

Middle Tennessee State University

Actuarial Science Program Newsletter (Fall 2019)

Presented by the Actuarial Mathematics Student Association (AMSA)

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Faculty

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



Actuarial Science Polo

Letter from Program Coordinator

November is the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. We have a lot to be thankful for here at MTSU's Actuarial Science program. We are grateful for a great place, excellent program, supportive administration, wonderful faculty to work with, and talented students to serve. We are most thankful for the overwhelming amount of love and blessings that we receive. Time flies, we are now in November for Thanksgiving and near to December for Christmas! Wishing you all a very Happy Holiday Season!

Actuarial science is a special discipline in training students to apply math skills, statistical methods and computing techniques to manage risk and solve problems in insurance, financial investment, and pension programs. A career as an actuary is better described as a business career with a mathematical basis rather than as a technical mathematical career. The occupation of actuary has been ranked one of the best jobs based on a variety of factors for many years. As a UCAP-AC school recognized by the Society of Actuaries (SOA), MTSU Actuarial Science program keeps growing. As of 2019, over 25 actuarial alumni have achieved Associate or Fellow of the SOA or the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS) designations. In particular, 2 students achieved the ASA (Associate of the SOA) before graduation with a MS degree. Many students received multiple job offers before graduation from the program. We are grateful for your support to make this possible.

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.
- The concentration in actuarial science for the MS degree of Professional Sciences (MSPS) was set up in 2010.
- Based on the successes under the concentration in actuarial science of BS in Mathematics, the stand-alone BS degree in Actuarial Science was established in 2015.
- MTSU Actuarial Science program is a UCAP-AC school (University/College Actuarial Program with Advanced Curriculum) recognized by the Society of Actuaries (SOA).
- Currently enrolled students and recent alumni from the MSPS actuarial science concentration include graduates from Dartmouth, Notre Dame, UC-Berkeley, UCLA, UIUC, UT-Knoxville, U Alabama, Washington University at St. Louis and from all over the US as well as other countries including Bangladesh, Cameroon, China, Ghana, India, Kenya, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand among others.
- MTSU actuarial graduates recently received admission offers for graduate studies from schools including Boston, Columbia, Toronto, UIUC, U Conn, FSU, Ohio State, Waterloo, etc.
- The Actuarial Math Student Association (AMSA) was established in 2005. The advisory board for the program was set up in the same year. AMSA hosts professional speakers for student activities regularly.
- In general, students pass two or more actuarial professional exams from the actuarial societies before graduation. More details of news from MTSU actuarial students can be found at the website <https://capone.mtsu.edu/amsa/Newsletter.htm>.
- As of 2019, at least 34 MTSU actuarial alumni achieved ASA/ACAS or FSA/FCAS designations.

Program News

(1) Twenty-nine (29) students graduated in actuarial science program with a MS degree at the May/August/December graduations of 2019 after completing a capstone internship. Four (4) MSPS actuarial students graduated in August 2019, received full time job offers: Courtney S. DeClerk (BS from UTK), Aetna, Franklin, TN; Curtis R. Barker (BS, MTSU) from AIG, Nashville, TN; Wren A. Tacket (BS, ETSU), Select Actuarial Services, Nashville, TN, and Ge Sun (BS, MTSU&NBU), Music City Insurance and Finance, Nashville, TN.



(2) David Phillips (BS in Statistics from UC-Berkeley), passed his 4th actuarial exam (STAM) on Oct 9, 2019. David is expected to graduate in May 2020 but has already received a full-time job offer from Fortitude Re (AIG) at Nashville, TN. Brennan Stender (BS in Math from MTSU), passed the actuarial Exam-FM recently. Brennan just received an internship from the Fortitude Re for the spring semester of 2020. We also congratulate Chunlan Jia and Chuanlong Zhang passed the Exam-LTAM, Junyu Li and Xiyue Zhang passed the Exam-IFM in 2019.

(3) Twenty-four (24) actuarial students graduated with a BS degree in 2019. Many of them continued graduate studies in the fields of actuarial science, financial math, insurance, risk management, or statistics.

(4) Mary Francis Miller, FCAS, founder and senior consulting actuary at Select Actuarial Services in Nashville, TN and former president of the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS) were among the 2019 inductees into the Robert E. Musto Tennessee Insurance Hall of Fame. An induction ceremony was held Sept. 12 at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Murfreesboro. Dr. Dave Wood, the Martin Chair of Insurance, and Dr. Don Hong, coordinator of Actuarial Science gave brief introductions at the ceremony to MTSU Insurance program and Actuarial Science program, respectively.



