



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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International Section News

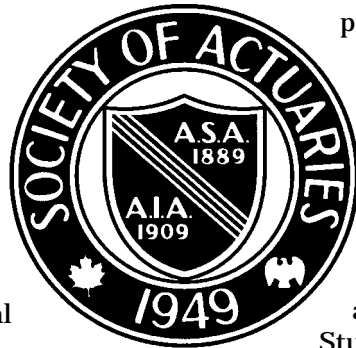
February 2001 – Issue No. 24

SOA Ambassador Update - Winter 2000

by Martha Sikaras, SOA Manager of International Affairs

Your Vote Counts

As proven by recent events in the U.S. and the State of Florida, your participation matters! The Society of Actuaries is in the process of defining its strategy and role, and your opinion will definitely make a difference. When the SOA leadership asks you in your capacity as Ambassador for input, please take the time to contribute. You speak for your constituents overseas and the global interests of the SOA membership at large, so don't cede that voice to others.



Exam Fee Discounts

At its October 15 meeting, the Board of Governors of the Society of Actuaries approved measures, that will provide exam fee discounts to eligible candidates who are permanent residents of qualified countries. Country eligibility is determined by the same formula used to create the list of countries

for the dues subsidy program. This definition requires that a country's per capita income (as reported by the World Bank) be equal or less than one-third of the average of the per capita income of Canada and the United States. The program will be available for candidates wishing to write May 2001 examinations. (See article on page 20 for further information).

Study notes for Courses 1-4 are now available electronically at no cost to candidates. Study notes and textbooks published by the Society, which are on the syllabus, will also be available at reduced prices plus the actual cost of shipping. Approved candidates will receive specially marked exam registration and order forms.

In addition to being permanent residents of qualified countries, candidates cannot be employed by a company which is a subsidiary or owned by an international company. Ambassadors should have also

received the program details via a special e-mail message. All interested parties should watch for information on www.soa.org. The application and other details will be posted by early January 2001.

SOA Office Update

Gena Long has been promoted to Course 7 Manager. She will be working with both SOA staff and volunteers to administer the Course 7 seminars. She can be reached at glong@soa.org. Leah Hardt has joined the staff in the capacity of Executive Coordinator. In that role, she will be responsible for coordinating the travel and presentation schedules of our President and President-Elect. She can be reached at lhardt@soa.org.

Ambassador News

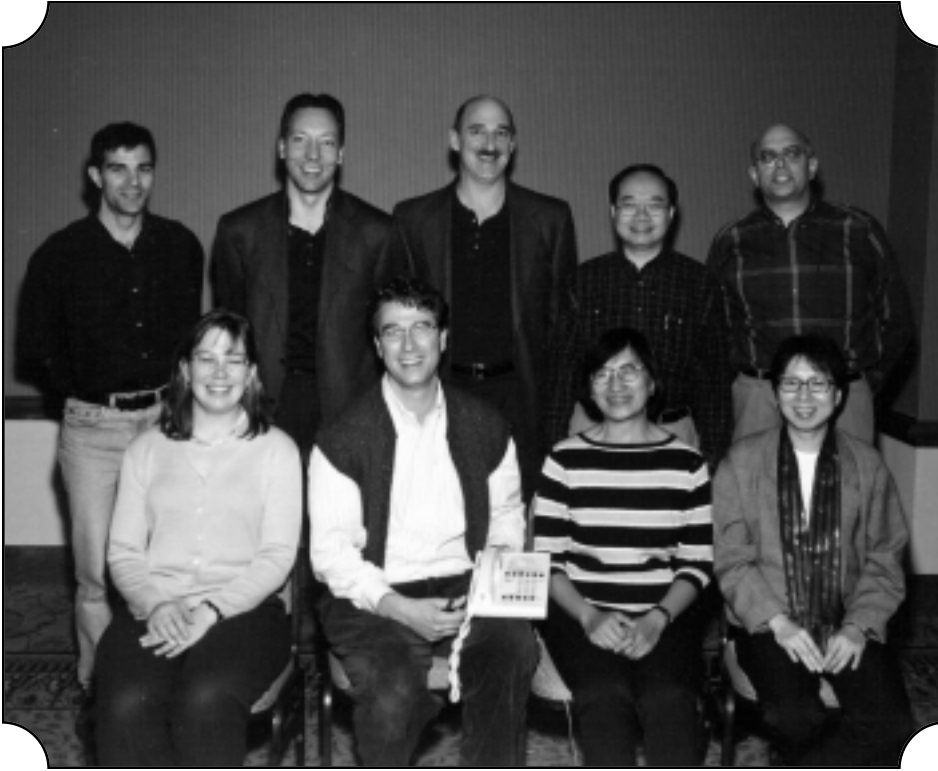
We are pleased to announce the appointment of the following new Ambassadors:

