



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Editor's Note

"Stepping Out"

by Randy Makin

You never know exactly where you will end up. I discovered this truism again yesterday morning as the car in front of me pulled out, not onto the entrance ramp as I expected, but only out of my peripheral line of sight. No one was hurt; there wasn't even a dent, but it was still a shock. In Tolkien's book *The Fellowship of the Ring*, the hobbit Frodo quotes his uncle Bilbo as saying, "It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out of your door....You step into the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there is no knowing where you might be swept off to."

Shumei Kuo has put together two collections of stories, one about current International Section Council members, and one on volunteers from the section, illustrating the wonderful and varied ways in which we have become involved in the section, or in international work, or in giving back to our communities. There is also an additional pair of articles, drawn from *The Royal Gazette* of Bermuda on Mike Gabon's volunteer work. It should be noted that we could only print some

of the stories that many of you have in this regard. I encourage the reader to find a place to relax, take out this newsletter, and enjoy reading about those who have stepped out into the Road, and have been swept off into new and interesting places. Along the same theme of volunteering, Eileen Streu has provided a write-up on the Actuarial Foundation.

Other articles to round out this newsletter include Huynh Thanh Phong's work paper as our newest international ambassador in Vietnam, parts 2 and 3 of David Rosier's *Mysterious East*, and an article on a recent seminar in Kazakhstan by Valentina Isakina. Martha Sikaras has sent an international update from the Society, and there is information on the SOA Annual Meeting Sessions and the Reception at Epcot. Be sure and come to the Reception, meet your International Section representatives and share your ideas or concerns with them. They are here to serve you! And be sure to look both ways when you step out into the Road. □



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Volunteering...

For the actuarial profession, these projects highlight the concern actuaries have about quality education. In each of our ASA projects, actuaries are participating as interested, committed resources who place a variety of highly-honed skills at the service of helping children learn.

For the professional educators, grants have elicited innovative thinking regarding curriculum designs, teaching methodologies and student achievement. Most importantly, students are involved in new opportunities to develop and integrate core life skills such as communication, computation, problem solving and interpersonal skills.

ASA is just one component of the Foundation's many innovative programs designed to help the actuarial profession contribute to society. Like any successful undertaking, its chief strength lies in the

committee volunteers who truly "make it happen."

Mary Anderson, president of the Actuarial Club of Indianapolis, remarked at a past SOA Annual Meeting, "Get your company involved, your actuarial club, your university and call the Foundation. There is no reason actuaries in any city or professional situation should not be part of this great program." □

The Actuarial Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization established in 1994 to help facilitate and broaden the actuarial profession's contribution to society. The Actuarial Foundation is funded through voluntary contributions, principally by the actuarial profession. For more information on our consumer education, and research initiatives or to sign-up as a volunteer mentor for an Advancing Student Achievement program in your area, please contact The Actuarial Foundation at 847-706-3535 or via E-mail at: Programs@ActFnd.org.



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