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# 2018 SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit

By Carlos Arocha

Nashville is a colorful city and the center for the music industry in the United States. On 14–17 October 2018, it was also the location of the SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit. As has been the case in the past few years, this year’s meeting was attended by more than 2,200 people including many delegates from actuarial associations worldwide.

The Annual Meeting was special in many respects: it took place during the SOA and the Casualty Actuarial Society merging plans. The merger ultimately did not come to fruition, but at the time of the meeting several CAS Board Members delivered enthusiastic messages to the audience. There was a special Q&A session, a sort of townhall gathering, where members of the two Boards shared their views and answered questions under the theme “stronger as one.”

The Annual Meeting was also special because the venue was ideal for networking, casual dining (including top quality spare ribs at Martin’s Bar-B-Que Joint), and the obligatory visit to Broadway, Nashville’s music scene.



At the General Session keynote speaker Tali Sharot, a neuroscientist and author, covered topics ranging from decision making to optimism and emotion. The second keynote speaker of the Annual Meeting, Jennifer Aaker, a psychologist and author, spoke at the Presidential Luncheon. Dr. Aaker discussed “the dragonfly effect,” a topic that she has written about, or quick, effective and powerful ways to use social media to drive impact.

## INFLUENCE TRAINING FOR ACTUARIES SEMINAR

For the second year in a row, a seminar on influencing skills was organized prior to the Annual Meeting. Andrew Sykes, FFA, an actuary and coach, aimed to provide participants with the tools

needed to be highly influential in all settings. The message was to make actuaries’ important work not only understood but also acted upon.

## OUTSTANDING SESSION AWARDS

The following sessions were awarded the “Outstanding Session” recognition:

- 1. The Shape of Water, Genetics, e-Cigarettes and Diabetes (SOA Longevity Advisory Group)**  
Moderator: Al Klein, FSA, MAAA  
Presenters: Ian Duncan, FSA, MAAA; Sam Gutterman, FSA, CERA, FCA, FCAS, HONFIA; Al Klein, FSA, MAAA
- 2. A Matter of Trust: Creating Valuable Relationships (Leadership and Development Section)**  
Moderator: Kelly Hennigan, FSA, CFA  
Presenters: Stephen J. Bochanski, FSA, CERA, MAAA; Kelly Hennigan, FSA, CFA; Gary Pines, FSA; Chad Record
- 3. 2017 CSO Friend or Foe (Product Development Section)**  
Moderator: Curt Clingerman, FSA, MAAA  
Presenters: Anthony V. Ferraro, FSA, MAAA; Stacy Koron, JD; Donna Megregian, FSA, MAAA
- 4. Ethics for the Retirement Actuary (Retirement Section)**  
Moderator: Marcus Robertson, FSA, FCIA  
Presenters: Ben Kirkland, FSA, EA; Eileen Luxton, FSA, FCIA; Marcus Robertson, FSA, FCIA
- 5. A Practical Guide to Machine Learning for Actuaries (Predictive Analytics & Futurism Section)**  
Moderator/Presenter: David M. Liner, FSA, CERA, MAAA





Congrats to the SOA's Outstanding Volunteers. Thank you to all our volunteers.  
<http://ow.ly/wbBC30mfhdw>

## 2018 RECIPIENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Individuals who received this award for their outstanding service contribute to superior performance, have demonstrated team collaboration and effective communication, taken on leadership roles, and served as an inspiration to others. The following individuals were recognized at the Annual Meeting:

- Mark E. Alberts, FSA, MAAA
- Carlos Arocha, FSA
- Ashlee Mouton Borcan, FSA, MAAA
- Steven L. Craighead, ASA, CERA, MAAA
- Robert T. Eaton, FSA, MAAA
- Kelly L. Featherstone, FSA, ACIA
- Shu-Yen Liu, FSA, CERA, MAAA
- Brian E. Pauley, FSA, MAAA
- Kevin J. Pledge, FSA, FIA
- Anna M. Rappaport, FSA, MAAA
- Heather A. Waldron, FSA, MAAA

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The SOA Distinguished Service Award is given to volunteers who have long-term, multifaceted volunteer records with the SOA. Douglas A. French, FSA, FCA, FIAA, MAAA, was recognized at the Annual Meeting.

## PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

The following individuals were recognized at the Annual Meeting:

- Hélène Baril, FSA, FCIA
- Brian L. Louth, FSA, FCIA
- Catherine D. Lyn, FSA, FIA
- Timothy L. Rozar, FSA, CERA, MAAA
- Nazir Valani, FSA, FCIA, MAAA

## INTERNATIONAL SECTION SPONSORED SESSIONS AND EVENTS

The International Section organized the following sections and events:

- International Section Hot Breakfast
- Closing the Nat CAT Protection Gap in Latin America
- Migrating Actuarial Skills to Banking Practice
- InsurTech Across the Pacific
- Adaptation of Solvency II to Emerging Markets
- Section Networking Event (cosponsored with the Joint Risk Management Section, the Investment Section, and the Product Development Section)

Nashville was a terrific experience. We hope to have for the 2019 Annual Meeting & Exhibit in Toronto a collection of exciting international topics and rewarding networking events. ■



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