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SOA Announces Doctoral Stipend Award Recipients

The Society of Actuaries announces this year's five Doctoral Stipend Award recipients, each of whom will receive a \$20,000 stipend for the 2009-10 academic year. The recipients were chosen from a highly qualified and significant number of applicants who are participating in doctoral programs related to actuarial science and who have also made good progress toward or have obtained an actuarial credential. The 2009-2010 SOA Doctoral Stipend Award recipients are: **Maciej J. Augustyniak, Robert J. Erhardt, Tao Guo, Jared I. Klyman and Michael D. Nielsen**. Congratulations to these exceedingly competent and capable doctoral candidates.

The **Doctoral Stipend program** was established to increase the number of academic actuaries who hold a Ph.D. and an actuarial designation and who intend to pursue academic careers in the United States or Canada. The program is designed to provide stipends to doctoral candidates who will, through their studies, address research and education needs of the profession from both the theoretical and practical aspects.

Spotlight on Section Activity ...

44th ARC Registration Now Available

Register to attend the 44th Actuarial Research Conference (ARC). The 44th ARC will be held at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin. Conference sessions are scheduled to begin Thursday morning, July 30 and will conclude Saturday, August 1 at noon. There will also be an optional theatre outing on Saturday evening. The exact schedule will be posted on the [conference Web site](#).

Submission of Papers: We encourage everyone who has a paper on an actuarial topic to submit it. Please send your title and abstract to Yunjie (Winnie) Sun at ysun@bus.wisc.edu by **June 30, 2009**. Papers presented at the conference will be published electronically in the 2010.1 issue of the *Actuarial Research Clearing House (ARCH)*.

2009 Country Feature Article Competition

This is your last chance to enter the SOA International Section's **2009 Country Feature Article Competition**. Here is an opportunity for International Section members to win a cash prize. The PRIZE is US\$2,000 for the writer and US\$500 for the Ambassador who coauthors and/or sponsors the winning entry. If you are not an International Section member, join the section for US\$25 and **enter before April 30, 2009**. The winning article will be determined by the International Section Council. All feature articles submitted will be published in a future edition of *International News*.

Fall 2009 Advanced Finance/Enterprise Risk Management Exam

Traditionally only scheduled in the spring, the SOA is once again offering the Advanced Finance/Enterprise Risk Management Exam in the fall to allow members to advance in earning their Chartered Enterprise Risk Analyst (CERA) credential. The syllabus for this exam will be posted on the SOA Web site on May 1, 2009.

Actuarial Profession in the News ...

ProducersWeb.com Features Column by FSA

The Web site posted a [column by Mike Boot](#) highlighting the findings of a recent actuarial survey on emerging risks conducted by the Joint Risk Management Section.

On the Research Front ...

April 30th Deadline—International Financial Reporting Standards CFP

April 30th is the deadline to submit intent to author a paper or to be a discussant for the International Financial Reporting Standards Call for Papers. [See the Call for Papers](#). If you have any questions, please contact Steve Siegel, SOA research actuary, at ssiegel@soa.org.

New Report—Segmenting the Middle Market: Retirement Risks and Solutions—Phase 1

The SOA is pleased to make available the [Phase 1 research report](#) of a two-phase effort. This report defines relevant and actionable consumer segments among middle-income/mid-level net worth households. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Siegel, SOA research actuary, at ssiegel@soa.org.

New Report on Determining Margins for Uncertainty Under PBA Now Available

The Financial Reporting and Reinsurance Sections, along with the Committee on Life Insurance Research, announce the completion of a [new research report](#) analyzing methods for determining margins for uncertainty in actuarial assumptions under a principle-based framework for life insurance and annuity products.

Seeking Researchers for Financial Advice to Middle/Lower Income Markets

The Actuary of the Future Section is seeking researchers for Phase I of a two-phase effort to address financial advice issues pertaining to persons of moderate and low wealth. For more information, [see the RFP](#). Questions may be directed to Ronora Stryker, SOA research actuary, at rstryker@soa.org.

Section Newsletters—Hot Off the Press!

The April 2009 issues of [Expanding Horizons](#), [The Financial Reporter](#) and [The Stepping Stone](#) are now online. Be sure to check out the March issues of [The Independent Consultant](#) and [Risk Management](#).

Upcoming SOA Educational Opportunities ...

Life Spring Meeting

Sign up soon for the [Life Spring Meeting](#), May 18-19 in Denver, where we'll be offering innovative sessions on hot topics and featuring inspiring keynote speakers.

Design Your Own Plan to Cover the Uninsured—CHAT at the Health Spring Meeting

The Health Section Council invites you to participate in a novel learning opportunity at the [Health Spring Meeting](#), June 8-10 in Toronto. Using the CHAT® (Choosing Health Plans All Together) computer-based program, your group will design a basic health plan to cover the uninsured in your state. The catch? The money available is one-third less than typical employer-based coverage. How will you decide what coverage is most important to your group? Registration is limited so please reserve your seat now!

Reserves Week

Take part in [Reserves Week](#), June 1-4 in Rosemont, Illinois, just outside of Chicago, where you'll receive an introduction to and reinforcement of the fundamental principles and application of U.S. statutory, tax and GAAP reserving to actuaries involved in financial reporting and product development.

Modern Pricing Methodologies Seminar

This [seminar](#), June 30-July 1 in Los Angeles, following the Product Development Symposium, will explore both traditional and modern pricing methodologies, and apply these methodologies in a case study format for a few modern product types.

Become an ERM Expert

The [CERA credential](#) is the most rigorous and comprehensive training available in enterprise risk management. Learn more about obtaining the CERA credential.

News from The Actuarial Foundation ...

The Actuarial Foundation Helps High School Students Prepare for Their Financial Futures

New ["Building Your Future"](#) curriculum covers essential knowledge and skills needed by teens to live financially healthy lives.

Paper Submission Deadline Extended—John Hanson Memorial Prize

This award was established in honor of John Hanson, a long time treasurer of the Conference of Consulting Actuaries. The intent of this [prize](#) is to award recognition for the best paper on an employee benefits topic. The **new deadline is April 30**, so nominate a paper today!

Meet the Foundation's New Trustees

[Meet the new trustees](#)—check out the April 2009 issue of the newsletter.

Listing of Deceased Members

Visit the SOA Web site for a [listing of the names](#) of deceased members and information on how to [submit an obituary](#). The SOA extends its condolences to the families and friends of ***David Fitzpatrick, FSA; Robert S. King, ASA; William J. McCarthy, FSA; Timothy I. Montney, FSA; and W. James Preble, FSA.***

Past Issues of SOA News Today

Missed an issue of *SOA News Today*? Just [visit](#) the SOA Web site.

SOA News Today is published twice a month. Just e-mail Jacque Kirkwood, SOA senior communications associate, at e-news@soa.org. If you'd like to print a copy of *SOA News Today*, set your view setting to plain text. We hope you enjoy *SOA News Today*—news when you need it—news you can use!