

MTSU Actuarial Sciences Program Newsletter
May 15, 2007

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1. MTSU Actuarial Math Student Association

For the academic year 2007-08, MTSU Actuarial Math Student Association (AMSA) has elected the following officers:

- Matthew Beech, President
 - Dustin Gray, Vice President and treasurer
 - Linda Chang, Vice President for graduate student affairs
 - Wesley Merriman, Vice President for undergraduate affairs
- Former President: Chance Phelps, actuary of BCBSTN, William.C.Phelps@gmail.com
As usual, Dr. Don Hong serves as the Faculty Advisor of the AMSA.

2. Message from the Faculty Advisor

It is a great pleasure to work with students in the Actuarial Sciences (ACSI) at MTSU. I am so proud of the class of 2007: among those who graduated with a BS degree in May 2007, there are three students, Zol Hooper, Dipti Natha, and Chance Phelps passed the first two actuarial professional exams (SOA/CAS Exam-P/1 and Exam-FM/2). Zol will continue his graduate study in ACSI at the University of Waterloo. Dipti and Chance will start their actuarial career at CIGNA and BCBS-TN, respectively. Also, two of our six graduate students studying in the area of ACSI have graduated with an MS degree in mathematics in May 2007. More companies come to MTSU campus to recruit our actuarial students. Tiffany Hunt, Kazem Karimi, and Jason Wix received summer internship opportunities at the First Acceptance Corporation and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of TN, respectively.

The AMSA has organized many of the great events by hosting invited speakers and arranging on-campus interviews and fund raising activities. In the Spring semester, speakers include VP and Chief Actuary from Caterpillar Insurance, Vice President of Admissions of the CAS and a founder and the senior consulting actuary with Select Actuarial Services, Sr. Talent Acquisition Consultant with Actuarial Staff from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of TN, and VP and Chief Actuary of the First Acceptance Corporation.

The number of graduate students interested in ACSI is continuously growing. Recently, we have students transferred to MTSU ACSI program from UTK, WKU, and schools from Mississippi and neighbor states.

None of a program's growth would be possible without its support from students, alumni, and sponsors. I am very grateful to receive a contribution from State Farm Insurance to setup a scholarship fund for the State Farm's Scholarship of the Excellence in Actuarial Sciences. The first award of such a scholarship can be given in the Fall of 2007.

MTSU ACSI alumni, Mandy Lee Bratten and Lori Badgett, have recently become an Associate of the Society of Actuaries. We are so proud of their achievements.

MTSU ACSI program is developing to a new stage. A new VEE course, Mathematics of Corporate Finance (ACSI 4220/5220) has been recently approved by the Society of Actuaries (SOA).

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.

Don Hong, Professor and Faculty Advisor of AMSA

3. 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, founder and senior actuary, Select Actuarial Services, Nashville, TN
- **Mr. Edgar W. Davenport**, FCAS, MAAA, Managing Director, Willis Risk Solution-North America, Nashville, TN
- **Mr. Bill Wilkins**, FCAS, MAAA, VP and Chief Actuary of the First Acceptance Corporation, Nashville, TN

4. News from Actuarial Sciences Program and Actuarial Alumni

(1) On January 25, 2007, Mr. **Brian LePage**, ACAS, MAAA, VP and Chief Actuary from Caterpillar Insurance gave a presentation to our actuarial students.

(2) On February 22, 2007, Ms. **Mary Frances Miller**, FCAS, MAAA, Vice President of Admissions of the Casualty Actuaries Society (CAS) and a founder and the senior consulting actuary with Select Actuarial Services presented a talk to our actuarial students.

(3) On March 27, 2007, Mr. Matthew Canada, Sr. Talent Acquisition Consultant, and Actuarial Staff from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of TN gave a presentation to our actuarial students and interviewed our actuarial student candidates for possible positions at BCBSTN.

(4) On March 29, 2007, Mr. Bill Wilkins, FCAS and VP from First Acceptance Corporation gave a presentation to our actuarial students. Together with Joe Best, VP from the 1st Acceptance, they have interviewed our actuarial student candidates for possible positions at their company on January 17 and April 24, respectively.

(5) Congratulations to our actuarial students Zol Hooper, Dipti Natha*, and Chance Phelps in the class of 2007 who passed the first two actuarial professional exams (SOA/CAS exam-P/1 and exam-FM/2) before graduation from MTSU in May and ended up with the following:

(i) Dipti Natha, CIGNA - Hartford, CT, Actuary (* Dipti also passed SOA exam-MLC and MFE in May 2007)

(ii) Zol Hooper, University of Waterloo, graduate study in Actuarial Sciences

(iii) Chance Phelps, BCBS of Tennessee, Chattanooga, TN, Actuary

(6) **Ali Sohrabi** (class of 2006) passed SOA/CAS Exam-FM/2 in November 2006. In May 2007, **Dipti Patel** (Dipti Natha) passed both SOA Exam MLC and MFE, **Samir Saad** passed Exam-MLC, and **Rog Heller** passed Exam-FM.

(7) MTSU ACSI alumni, Mandy Lee Bratten and Lori Badgett, have fulfilled the requirements to obtain the designation of the Associate of Society of Actuaries (ASA), recently.

(8) State Farm's scholarship of the Excellence in Actuarial Sciences

State Farm Insurance has setup a scholarship fund for the Excellence in Actuarial Sciences. The first award of such a scholarship can be given in the Fall of 2007. Please contact Dr. Hong (dhong@mtsu.edu) for application and qualification requirements for the scholarship.

(9) New VEE course and ACSI for MSPS

A new VEE course, Mathematics of Corporate Finance (ACSI 4220/5220) has been recently approved by the Society of Actuaries (SOA). A new concentration in ACSI for the MS degree in professional sciences is under development. The proposal of ACSI for MSPS has been revised according to the suggestions from the Faculty and Curriculum Review Committee of the Graduate Council. More data and supporting letters from industries are collected as the supplementary materials of the proposal before submit it to the Graduate Council.

5. Current AMSA Members Who Passed Actuarial Exams

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

- Xiaozheng Linda Chang - Passed Exam-P/1 and Exam-FM/2
- Rog Heller - Passed Exam-P/1 and Exam-FM/2
- Kazem Karimi - Passed Exam-P/1, Exam-FM/2, and Exam-M/3
- Samir Saad - Passed Exam-P/1, Exam-FM/2, and Exam-MLC/3a

6. Actuarial Student Foundation

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.

7. Contact Information

For Actuarial Sciences Program information, please feel free to contact *Dr. Don Hong, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Box 34, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.* Tel. (615)904-8339, Fax: (615)898-5422. Email: dhong@mtsu.edu.

Websitelinks: www.mtsu.edu/~amsa (MTSU AMSA), www.mtsu.edu/~acsi (MTSU ACSI), www.mtsu.edu/~math (MTSU Math), and www.mtsu.edu/~graduate (MTSU Graduate School).

Mr. Matthew Beech, AMSA president's email: wmb2s@mtsu.edu.