AMSA Meetings

- Dr. Liang Hong, FSA, Associate Professor in Actuarial Science of Robert Morris University, visited MTSU and gave a talk to actuarial students entitled “Model misspecification, Bayesian versus credibility estimation, and Gibbs posteriors” on October 2, 2019.
- Ms. Sarah Lin, Senior Analyst at Part C pricing team and Mr. Syed M Rahman, ASA, MAAA, Actuarial Lead Analyst at Risk Adjustment team in Cigna at Nashville office in AEDP (Actuarial Executive Development Program), visited MTSU and spoke to actuarial students by introducing Cigna and AEDP program, discussing how to become an actuary in healthcare field and what skills an actuary needs to have, as well as tips for resumes and job applications.



Student Activities

Actuarial Students enjoyed a picnic at the Long Hunter State Park on November 9, 2019. Over 60 students and faculty members participated the activity.



News from Alumni

Congratulations to MTSU alumni, Rachael Phelps, formerly Padgett (BS 2013) achieved FSA designation, David Jesik (BS 2011), Mark Lucas (BS 2011), Brent Osantowski (MSPS 2012), Fang Yang (PhD 2008), Daniel Duggin (BS 2005), and Matthew Doss all achieved ASA and Houston Higgs (MS, 2013) achieved ACAS, Lauren Chrisman (MSPS, 2014) passes Exam-PA, Ryan Clark (BS 2018), Nathan Cohee (BS 2015), Zhenyang Wang (MSPS 2019), and Gaojie Zhang (BS 2019) all passed Exam-SRM, Curtis Barker (MSPA 2019) and Bowen Hou (MSPS, 2017) passed Exam-LTAM, Wenqi Chen (BS 2017), Zhangyao Chen (BS 2017), and Carson Cook (MS-Math 2016) all passed Exam-LTAM, recently.

Faculty News

- Dr. Don Hong has 3 research papers published or accepted for publication in 2019.
- Dr. Qiang Wu has 7 papers published or accepted for publication in 2019.
- Dr. Lu Xiong presented a paper entitled “Comparative Study of Predictive Analytics Algorithms and Tools on Property & Casualty Insurance Solvency Prediction” at the 54th Actuarial Research Conference in Indianapolis, IN and also attended Tennessee Workers Compensation Educational Conference, as well as the Big Data Hadoop certification training.

AY2018-19 and AY2019-20 AMSA Officers

Actuarial Math Student Association (AMSA) officers in **AY2018-19**: David Phillips and Bowen Jiang, co-president; Courtney DeClerk, VP for graduate affairs; Chuanlong Zhang, VP for undergraduate affairs, and Chunlan Jia, treasurer and secretary.

AY2019-20: Alex Dalrymple, MSPS student and Cuanlong Zhang, MS-Math student of Actuarial Science serves as co-presidents for AMSA, Han Chen, Abigail Harper, and Tingting Sun are current other officers of the Actuarial Math Student Association.

Actuarial Faculty Position Opening

Middle Tennessee State University's College of Basic and Applied Sciences, Department of Mathematical Sciences invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track faculty position (#107410) in Actuarial Science at the rank of assistant/associate professor. The start date for the position is August 1, 2020. In addition to establishing and maintaining an active research agenda, the successful applicant will teach courses in support of both the undergraduate and graduate programs in Actuarial Science and statistics, the doctoral program in Computational Science, and pursue research and professional involvement in actuarial science including directing both graduate and undergraduate student research. He/she will also assist the Director of Actuarial Sciences in program/curricula development and maintenance, in mentoring students (including international students), in establishing and maintaining relationships with practicing professionals, and in recruitment and in program assessment. Please see link to the job post for additional information.

Actuarial Student Fund

The Actuarial Student Foundation was created to support actuarial students in their actuarial career development. We appreciate for individuals and companies for contributions to this foundation. Check or money order should be payable to **MTSU Actuarial Student Foundation (#92935)** and mail it to:

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

A tax deductible statement for the contribution will be provided from MTSU Foundations Office. Please also check with your company about matching contributions. If you are interested in setting up a scholarship for actuarial students at MTSU bearing a person's or a company's name, please contact the MTSU Foundation Office for assistance. More information on MTSU Foundation and other ways you can give can be found at:

<https://www.mtsu.edu/development/foundation.php>

For any questions on MTSU actuarial science program, please contact Dr. Don Hong, don.hong@mtsu.edu.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT and HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!!