

EDUCATION & RESEARCH

(Vote for up to four candidates, three 3-year terms and one 2-year term)

Liang (Jason) Hong

Jeffrey Zheng

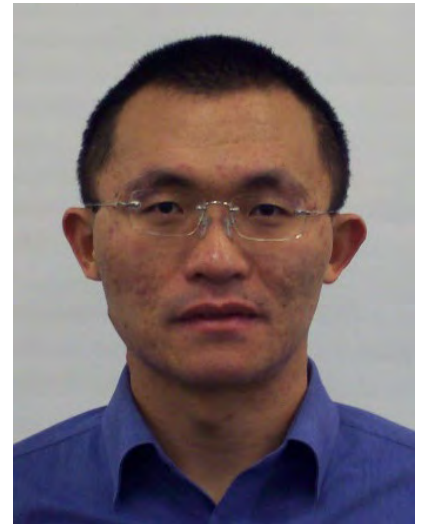
Charles S. Fuhrer

Diana Skrzydlo

Liang (Jason) Hong, FSA, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Mathematics
Robert Morris University
Moon Township, PA

Professional Background

Dr. Hong received a PhD in Mathematics from Purdue University in 2009 and became an FSA in 2011. He has taught a wide range of classes covering most materials in SOA's preliminary exams. He has volunteered for both Society of Actuaries and Casualty Actuaries Society. Regarding scholarship, he has published on leading actuarial science and insurance journals such as Annals of Actuarial Science, European Actuarial Journal, Geneva Papers on Risk and Insurance, North American Actuarial Journal, Scandinavian Actuarial Journal, Variance; he has received grants from Casualty Actuarial Society, Society of Actuaries and State Farm Insurance Company; and he has given research talks at several Center for Actuarial Excellence (CAE) schools including Drake University, Georgia State University, Temple University, University of Waterloo, and University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is also a member of American Risk Insurance Association and a permanent member of Institute of Mathematical Statistics. His personal webpage can be accessed via <https://sites.google.com/a/rmu.edu/lhong/home>



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

CAE Faculty Convocation Planning Committee, 2018-present
Exam IFM (Previously known as MFE) Committee, 2012-present.
Exam QFI Core (Quantitative Finance and Investment Core) Committee, 2013-2016.
Exam QFIA (Quantitative Finance and Investment Advanced) Committee, 2013-2016.
Panelist of "Credibility Analysis: Theory, Practice and Evolution" (joint sponsored by Society of Actuaries and American Statistical Association), 2016 Joint Statistical Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

Casualty Actuarial Society, Exam Committee, 2016-2019.
Mathematical Reviews, American Mathematical Society, 2017-present.

Why are you interested in leading this section?

I have been benefiting from SOA's academic initiatives from the time I was still a graduate student to the present day. There is no better way to thank the SOA than to volunteer my time. In fact, I started volunteering on several SOA's committees right after I became an FSA in 2011. Having been a college professor for 10 years, I think it is a good time for me to involve in and contribute to the E&R Section now.

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Jeffrey Zheng, FSA, FCAS
Assistant Professor of Practice
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA

Professional Background

Jeffrey is an Assistant Professor of Practice in Temple University's Department of Risk, Insurance, and Healthcare Management department. He also serves as Associate Director of the school's Actuarial Science Program, with oversight responsibilities of the Sigma Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma, including career reception planning, networking with industry and attraction of new partners, and promotion of student engagement.

With 5 years of experience in the academic sector, Jeffrey has ample experience in knowledge curation and cultivation, having taught all six SOA preliminary exams from P through SRM. In addition, he has worked extensively on content creation and innovative projects related to these topics. He also built up actuarial programs at Roosevelt University and the University of Notre Dame prior to joining Temple.

Jeffrey worked for 7 years in CNA Insurance prior to joining academia in a wide variety of roles spanning property pricing, weather perils modeling, hospital and physicians pricing, Directors & Officers underwriting, and General Liability, Workers Compensation, Property lines of business reserving.

Jeffrey earned a Master's in Education from Harvard University and a Master's in Accounting from the University of Michigan. He also received a Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Math and Economics from the University of Michigan. He is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society.

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

Member of Section: Education & Research

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

Casualty Actuarial Society Exam Committee Member (2010 – 2014)

Casualty Actuarial Society Case Study Competition Committee Member (2014 – 2017)

Why are you interested in leading this section?

I am running for the Education & Research council because I wish to contribute my joint knowledge from working with the students on preliminary exam topics along with continual input from industry on the types of skills they are seeking from student candidates.

