



Article from

Reinsurance Section News

June 2020



The Bulletin Board

Updates on important events related to the Reinsurance Section

By Jing Lang



Reinsurance Section Council Members **Front row left to right:** Jean-Marc Fix, Kyle Bauer, Xueli Zhang, Jim Miles **Back row left to right:** Mike Kaster, Nina Han, Sean Kim, Faisal Haddad

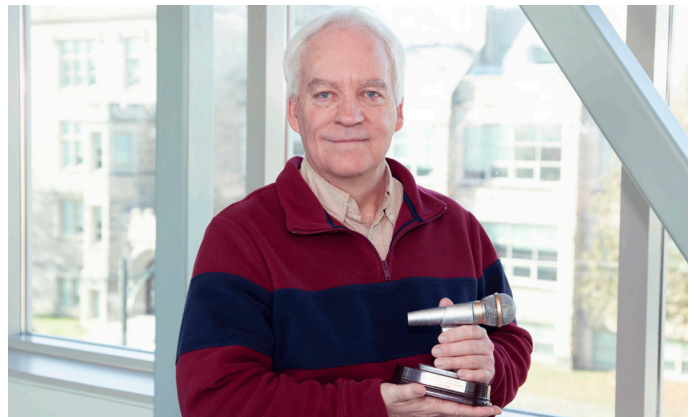
PODCAST UPDATE

A pottery teacher did an experiment. For one semester, she instructed half of her class to focus on making one piece of pottery perfectly, and the students would be graded solely based on the quality of that one piece. The other half of her class was instructed to make as many pieces of pottery as possible; their grades would be based solely on quantity.

At the end of the semester, the teacher brought in outside judges to critique all the pieces of pottery, the judges did not know which half of the class made what. Interestingly, all the pottery of the highest quality came from the students who were graded only on quantity. It turns out the students who had an entire semester to work on one piece of pottery spent too much time theorizing and hypothesizing, while the other half simply got more practice. They got better as a result of making mistakes and learning through trial and error.

I first heard this story during a TED talk by Derek Sivers. I thought it was so inspirational that I started applying it to all my creative endeavors: writings, video productions, podcasts. I gave 100 percent to each one of them. I would not release it unless I was happy with it. But, I also reminded myself I should not sit on a project and just keep on fine tuning until it's "perfect," because that would mean I would never finish. I learn much more from the projects I have completed and applying those learnings to the next project.

With SOA section podcasts, I promised myself that I'll continue to try new things and take creative risks. Heavily influenced by "The Tim Ferriss Show," most of the podcasts that have been recorded are long form interviews. But, there has been experimentation with other formats: 73-questions with a celebrity (featuring Ronald Poon-Affat), TED-style talk (Dr. Anthony Chiarlitti—A Defined Path to Leadership) and a mashup format with five "podcastees" (Meet Five Diverse Actuarial Leaders.)



Steve Kopp with the "Best Podcast" award

There has also been collaboration across sections. In 2019, the "Best Podcast" award that went to Steve Kopp was a joint production between Reinsurance and the Education and Research section. The Reinsurance Section also released a "women leadership" series of three podcasts with the Leadership & Development section (Christine Hofbeck, Tonya Manning and Jennifer Marquino). And most recently, a collaboration with the Health Section on COVID-19 with Dr Garcia Zakzuk was aired.

Since I took on the podcast director role in July 2018, 15 podcasts have been released: three in 2018, five in 2019 and seven for 2020 year to date. And as listeners, you can rest assured that I'll continue to push boundaries and thrive for the highest quality through consistent and relentless practice. ■



Jing Lang, FSA, FCIA, FLMI, is product manager for iptiQ, an insurtech by Swiss Re. She can be contacted at jing_lang@iptiq.com.