

EDUCATION & RESEARCH

(Vote for up to four candidates)

Didier Serre

Yassir M. Khalid

Jean-Thomas Baillargeon

Russell Jay Hendel

Hal Pedersen

Didier Serre, FSA
Consultant
Analysis Group
Montreal, QC

Professional Background

Didier is a Canadian actuary with six years experience in the actuarial consulting space, primarily focusing on managing risks within healthcare. Didier's mission is to work with passion and impact, by enabling at-risk communities to prosper with financial protection, and helping preserve the well-being of people everywhere. While working towards his actuarial career, Didier also completed in 2015 a Masters in Health Economics from the London School of Economics in the UK.



Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

Project Oversight Group Member of two SOA-sponsored research pieces on health and climate; Co-author of an SOA health research report on alternative payment models for high-cost gene therapies.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

Sitting on the Board of a non-profit cultural center and of the alumni association of my university. Volunteering with the working group on climate change and sustainability of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries (CIA).

Why are you interested in leading this section?

- To give back and learn
- To continue cultivating relationships with academia and provide a path to showcasing research in new, engaging ways
- To help expand the section's traditional boundaries through partnerships



Yassir M. Khalid, ASA
Lecturer (Actuarial & Financial Mathematics)
Qatar University
Doha, Qatar

Professional Background

Yassir M. Khalid is an Associate of the Society of Actuaries. He spent several years working as an actuarial analyst at the National Pensions Fund (Sudan) followed by joining two leading universities in the Gulf Region as an actuarial lecturer. Under his role as the coordinator of the actuarial math program at Qatar University, the program gained the SOA UCAP Recognition (Tier IC) in 2019.



Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

I am currently a member of both the Education & Research and Predictive Analytics & Futurism Sections. I was also an active member of the Modeling and Retirement Sections.

I served as a committee member of the SOA Actuarial Glossary Revisions Committee (2018).

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

- I am well known for volunteering as a local math educator for helping secondary school students gain a deeper understanding of mathematics and its real-life applications.
- My other social volunteering experience includes helping affected families during some serious flood periods.

Why are you interested in leading this section?

I had the chance to teach actuarial science courses to many students in three different countries in the Middle East. This enabled me to understand the various difficulties students face in passing SOA exams and the best practices that can work well based on the student's background and culture.

Having joined this section as a Council Member will enable me to share this knowledge and to represent this region, which in turn proves the strong power of diversity that the SOA has. Further, I will be able to highlight some applied research opportunities to this unique region.

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Jean-Thomas Baillargeon, FSA, CERA, FICA
Ph.D. Student
University Laval
Quebec City, QC

Professional Background

I'm a former life actuary that left the corporate world after 8 years. My mandates in insurance companies were reorganizing people's work to optimize processes. After leaving the financial industry, I've led a division of data products for a marine biology startup where I could spread the love for life contingencies within their new technology.



I'm currently a Ph.D. student, sponsored by the SOA Hickman Scholar program. My current research is done in partnership with the largest Canadian P&C and concerns the exploitation of deep neural networks to enhance the claim process value chain.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

Founding and board member of dotLayer, an NPO responsible for organizing meetups on research in machine learning and data science. Every year, we organize 3-4 meetups and our annual convention in Quebec City. dotLayer also has a blog that serves as an outlet for some applied work done by our academic members.

Why are you interested in leading this section?

I'm interested in sharing my experience in applied research in the industry. My experience working at the boundary of research and application for a few years makes me believe I can help to bridge the various issues that the SOA, the universities and the industry are facing regarding research and publication.

