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The 52nd Actuarial Research Conference (ARC) and an Invitation to ARC 2018

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The 52nd Actuarial Research Conference (ARC 2017) took place at Georgia State University in Atlanta, with the theme “Actuarial Research at the Crossroads: Transcending Disciplines.” Increasing amounts of data, global trends in climate, interest rates at or below the zero bound, changing regulatory frameworks, and so on, make the actuarial profession evermore challenging. ARC 2017 brought together more than 150 actuarial scholars, practitioners and educators to discuss these challenges and to exchange ideas on the latest development in actuarial research.

The lineup of invited speakers reflects the theme of the conference, and their presentations showcased the relevance of methods beyond the traditional actuarial toolkit for facing the aforementioned challenges. Christian Gollier, Professor of Economics at the Toulouse School of Economics, presented ideas on “Evaluation of Very Long-dated Assets, Interest Rates and Climate Change.” In particular, Christian explained what advanced economic theories have to say about these very topical problems for actuaries. Damir Filipovic, Swissquote Chair in Quantitative Finance and Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne and Senior Chair at the Swiss Finance Institute, described how results on chaos expansions of random variables can be used in implementing the “Replicating Portfolio Approach to Capital Calculation.”



Additionally, Jim Guszczka, Chief Data Scientist of Deloitte, provided his views on “Actuarial Science in the Age of AI.” Jim further discussed the relevance of analytical tools in actuarial science as a panelist in a plenary discussion session. The other panelists were Jed Frees, Hickman-Larson Chair of Actuarial Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Rodrigo Martinez, graduate student at Georgia State University. The discussion benefitted from a very active participation of the audience.



Braithwaite and Society of Actuaries (SOA) Past President Craig Reynolds gave the attendees updates on the latest developments in these actuarial associations.

The conference venue, situated in downtown Atlanta, was close to the three evening social events. The opening reception was held at the Center for Civil and Human Rights, a new museum dedicated to chronicling the civil rights movement. Atlanta was the home of Martin Luther King Jr., and the civil rights struggles in the southern U.S. were headquartered within blocks of the center. Conference attendees toured the facility, which recalls the champions of the civil rights movement and the violent events that occurred during that time. Thursday night's activity was a basketball game played in the GSU Sports Arena, home of the GSU Panthers of the Sun Belt Conference. Though there was no admission charge, the crowd got their money's worth as the teams made up of conference attendees and presenters competed fiercely. The Western Actuaries team edged the Eastern Actuaries team by two baskets and a good time was had by all. A special thanks to Brian Hartman for his help in organizing the event.

In addition to the plenary presentations, we had more than 75 contributed presentations on diverse topics including actuarial education, climate risk, health insurance, agricultural insurance, financial modeling, cyber risk, longevity risk and pensions. Furthermore, Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS) President Nancy





Finally, Friday night's banquet was held in the Atlantic room of the Georgia Aquarium, North America's largest. The aquarium tank has 25-foot whale sharks and rays with 15-foot wingspans, along with the usual compliment of smaller fish. Beluga whales playfully entertained on the other side of the room, making some lasting memories for those who attended.

Bruce Jones' invitation for ARC 2018 at Western University made us all excited for next year. The 53rd Actuarial Research Conference will be hosted by Western University, which is conveniently located in London, Ontario, within driving distance of much of central Canada and the midwestern United States. ARC attendees will experience both the City of London and the Western campus. The conference will kick off on Wednesday, Aug. 8, with an evening reception at Museum London overlooking the Forks of the Thames and the Walter J. Blackburn Memorial Fountain. Also planned are a poster session in the renovated atrium of the Physics and Astronomy Building, one of the original two campus buildings, and a banquet at the University's Great Hall.



The Actuary of the Future Section is honored to be a sponsor of ARC 2018. We invite you to attend ARC 2018 at Western University on August 8–11, 2018, for a stimulating conference and an enjoyable visit to London, Ontario, and the surrounding area!

INFORMATION ON THE HOSTING DEPARTMENTS

The Risk Management and Insurance Department at the Robinson College of Business of GSU is devoted to the study of risk from different angles. One of the inaugural schools to be named a Society of Actuaries Center of Actuarial Excellence, it has undergraduate and graduate programs in actuarial science. The Ph.D. program is supported by the SS Huebner Foundation, which is dedicated to advancing the teachers of risk sciences. The GSU risk management program is ranked #4 by *U.S. News & World Report* and has been ranked within the top 10 for more than 10 years. ARC 2017 was co-sponsored by the GSU Risk Management Foundation with support from the Casualty Actuarial Society, SCOR, Willis Towers Watson, The Principal, Aetna and Lincoln Financial.

Founded in 1878, Western is one of Canada's largest and most research-intensive universities. Actuarial science at Western began in 1922, and is currently housed in the Faculty of Science. The Department of Statistical & Actuarial Sciences offers well-established programs in actuarial science, financial modeling and statistics, as well as recently developed joint programs (with the Department of Computer Science) in data science. Western currently employs six actuarial science faculty members. ■



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