

Middle Tennessee State University

Actuarial Science Program Newsletter (Fall 2016)

Presented by the Actuarial Mathematics Student Association (AMSA)

Contents

- Letter from Program Coordinator
- Program Facts
- Program News
- AMSA Meetings
- CASE Conference
- AMSA Activities
- Research and Services in Actuarial Science
- Actuarial Scholarships and Donations
- AMSA Officers

Faculty

Dr. Don Hong, ACAD
Dr. Abdul Khaliq
Dr. Qiang Wu, ASA
Dr. Rajesh Barnwal, ASA

Editors

Stephen Henderson
Yiting Dong
Haocheng Wu



Polo



Actuarial Science Polo

Program Facts

- The MTSU Actuarial Science program was established in 1987. Dr. J.C. Hankins was the founding director of the Program.
- MTSU has the only program in Tennessee that offers actuarial science coursework for both undergraduate and graduate programs.
- 17 alumni have achieved ASA or ACAS designations; while 9 alumni went on to obtain FSA or FCAS designations.
- The MTSU Actuarial Science Program currently has about 70 students in the undergraduate program and about 25 students in the graduate program.
- The MTSU actuarial science program now has its own undergraduate major. Students can get a Bachelor's degree in Actuarial Science instead of having Bachelors of Science in Mathematics with a concentration in Actuarial Science.

Program News

(1) Students in this program have been able to pass many actuarial exams this year. Up to date, 17 students passed Exam-P/1 from the Society of Actuaries (SOA) or the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS); 12 students passed Exam-FM/2; 6 students passed Exam-MFE/3F; 6 students passed Exam-C/4.

(2) Yiting Dong and Zhangyao Chen received 2016 Scholarship of \$1000 each from the Southeast Actuarial Conference (SEAC). Many students have been able to complete internships and receive job offers before graduation.

(3) The following students, currently enrolled in the MTSU actuarial science program, have passed more than three actuarial exams: Brent Carpennetti(P, FM, MFE, C, MLC, APC, FAP-), Joseph Thomas(P, FM, MFE, C, MLC), Yiting Dong(P, FM, MFE, C), Haocheng Wu(P, FM, MFE, C), Chang Xu(P, FM, MFE, C), Zhangyao Chen(P, FM, MFE), Wenqi Chen(P, FM, MFE).

(4) **Holden French, Bowen Jiang, Chengming Liu**, attended the Casualty Actuaries of the Southeast (CASE) conference in Atlanta on September 26, 2016.

- MTSU actuarial science program hosted the Spring 2016 Casualty Actuaries of Southeast (CASE) conference on March 22, 2016.
- More updated AMSA news can be found at <http://capone.mtsu.edu/amsa/Newsletter.htm>

Letter From Program Coordinator

Dear Students, Alumni, Faculty, and Friends,
Time really flies! It's almost the end of fall semester now. As usual, November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. As we think about the progress of the program, the achievements that students achieved, the support we've received from students, faculty, and administration, alumni and friends, as well as partners and southeast regional actuarial associations, we tend to be more thankful more and more about what a wonderful place we work at and an excellent program we serve for. Since the undergraduate program has been approved by the State TBR and THEC as a stand-alone major in 2015, the enrollment in MTSU actuarial science program for BS in actuarial science studies reached to a new peak in 2016. The graduate program of MS for professional science (MSPS) in actuarial science has now entered its sixth year and continuously attracted students from the States and all over the world. We have many talented and impressive students in the program: four students have passed at least 4 professional exams from the Society of Actuaries (SOA) and/or the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS). One student has passed all exams to achieve the ASA designation from the SOA, with the exception of the very last final assessment of the FAP examination. Students have presented research work at the 2016 Actuarial Research Conference (ARC) held at the University of Minnesota in July of 2016. More alumni show appreciation to the program by coming back to speak to students in the program. Recent visitors include Jeremy Richardson, FCAS, from Willis Tower Watson-Willis of TN, Racheal Padgett, ASA from BPS&M, a Wells Fargo Company at Brentwood, TN, Rachel Perris from Northwestern Mutual, and Steven Safstrom from Farm Bureau of TN. With stronger support from local companies, students in the program not only receive internship opportunities, but also receive job offers before graduation.

We appreciate all of you who have supported and made contributions to the program. The MTSU actuarial science program cannot continue to thrive without your support. I am looking forward to hearing more good news from alumni and students. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season.