Patricia W.F. Chang, Singapore, PatriciaChangWF@gelife.com.sg;
Paul Hegg, Chile, phegg@bigfoot.com; and
Tauno Jaekel, Germany, tauno_jaekel@bayerischerueck.com.

Also, Jorge Noronha has moved into the role of Regional Coordinator for Latin America, a role previously held by Jim Toole. Hans Wagner has assumed leadership of the Regional Coordinators.

As a reminder, the listserve for the Ambassadors is not just for the SOA to contact you. You may use the e-mail address to contact and initiate discussion with your fellow Ambassadors. This address is: ambassadors@list.soa.org.

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*"Old and new" International Section Council members taking time out during the busy Annual Meeting in Chicago to pose for the camera — **Standing 1 to r:** Mike Gabon, Hubert Mueller, Josh Bank, August Chow, and Randy Makin (editor).*

***Sitting 1 to r:** Lisa Kuklinski-Ramirez, Jim Toole (2000-01 chairperson), Angelica Michail (1999-2000 chairperson), and Shumei Kuo.*

***Participating by phone:** Jorge Noronha and Hans Wagner.*

We also have several new country Web pages available at www.soa.org/links/cwp.html. Argentina and Germany are among the new additions. If you have not yet created a country Web page, you are strongly encouraged to do so.

A questionnaire provided by the SOA makes the process easy and fun. Be sure to contact the SOA to obtain your Web page package.

Each Ambassador should have also received a message from Martha Sikaras. Your response verifying contact information will help to maintain the most accurate listing of Ambassadors and Ambassador related activities.

Annual Meeting

The Society of Actuaries held its Annual Meeting on October 15-18,

2000 in Chicago. Ambassadors who attended were treated to wonderfully warm and unseasonal fall weather. On Tuesday, the International Section sponsored a reception at the Chicago Cultural Center. The annual International Section breakfast was held on Wednesday. That day, Section members and ambassadors mingled and shared information on current events in their home countries.

Puebla Conference

The first event sponsored by the SOA Latin America Committee was a huge success. Over 40 students participated in an exam skills and Course 1 preparation seminar led by former SOA staff member, Warren Luckner. The program, which took

over 2½ days, preceded the Annual Actuarial Student conference in Puebla, Mexico. This year's conference drew record numbers. Over 300 students attended the opening night's roundtable discussion with representatives from the SOA, (Rob Brown), CIA, (Harry Panjer), and other organizations. The committee hopes to sponsor a similar seminar in spring 2001.

Presidential Trips Abroad

SOA President Rob Brown has begun his busy presidential tenure with several trips. In January 2001, he will be traveling to Taipei and Kuala Lumpur. Our Ambassador contacts have been most helpful in arranging his itinerary. If you are aware of an event in your country that might be of interest to President Brown, please forward the details to Martha Sikaras or Leah Hardt at the SOA.

Changes to the SOA Professional Development Requirement

As part of the continuing effort to help SOA candidates abroad fulfill their PD requirements for Fellowship, the SOA has revised a component of the program. Candidates may now use professionally audiotaped, or videotaped, and/or Internet programs up to a maximum of 15 units per plan. These programs must be sponsored by the SOA or other recognized actuarial organizations — CAS, CIA, CCA, ASPA, and the AAA. For more details, please refer to the SOA Web site: www.soa.org.

Martha Sikaras is the Manager of International Affairs for the Society of Actuaries in Schaumburg, IL. She can be reached at msikaras@soa.org.