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Chairperson's Corner

By Eileen S. Burns

Welcome to our first digital (and print) newsletter! During our January council call, Beth Bernardi gave us a demonstration of what we could expect on the digital platform. We're all excited for the launch and hope that it enables broader reach of our section's content.

Our 2019 calendar is filling up fast. We hope to announce a couple of webcasts soon; recruitment for meeting sessions is underway; and our two current research initiatives are getting closer to completion: the Delphi study began recruiting participants in December, and the research on validation of predictive models has gotten a first draft to the Project Oversight Group. This latter research is scheduled to be published in the early spring and will be presented at the Life and Annuity Symposium.

We are moving forward with our two member-driven initiatives as well. We've selected GitHub as the platform for the Jupyter Notebook contest, and we will be looking into what education on GitHub we can provide as a resource to the contest participants. Our Hack-a-thon planning team picked the data set that will serve as the basis for the event and will continue coordinating with the planning committee for the Predictive Analytics Symposium.

> ## Last year was the fourth year in a row that we added more than 200 members to our roster.

As part of an effort to raise engagement on our council calls, which are open to both council members and friends of the council, Stuart Klugman, FSA, CERA, SOA sr. staff fellow, Education, joined our January call. Going forward, we'll invite guests to discuss hot topics and ideas for collaboration with other sections. Stuart helped start this effort by sharing details of Society of Actuaries (SOA) educational initiatives in predictive analytics for us to get a better picture of what is being offered, how our members can volunteer to help, and where our section can best add value outside of those offerings. Our next guest on that topic will be Courtney Nashan, SOA director, Employer Relations and Opportunites, who will discuss the SOA's broader initiatives in predictive analytics. Once we have a complete

picture of what's out there, my hope is that we'll be able to use our platforms to share that information with our members via a newsletter article, a spot on our web page, or posts on our LinkedIn page.

Finally, I'd like to welcome all of our new members! Last year was the fourth year in a row that we added more than 200 members to our roster. We hope that all our members enjoy and value what we plan to bring you this year! ■

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