AMSA Meeting

- On April 18th, 2016, **Eric Geissler**, **Kristi Worrell**, and **Leah Essary Bell** from Willis Towers Watson spoke to the AMSA members about their company. Leah and Kristi are pension analysts and Eric is an actuary for the company's Memphis office. They described each sector of the company, as well as recruited for positions at the Memphis office.
- On September 9th, 2016, Mr. **Leigh Halliwell**, FCAS, a Casualty Actuarial and Financial-Risk Consultant of L.J. Halliwell, LLC gave a presentation on the Log-Gamma Distribution to AMSA members.
- On September 29th, 2016, **Hicks Woolwine**, an Actuarial Specialist with a team from Cigna-HealthSpring, spoke to the AMSA members about Cigna's Actuarial Executive Development Program, their Underwriting department, and the current status of the job market for those entering the Actuarial field. Mr. Hicks Woolwine also spoke about internship opportunities available from Cigna in different parts of the United States and soon to be in Nashville.
- On October 14th, **Dr. Shuo Chen**, Professor of Biostatistics and Epidemiology from the University of Maryland, College Park, MD presented a colloquium talk on "Network-object Oriented Methods to Uncover Hidden Disease-related Brain Connectome Networks. Professor Chen was a former student of Dr. Hong, the program coordinator.
- **Rachel Perris**, an actuarial alumna from Northwestern Mutual and spoke to students in classes during homecoming.
- **Mark Cashion** and **Steven Safstrom** from Farm Bureau of TN spoke to AMSA members on November 15, 2016.
- Dr. Don Hong, the program coordinator hosted a distinguished lecturer, **Dr. Doug Hardin**, Professor of Mathematics and Biomedical Informatics from Vanderbilt University. Professor Hardin gave a research talk in the morning and a general talk in the afternoon on November 3, 2016.

AMSA Activities

- The AMSA holds workshops for actuarial Exam-P and Exam-FM regularly. The workshop is to help AMSA members work out practice problems and learn strategies on the day of the exam.
- During this academic year, AMSA members volunteer as math tutors for high schools. Local high/middle schools are encouraged to contact AMSA through Dr. Hong, the program coordinator, if there are any needs of math tutoring for your students.
- The Actuarial Math Student Association joined MTSU's Gamma Iota Sigma club for having a professional panel on Wednesday, October 31, 2016. The panel, consisted of an underwriter, actuary, and risk management director, presented talks and answered questions to students.

Research and Services in the Actuarial Science

- **Dr. Don Hong**, Professor and the program coordinator, is an academic correspondence member (ACAD) of the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS). He has been leading research projects, including recently working on Extended Warranty Price Evaluation and Trend and Performance Evaluation for Airshow Ticket Selling.
- **Dr. Qiang Wu**, ASA, Associate professor of the program, has been the Predictive Analytics and Futurism Section council of the Society of Actuaries since 2015. Dr. Wu also serves for the CAS in the academic engagement committee, the academic research group and the university award group.
- **Actuarial students, Wenqi Chen, Mengyu Chen and Shuzhe Xu** participated in the 2016 Actuarial Research Conference (ARC) and presented a paper in July 2016. The 2016 ARC was held at Minneapolis/St. Pal, MN.
- **Dr. Xin Yang**, graduated from MTSU in August 2016, received a tenure-track assistant professor position in the Computer Science of the Southern Arkansas University. Dr. Yang's Ph.D. dissertation entitled "Machine Learning Techniques for High-dimensional Neuroimaging Data Analysis" was co-supervised by Drs. Don Hong and Qiang Wu.

Actuarial Scholarships and Donations

- MTSU actuarial science program awards several scholarships annually including **Scholarship for the Excellence in Actuarial Science**, **B.L. Hong's Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Actuarial Science**, and **The Syed Hossain Actuarial Student Award**, and the **Scotty Tucker Memorial Scholarship**.

Donations Your gift is welcome! The Actuarial Science Student Association wishes to thank all alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff and friends who support the program. Your gift will be used to support students' educational and research activities. Your donation to the program is tax deductible, and you can choose to have your name published or remain anonymous. You can now contribute online via MTSU foundation web site. Or you may send your check to:

Office of Development, MTSU P.O. Box 109, Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Please write "Gift to Actuarial Science" in the memo line of your check or on the online gift form.

AY2016-17 AMSA Officers

Holden French, MSPS student, and Yiting Dong, student in BS of Actuarial Science, were elected as co-presidents for AMSA in September 2016. Joining with them to serve on the AMSA leadership team also include Charlotte Chen, Bowen Hou, Bowen Jiang, Haochen Wu, and Zhao Wang.