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Russell Jay Hendel, ASA, Ph.D.
Adjunct III Faculty, Department of Mathematics
Towson University
Towson, MD

Professional Background

- Ph.D. Mathematics, A.S.A. SOA, Advanced SAS Certified, Sigma Six Certified
- Faculty member at Towson University, a CAE School
- Have taught the SOA preliminary examination courses
- **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS** (*Innovative teaching methods, used in my courses, and improving on the traditional educational hierarchies*)
- Contribution of many modules for the GOAL Video Series (for Course P and FM) produced by **ACTEX**, 2019-2020
- "Using Pedagogy to Improve Learning and Instruction", **Expanding Horizons**, (59), 2019
- "Leadership for Improving Student Success Through Higher Cognitive Instruction," (Chapter 11, p 230-253), in **Comprehensive Problem-Solving and Skill Development for Next-Generation Leaders**, R. Styron and J. Styron, Editors, IGI Publications, 2017.
- My **FM Lecture Notes**,
<http://www.rashiyomi.com/math/DrHendelsFMLectureNotes.pdf>



Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

- Member, SOA Student Case Study Committee, 2017-Present
- Chair, MLC (Now called LTAM) Actuarial Syllabus Committee; 2013-Summer 2016 (*During my tenure I emphasized the need for coordinating clarity between the syllabus and item writing activities; I believe my efforts contributed to the current setup where the syllabus chair is no longer a separate entity but a vice-chair serving the item-writing committee*)
- Item Writer, Member, Exam MLC Actuarial Committee; SOA; 1995-2013 (*During my tenure I created several internal documents on how to create challenging questions; I have published these ideas in the "publications" listed above and have successfully used them in teaching*)
- Member, End-of-Life actuarial committee, 2011-2012
- Member, Exam MLC Syllabus Committee, SOA; 2010-2011 (*One major contribution during my tenure was eliminating long multiple-line syllabus items by skillful use of cross referencing; this has resulted in more readable syllabi with one line per skill*)
- Member, Fellowship SOA Exam Module Committee on Retiree Benefits (2005-2007)

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

- Associate Editor, *Online Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences*, 2012 - Present
- Reviewer, *Mathematical Reviews*, 2007-Present
- Referee, *Fibonacci Quarterly* (2000-Present)
- Board Member, Coordinator of Judges, and Judge for *The Greater NY High School Math Fair*; 1989-2018

Why are you interested in leading this section?

As described above, I have made numerous contributions to approaches to i) instruction, ii) syllabus construction, iii) assessment and iv) problem writing, as well as contributed to v) creation of educational resources. I seek election to the section council to continue sharing my ideas and contributions and have a wider scope of applicability.

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Hal Pedersen, ASA
Director of the Actuarial Program
University of California Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA

Professional Background

Hal W. Pedersen (ASA, PhD Finance) is Director of the Actuarial Program at the University of California Santa Barbara. He was Managing Director, Risk Solutions with Conning and he is one of the creators of GEMS, Conning's award-winning economic scenario generator. He is a frequent speaker at Society of Actuaries meetings and has more than 20 years academic and industry experience in the application of financial economics to insurance. He is the principal author of the Society of Actuaries "Economic Scenario Generators: A Practical Guide". He was L.A.H. Warren professor of actuarial science at the University of Manitoba from 2003 through 2011 and served on the actuarial faculty at Georgia State University from 1996 through 2001.



Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

- Education & Research Section Council Past Committee member
- Exam M Financial Economics Committee past member
- Contributor to the Society of Actuaries Asset-Liability Management Specialty Guide
- Delphi Approach on Economic Variables – Second Study Committee member
- Project Oversight Group Chairperson for Macroeconomics Based Economic Scenario Generation research project
- Current Investment Section Chairperson

Why are you interested in leading this section?

Throughout my career I have had a passionate interest in the application of finance and investment knowledge to the actuarial profession. The majority of my professional career has focused on the role of education and research in the advancement of the actuarial profession. The provision of first-rate educational content and cogent research is vital in enabling actuaries to retain leadership roles across the gamut of practice areas. The Education and Research Section is at the core of serving these needs. We are now in a time of tremendous opportunity as we decide how to compliment traditional actuarial knowledge with ideas outside classical actuarial education such as data science, artificial intelligence and predictive modeling. I want to share my knowledge, experience and enthusiasm with other Education and Research members as we lead our section in continuing its success in serving our members and the actuarial profession.

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