With regards to education, I believe that the exams can continue to be innovated to further align with industry needs, the evolution of the future actuary, as well as providing students opportunities to showcase their understanding in higher Bloom's Taxonomy categories that traditional multiple choice cannot reach.

In addition, I want to help develop educational resources for the under-privileged and underrepresented students to join the actuarial profession, as one frequent hurdle I have noticed in the diversity and inclusion efforts of the SOA relates to a combination of lack of awareness of our industry in certain demographics, paired with a daunting paywall of exam fees, manuals, online prep, etc. in order to have a fighting chance at passing and a career in the profession.

From a research perspective, the SOA has ample opportunities through their RFPs and grants to partner with actuarial research faculty. One opportunity I want to help the SOA explore is further dissemination of the work with other related academic fields and the industry. One oft-missed opportunity in academia is cross-collaboration with other departments and industry partners. To the extent the SOA can help bridge that gap and help connect faculty with corporate research and those in related fields such as economics, that could lead to a significant productivity boost.



As a Fellow in both societies, I am also interested in increasing the joint opportunities for both member education and research, as both organizations can mutually benefit each other and our profession.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Charles S. Fuhrer, FSA, MAAA, FCA
Consulting Actuary
The Segal Company
Clifton, VA

Professional Background

Credentials & Education

- BA - Mathematics - University of Chicago 1971
- Fellow- Society of Actuaries (SOA) – 1977
- Member American Academy of Actuaries – 1979

Employment

- 1973 – current – Health actuarial work for 4 insurance companies and 1 consulting firm (current)

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

Publications & Awards

- “A Practical Approach to Assigning Credibility for Group Medical Insurance Pricing” *Society of Actuaries* 2015
- “Credibility with Incomplete Information in Group Insurance” *ARCH* 1996
- “Modeling Flexible Benefit Selection” *Transactions of the Society of Actuaries (TSA)* – 1992 – with Arnold F. Shapiro – won Society of Actuaries Health Section paper prize
- “Some Applications of Credibility Theory to Group Insurance” *TSA* – 1988
- “A Method for the Calculation of Aggregate Stop-Loss Premiums” *ARCH* 1987 won the first annual *Practitioners Award* sponsored by the *Actuarial Education and Research Fund*.

Professional Positions/Committees

- Co-editor *Actuarial Research Clearing House (ARCH)* – 1982 to current
- Education & Research Section Counsel (Elected) – not sure I think for a total of 10 years? (Counsel Chair for two years)
- Society of Actuaries Annual Meeting Program Committee Member – 2 years
- Society of Actuaries – Part 5 (Risk Theory) Exam Committee (circa 1980-1985) – Vice Chairman 1 year.
- Society of Actuaries Research Project Oversight Subcommittee Member – 2008-2012
- Society of Actuaries Health Meeting Program Committee Member – about 10 years total
- Society of Actuaries Vice Chair Education & Research Committee – 2007
- Society of Actuaries Health Education and Examination Advisory Task Force – 2004 – 2006
- Society of Actuaries Medical Large Claims Experience Committee – 1999-2004
- Society of Actuaries Medical Committee on Health Benefit System Research – 2001 – 2004



Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

Spoke at Actuarial Research Conference and SOA Health Meetings a total of more than 20 times – all on health research topics

Why are you interested in leading this section?

I believe that one of the most important roles of the E & R Section is to facilitate discussion between practitioners and academic actuaries. This allows academic research to be more practical and to address real world problems and allows practitioners to use research results.

In my 46 years in health actuarial work, I have always been very interested in research. I have attended the Actuarial Research Conference 41 times, have been the co-editor of the *Actuarial Research Clearing House (ARCH)* since 1982, and have authored a number of research papers. I am one of only a few practitioners who is involved heavily in research. Consequently, I am well qualified to bring the practitioners point of view into the section council.

Additionally, I have been the E & R Section council's SOA Health Meeting representative for a number of years, both as an elected council member and a friend of the council.

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Diana Skrzydlo, ASA
Continuing Lecturer, MActSc Program Director
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, ON

Professional Background

Diana Skrzydlo has been a Lecturer at the University of Waterloo since 2007, and the Director of the Master of Actuarial Science program since 2019.

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

Diana was on the E&R Section council for a one-year appointment last year and would love to continue with another term. She has been an LTAM grader and is currently on the FAP Enhancement Committee.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

President of an on-campus amateur theatre company.

Why are you interested in leading this section?

Diana is excited to create connections between educational institutions and industry; and improve education by informing it with practice.

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