



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Editor's Note

by Randy Makin

So many of us look back at this last year with pensiveness. For those of us who are older we can still tell exactly where we were when we heard that John F. Kennedy was shot. Now all of us will be able to recall where we were when we first heard about the WTC bombing. After the bombing, I looked back at my Editor's Note and Jim Toole's Chairperson's Corner in the previous newsletter and compared the tones. Mine was written September 10th; Jim's, September 12th. One has a tone of

whimsy, the other, one of searching, questioning.

Jim's was not the only article with such a tone. Our lead article is by Dr. Robyn Stone, Executive Director of the Institute for the Future of Aging Services, AAHSA, on the global challenges of aging populations. Dr. Stone had this article almost ready for the previous *ISN*, but then an airplane crashed into the Pentagon close by the AAHSA offices, and life was disrupted, to say the least. But we may now present a very informative document on a situation affecting all of us around the world.

We also have a comprehensive update on the Korean Life Insurance Market by authors Chi



Hong An and Laird Zacheis. While we are in Asia, Martha Sikaras provides us with a look at Hong Kong and the East Asian Actuarial Conference. Martha has also written on the International Section Breakfast at the New Orleans SOA Annual Meeting.

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Jim Toole has details on the SOA Table Manager, which literally provides global data at our fingertips. He also was kind enough to provide write-ups on the International Financial Reporting Seminar and the Course One Seminar in Mexico City. Mike Enright, likewise, has further information on the Clearinghouse Scholarship Program.

We also have one more reminder to our readers about ICA 2002 and the parallel International Health Seminar in Cancun, Mexico. Where

else can you go and see international friends, become better informed, and get a tan at the same time? Okay, so I don't tan well, but I'm still looking forward to it. We also have a copy of the most recent ISC minutes.

And we have the Chairperson's Corner. Did you think I'd forgotten, Lisa? Even though this corner received lower marks for information (see, the rest of you should have taken the survey), it is what imparts an overall vision for our section—no mean feat indeed. Be

sure to stay involved with your Chairperson and all your council members, so that they can continue to make this section as useful as possible to you, our readers.

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Chairperson's Corner continued from page 1

who responded. Your comments will help to set the International Section's agenda for 2002. Mike Gabon's wrap-up of the survey results can be found in the October 2001 newsletter.

One of the resounding responses we heard from you was the importance of this Newsletter. This is thanks, in no small part, to the

our costs a bit, but I know many of us are more likely to read something that's in a handy hard copy that we can take with us.

That said, one of our plans for 2002 is to build up the International Section's Web site. I'd like to welcome Marc Slutzky, who has bravely volunteered to be our Web Liaison. The Web should be another

Study and the International Financial Reporting Seminar. The survey gave us some guidance on future seminar topics that would be of interest and value.

Given that another of your candid responses from the survey was that the Chairperson's Corner was ranked as one of the "less important" features (no offense taken!), I will keep this one short and let this edition's crop of great articles speak for themselves.

Looking forward to 2002!

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"The newsletter is one of the main ways members in international locales keep in contact with the Section."

efforts of our editor, Randy Makin. The newsletter is one of the main ways members in international locales keep in contact with the Section. We continue our commitment to having three action-packed newsletters each year, distributed via good old-fashioned snail mail. E-mailing the newsletters would cut

great way for our far-flung membership to stay in contact. If you have any ideas on content for our Web site, please contact Marc.

We also plan to continue sponsoring seminars in 2002. Last year was a banner year, with not one but two successful seminars—the International Start-Up Seminar/ Case