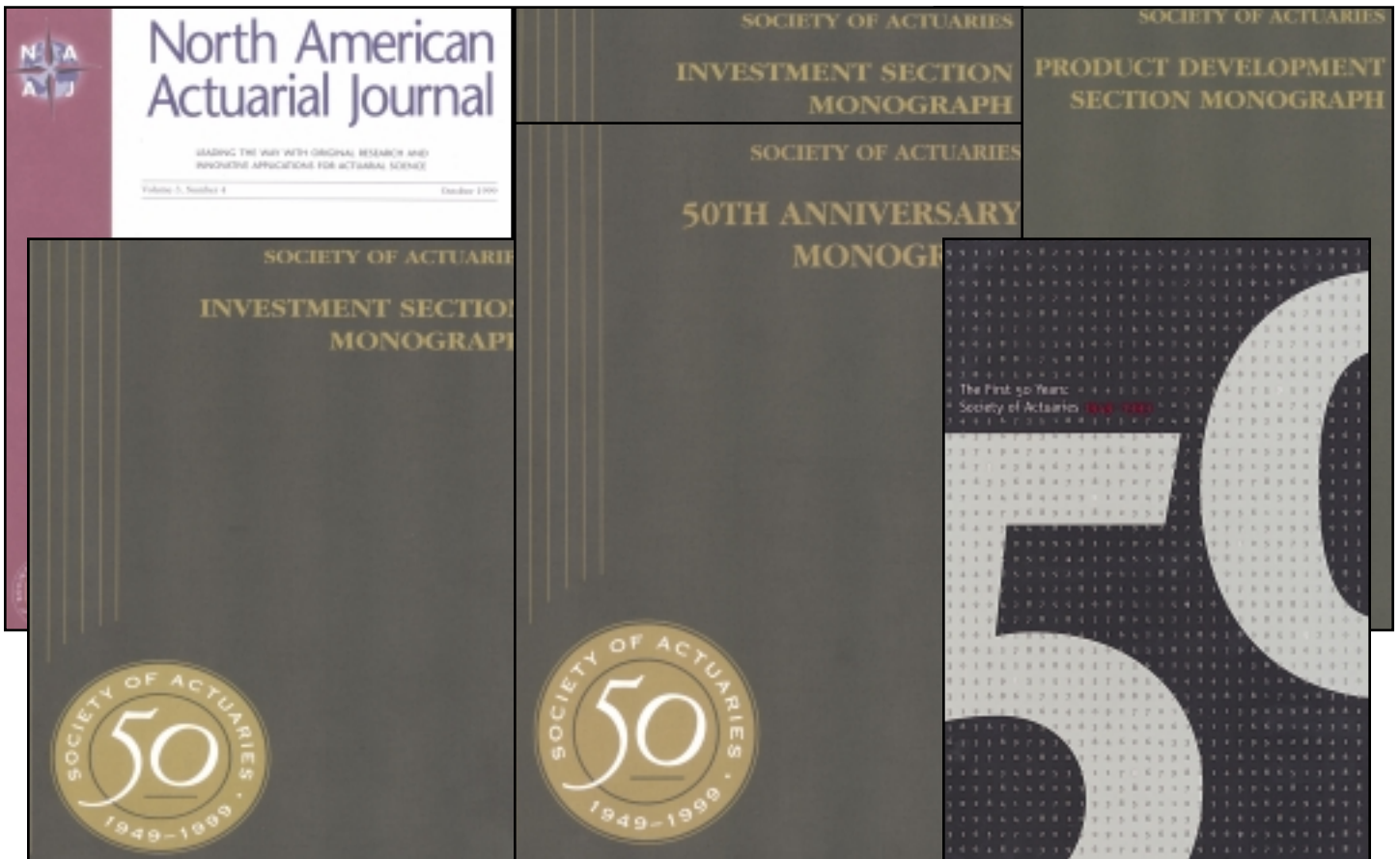
Record-breaking attendance of 3,000 registrants and guests marked the 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting, Oct. 17-20, San Francisco.



