

MTSU Actuarial Sciences Program Newsletter

November 25, 2006

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1. MTSU Actuarial Math Student Association

For the academic year 2006-07, MTSU Actuarial Math Student Association (AMSA) has elected the following officers:

Chance Phelps, President

Andy Hill, Vice President for graduate student affairs

Zol Hooper, Vice President for undergraduate affairs

Matt Beech, Vice President and treasurer

As usual, Dr. Don Hong serves as the Faculty Advisor of the AMSA.

2. Message from the Faculty Advisor

We have had a great semester so far in the Fall of 2006. The program of actuarial sciences continuously attracts students. I have received emails, phone calls, and letters from all places including overseas, to ask information about our program. The AMSA has been organizing many of the great events by hosting invited speakers and arranging fund raising activities. Also, to meet the need to our current students, as well as the actuarial professionals, we are developing a concentration in actuarial sciences for the Master of Science degree in the Professional Science (ACSI in MSPS). If the proposal is approved in the Spring semester of 2007, the ACSI in MSPS will be available in the next Fall semester. We are grateful to our advisory board members, alumni, faculty and administrators, and students who continuously support the program. I am sure MTSU actuarial sciences program will become a solid trade-mark program for the university with all of your support. Thank you for your generous contributions and constantly support. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy 2007!

Don Hong, Professor and Faculty Advisor of AMSA

3. Letter from the President of AMSA

Merry Christmas! This semester has flown by for me. I hope it has been the same for all of you.

AMSA has made some major changes and improvements in our second year. The semester started off great with a bake sale fundraiser that was made possible by many of you. We had two great speakers, Mr. Ed Davenport

and Mr. Johnny Daniel, come to give our members and guests information on being an actuary. We now have a website (www.mtsu.edu/~amsa) that has tons of information about AMSA, actuarial science, study materials, and exam information. The latest Exam FM had a large turnout from MTSU students with around eight. Several students have participated in our newly organized study sessions for Exam P and FM. We also have two more students graduating from the program in a few weeks. These steps are just the beginning for MTSU. Our organization and actuarial science concentration is going to continue to make improvements until we are the #1 program in the country. To achieve this, we need everyone's continued support. The next semester will give everyone more opportunities to help. AMSA has four speakers planning to visit our campus. We have another fundraiser ready to kick off as soon as the Spring semester starts. Even more study sessions for P, FM and also M are being planned to better prepare us all for any upcoming exams.

I hope that all of you continue to help and support AMSA through the next semester and in the years to come.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Chance Phelps, President of AMSA @ MTSU

4. Advisory Board of AMSA

We are honored to have the following actuaries in the great Nashville area serving on our actuarial science program
Advisory Board:

- **Mr. Brian LePage**, ACAS, MAAA, VP and Chief Actuary from Caterpillar Insurance, Nashville, TN
- **Mr. John Daniel**, FCAS, MAAA, Chief Actuary and MTSU Alumnus, The PICA Group, Brentwood, TN
- **Ms. Mary Frances Miller**, FCAS, MAAA, FCA, Select Actuarial Services, Nashville, TN
- **Mr. Edgar W. Davenport**, FCAS, MAAA, Managing Director, Willis Risk Solution-North America, Nashville, TN

5. News from Actuarial Sciences Program and Actuarial Alumni

(1) On October 11, 2006, Mr. **Ed Davenport**, FCAS, MAAA, from Willis gave a presentation to our actuarial students about "Role of an Actuary at Willis, Insurance Company vs. Consulting Company, and Job Interview Tips."

(2) On November 1, 2006, Mr. **John Daniel**, FCAS, MAAA, Chief Actuary and MTSU alumnus from PICA Group presented a talk to our actuarial students about "My Actuarial Career Experience and Q & A."

(3) Congratulations to our actuarial students and recent graduates:

(i) **Dipti Natha** is among the four recipients of the Southeastern Actuarial Conference Actuarial Scholarships. This kind of scholarship is a first time award to actuarial students outside of Georgia this year. In addition, Dipti has received three job offers. She will graduate from MTSU in May 2007.

(ii) **Hyun Kye Kim** and **Rog P. Heller** passed actuarial exam-P, **Anant Sitaram** passed actuarial exam-FM recently.

(iii) **Zack Bannister** and **Anne Elizabeth Roquette** graduated last summer and started to work for Consumers Insurance at Murfreesboro, TN.

(iv) **Sulemana Dauda** who graduated last year has informed Dr. Raj Barnwal that he has finally landed a job with BCBSNC and will prepare for actuarial exam-M.

(v) **Chance Phelps, Dipti Natha, and Benvictor Sang** will participate Actuarial Career Day, Organized by the Actuarial Society of Greater New York at Manhattan in January 2007.

(4) Dipti Natha's Words about Summer Actuary Intern

This past summer I was interning at Watson Wyatt Worldwide in Cleveland, OH. It was a great experience for me to be exposed to the consulting side of the actuarial profession. At Watson Wyatt I was interning in the retirement practice among a variety of actuaries at different levels in their career. There were several fellows, enrolled actuaries, and actuarial students in the Cleveland office. During the first few weeks of the internship, the interns and the new hires were given extensive training on the actuarial work. Some of my duties included valuing pension funds by analyzing data and calculating liabilities, calculating retirement benefits for individual participants in the pension plan, and preparing government forms that are required for pension plans. Throughout the summer, I learned a lot not only about actuarial work, but also about the corporate environment. Internships are a great way to get exposure to the actuarial field. From this summer experience and my previous internship experience at Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation I am confident that I made the right career choice for myself.

6. Current AMSA Members Who Passed Actuarial Exams

We are so proud of our members who passed actuarial exams. Among the current AMSA members, the following have passed at least one SOA/CAS exam:

- Danielle S. Agostine - Passed Exam-P/1
- Xiaozheng Linda Chang - Passed Exam-P/1 and Exam-FM/2
- Rog Heller - Passed Exam-P/1
- Zol Hooper - Passed Exam-P/1
- Kazem Karimi - Passed Exam-P/1, Exam-FM/2, and Exam-M/3
- Dipti Natha - Passed Exam-P/1
- Samir Saad - Passed Exam-P/1 and Exam-FM/2

7. Actuarial Student Foundation

“In Everything Give Thanks”

The Actuarial Student Foundation is restricted to support actuarial students in their actuarial career development. If you would like to make a contribution to this foundation, please make your check or money order payable to:

Actuarial Students Foundation, Box 34, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

Be sure to send in your contribution before the end of this year to receive tax deductible statement from MTSU Foundations Office. Please also check with your company about the matching contributions too.

8. Contact Information

For Actuarial Sciences Program information, please feel free to contact *Dr. Don Hong, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.* Tel. (615)904-8339, Fax: (615)898-5422. Email: dhong@mtsu.edu.

AMSA Website: www.mtsu.edu/~amsa. Mr. Chance Phelps, AMSA president's email: wcp2f@mtsu.edu.