

The Future of the Actuarial Profession



Why did you become an actuary? According to last month's quick survey, 34 percent of respondents liked the opportunity to solve complex problems, 26 percent wanted to "earn while you learn" and 20 percent liked the profession's career advancement prospects. So, what's attracting future actuaries to the profession and where are they learning about these opportunities?

Earlier this month the University Outreach program was announced. Pairing up with practicing actuaries, the SOA is visiting schools around North America to meet with actuarial science, math, finance and business students, as well as with professors and advisors to talk with them about the profession.

The program started in 2008, and at year's end we had met with almost 950 students and 50 professors or college representatives. A survey conducted following last year's visits showed that 90 percent of students said they were likely or very likely to pursue a career as an actuary as a result of the presentation. In addition, 82 percent of career counselors, advisors or professors said that they were likely or very likely to encourage students to pursue a career as an actuary as a result of the presentation.

This month's *ImageWatch* explores how the profession is laying the groundwork for future generations of actuaries.

Featured Article:

- [Ensuring Growth](#): A letter from the president of the SOA from the April/May edition of *The Actuary* talks about the importance of the University Outreach program.

Featured Web sites:

There are several Web-based resources available to students or young actuaries who want to learn more about the profession, including:

[BeAnActuary.org](#): Designed for students, teachers and parents to get information about the profession. Includes information on the profession, sample exam questions, information on job and scholarship opportunities, and answers to FAQs about the profession.

[RiskIsOpportunity.net](#): Designed specifically for the University Outreach program, to share information with college students who are interested in the profession. Includes facts about the profession, sample exam questions, profiles of actuaries, copies of presentations used for campus visits and links to the latest news about the profession.

[ImageoftheActuary.org](#): Designed for actuaries currently pursuing a career in the profession. Tools include: information about the changing role that actuaries are playing in today's business, tips and resources to help advance your career and videos featuring leading actuaries' thoughts on a variety of topics.

If you know a student or career changer who is interested the profession, consider directing them to one of these sites for more information. Please also be sure to check [RiskIsOpportunity.net](#) to see what schools will be visited next via the University Outreach program!

How Actuaries Have Turned Risk into Opportunity



Did you know? In 1975, The Actuarial Education and Research Fund was created to encourage actuarial research on unsolved problems. For an overview of the projects completed through this fund, click [here](#).

Want to learn more facts about the profession? Visit the interactive [timeline](#) of the profession on [ImageoftheActuary.org](#).

Career Action of the Month



So, what's next for you? Whether you're just considering a career as an actuary or are a seasoned professional, consider doing the following this month to help advance your career.

- **Actuaries in the process of completing exams and those in the first five to six years of their careers:** Seek out a mentor. You can learn a lot from other professionals who have traveled the same path before you.
 - If you already have a mentor, make a point of meeting with them this month to check in, hear what they're working on and discuss any challenges you may be facing with them.
 - If you don't have a mentor, consider asking an actuary you admire if they'd be willing to have an informational meeting with you to talk about their career path and their work.
- **Actuaries who have completed their examinations and have acquired several years of experience:** Work to elevate your profile in the community. Help educate your community about the role of actuaries by exploring opportunities to speak at local clubs and business meetings. Or, think of ways that you can use your skills to help your community. Consider joining a community governance or school board to help them evaluate potential risks involved with decisions they are considering.
- **For actuaries with a long, successful career who are prepared to take on advanced leadership roles within their organization:** Be a mentor. Learn about the challenges facing young professionals and share some of the lessons you've learned by developing a mentoring relationship with an actuary who is just beginning his or her career.
 - If you are already a mentor, make an appointment to meet with your mentee this month.
 - If you are not a mentor, consider becoming one, either through your employer or through the Actuarial Foundation's [Advancing Student Achievement](#) program.

Pioneer - [Claude Lamoureux, FSA, FCIA](#)



"When I became a fellow, the president of the SOA ... gave the commencement speech to new fellows. He said something that I have repeated in front of many audiences: 'When you have to make a decision, always make the one that will let you sleep better, not the one that will let you eat better.'"

Upcoming Opportunities

Interested in advancing your career? Want to learn more about current industry trends? Consider attending these [upcoming conferences, webcasts or meetings](#).

Actuaries in the News

[Emerging risks and personal risk management strategies](#) Mike Boot, FSA, FCA, MAAA, wrote a column for *ProducersWeb.com* highlighting the findings of a recent actuarial survey on emerging risks conducted by the Joint Risk Management Section.

Five retirement tips ... for women only This *Mainstreet.com* story features insight from Anna Rapport, FSA, EA, MAAA.

Centenarians: Sign of growing longevity or just a statistical inevitability? This *Miami Herald.com* story cites www.soa.org in answering the question: “My mother will turn 100 next February, and my neighbor's mother just celebrated her 101st birthday. Are we living longer, or are there just more people to get that old?”

Next Month in ImageWatch: ERM and the emerging leadership roles for actuaries

The next edition of *ImageWatch* will focus on Enterprise Risk Management and the emerging leadership roles for actuaries in this field. Tell us if your company currently has a Chief Risk Officer (CRO), or an actuary in another leadership role that assumes those responsibilities, through our poll feature on www.imageoftheactuary.org, then check out next month's edition for the results.