A once-in-a-lifetime event



Landmark historical events in science, economics, and politics are shown in tandem with major actuarial events on this timeline created by James Hickman for the new history book, The First 50 Years: Society of Actuaries 1949-1999.



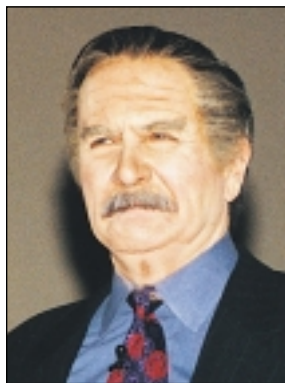
The year-long 50th Anniversary Celebration highlighted the intellectual history of the SOA as well as its organizational development. SOA publications showcased important scientific papers as well as articles on actuaries' contributions to business and society.

SOA's golden year (continued from page 11)

Highlights of the 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting included appearances by major public figures. Keynoters for the Oct. 18 opening general session were former New York Governor Mario Cuomo (left) and former "drug czar" William Bennett (right), shown in an onstage conversation with SOA President Bolnick (center). Cuomo and Bennett looked at the values underlying contemporary beliefs and events.



Left: Closing the meeting at the Oct. 20 general session, former U.S. Army General H. Norman Schwarzkopf reminded the audience that everyone is a leader somewhere in life and that leaders must remember the people they lead, "human beings who have dreams, ambitions, and hopes, just as the leader has." Right: Former UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Stephen Lewis, speaking at the Oct. 19 Presidential Luncheon, urged actuaries to bring their skills and expertise to emerging nations. "If such things were available earlier in countries when they are struggling for viability, then the ... desperate impoverishment that breeds the conflict and the breakdowns might never occur," he said.



Actor Richard Henzel portrayed both Harry Truman (left) and newsman Walter Cronkite (right) in the opening and closing general sessions respectively.

Renowned singer Tony Bennett brought his heart to San Francisco for the Oct. 19 gala dinner.





The “Andrews Sisters” sang the Canadian and U.S. national anthems as well as big-band hits of the ‘40s at the opening general session.

Tony Bennett shown here at the gala.



“Happy Birthday, SOA!” Confetti and balloons fell as a 7-foot-tall birthday cake was rolled onstage at the closing.

SOA's golden year (continued from page 13)



Visitors to the SOA's 50th anniversary exhibit booth got a sense of the organization's founding, development, and future endeavors. Making its way to major SOA meetings in Atlanta, Seattle, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, the exhibit showcased items including TIMS and Bowmar calculators, original artists' sketches of the SOA seal, and pictures of members from the SOA's two incorporating bodies, the Actuarial Society of America and the American Institute of Actuaries.



Won How Lo (right), president, Actuarial Institute of the Republic of China, presents a 50th anniversary gift for the SOA to President Howard Bolnick.

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Looking back

The Actuary's success was forecast in debut issue
 by William C. Cutlip
Editor-in-Chief, The Actuary

In the first issue of *The Actuary* one can see a forecast of the reading material that would be available to the actuary. From 1949 to 1999, the magazine has followed a path of growth and development. The magazine was edited by Howard Bolnick, then by Bill Webster, and now by William C. Cutlip.

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Today's editor remembers the first
 by William C. Cutlip

When I was a young actuary in my first job, I gave a course study. It was a good one, and I had the good fortune to meet several of the people who would become my colleagues. It was a good one, and I had the good fortune to meet several of the people who would become my colleagues.

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Thanks for a great 50th! Click for info

SOA Executive Director Announced

ERNST & YOUNG LLP

FLASH! News Release: Midcourse update from Executive Services. Details

Spring 2000 Catalog

Retirement 2000

Applications for Spring Exams

Application Course 7 Pre-Test

Practical Risk Adjustment for Employers and Payors

New Career Web Site

Happy Birthday, SOA Card Contest

(Left) The Actuary celebrated the SOA's 50th year with a story on the newsletter's growth and an article by 1996-99 Editor Bill Cutlip about the first editor, Andy Webster. (Right) The SOA's Web site (www.soa.org) played an integral role, announcing golden-year activities and hosting anniversary sponsors' banner ads.