

MTSU Actuarial Sciences Program Newsletter
August 10, 2008

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1. Message from the Faculty Advisor

Time flies. It starts my fourth year now as a professor and faculty advisor of the actuarial science program and students at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). It has been a great pleasure for me to work with students in the Actuarial Sciences (ACSI) at MTSU. I am so proud of our students who work hard to pass actuarial professional examinations as well as raise funds for ACSI variety activities. In addition to MTSU ACSI alumni, Charles Tommy Axford, Mandy Lee Bratten, and Lori Badgett received associateship of the Society of Actuaries (ASA) in 2007, our recent 2007 graduate, Dipti Patel passed three major exams and finished all three VEE courses before graduation from MTSU, she becomes an ASA in 2008! MTSU ACSI program is developing to a new stage. I am looking forward to many more years of working with the students and faculty in ACSI at MTSU.

The Actuarial Math Student Association (AMSA) was initiated in 2005. Mr. Chance Phelps has set up an excellent example for organizing the student organization while he served as the president of AMSA during the AY 2006-2007. I believe that the AMSA will continue to provide great service to actuarial students under the leadership of the current president Dusty Gray.

An Actuarial Student Foundation was set up for supporting actuarial program and actuarial students' activities. We are grateful to actuarial alumni for their generous contributions. We very much appreciate the grant support from the Casualty Actuaries of Southeast (CASE) which provides strong support to enhance the MTSU ACSI program. Our ACSI students and faculty also greatly appreciate State Farm Insurance for setting up its Scholarship for the Excellence in ACSI. The continuing support from industries and the great cooperation between industry partners and ACSI program will make MTSU an even greater school.

Many students have shown their gratefulness to the MTSU ACSI program as well as to the faculty for not only their professional working attitude, but also for their passion on the ACSI program and the additional efforts they take to help students in exam preparations. I am certain that under the support of MTSU administration, the ACSI program will be one of the best programs in the country in the near future. Let's work together, students and faculty, alumni and industry partners, as well as the actuarial organizations to turn MTSU ACSI program a new page, to become a much more productive, attractive feature program of MTSU, Tennessee.

2. ACSI Program News and Scholarship Information

• **ACSI in MSPS** The Department of Mathematical Science and the MS degree program for Professional Science (MSPS) are revising the proposal for a new concentration in actuarial science for the MSPS program. It is expected to start such a new concentration in 2009 if the proposal is approved by MTSU and Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR).

• **State Farm ACSI Scholarship** The State Farm Scholarships for the Excellence in Actuarial Science are available for undergraduate students. Basic qualifications include a concentration in Actuarial Science, having an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher, being a member of the Actuarial Math Student Association and a full time student in MTSU. Please send in your application to Dr. Don Hong at dhong@mtsu.edu if you are interested in the scholarship. *We appreciate the Mid-America Zone for State Farm Insurance Companies for their consistent support to MTSU ACSI program!*

• **CASE Actuarial Program Grant** We are honored to receive the Casualty Actuaries of Southeast (CASE) Grant to enhance MTSU ACSI Program. The CASE Scholarships are available for students who have passed actuarial professional exams. Some need-based awards will be considered to give to those who plan to take the actuarial exams. Please send your request to Dr. Don Hong at dhong@mtsu.edu if you are interested in the CASE scholarships.

3. News from Actuarial Sciences Program and Actuarial Alumni

(1) **Good News from Alumni:** MTSU ACSI alumna *Charles Tommy Axford* completed SOA exams for ASA certificate, as well as MAAA (Member of the American Academy of Actuaries) in 2007 and EA (Enrolled Actuary) in 2008. Tommy works at BPS&M LLC, A Wells Fargo Company in Brentwood, TN. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics with a concentration in Actuarial Science on May 15, 2004 and graduated with the Summa Cum Laude honor. Our

recent ACSI 2007 graduate, *Dipti Patel* completed all requirements for ASA in 2008! Also, *Ms. Mu Xiong*, a former student of Dr. Hong, finished SOA exams and became an FSA, i.e., a fellowship of the Society of Actuaries in 2007. *Jiansheng Cao*, another former student of Dr. Hong, completed all requirements for EA recently.

(2) Actuarial Professional Exam News: Congratulations to the following ACSI students/Alumni who passed Professional Examinations jointly organized by the Society of Actuaries (SOA) and the Casualty Actuaries Society (CAS): *Dipti Patel* passed SOA Exam-C (CAS Exam-4) in November 2007 and the final assesment for the Fundamentals of Actuarial Practice (FAP) Modules in May 2008 and becomes an ASA; *Justin Xu* from Vanderbilt University who audited ACSI-4230 last Fall passed SOA Exam-FM (CAS Exam-2) in November 2007; *Alison Turpin* and *Steven Safstrom* passed SOA Exma-P (CAS Exam-1), *Rog Heller* passed SOA Exam-MFE (CAS Exam-3, part-2) in May 2008, and *Rich Husband* passed SOA Exam-P (CAS Exam-1) on July 24, 2008. Also, *Scott Longuevan* passed the first CRM (Certified Risk Manager) professional Exam recently.

(3) ACSI Graduation News: Congratulations to the following new ACSI alumni: *Linda Chang* received an MS degree in mathematics in May 2008; *Wesley Owen Merriman* received a BS degree in Math with a concentration in ACSI and the MAGNA CUM LAUDE Honor in May 2008; *Scott Arthur Longuevan* received a BS degree in Math with a concentration in ACSI in May 2008.

(4) Internship and Job News: *Dusty Gray* received summer internship from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of TN at Chattanooga; *Jason Wix* received summer internship from the First Acceptance Corporations at Nashville; *Justin Xu* received an entry-level actuary position at Towers Perrin in Atlanta, GA; *Wesley Merriman* started a job with the Farmer's insurance after the graduation in May 2008; *Scott Longuevan* has been employed as a Construction Risk Specialist and OSHA Trainer in the Risk Management Department with Crichton Brandon Jackson & Ward in Nashville TN.

(5) Undergraduate Research: Co-sponsored by NSF STEP-MT and BCBS of TN, *Dusty Gray* finished his summer research project entitled *The Creditable Coverage Actuarial Value Test* and presented at the end summer research presentations on July 25, 2008. For more information about MTSU NSF STEP-MT undergraduate research opportunities, please visit the website: www.mtsu.edu/~stepmt.

(6) Support from ACSI Alumni and Organizations: Thanks to the following alumni who sent in job information to help MTSU ACSI students: *Andy Paine* from Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company; *Jeremy Richardson* from CIGNA in Franklin, TN; *Dipti Patel* from CIGNA in Hartford, CT; *Andy Hill* from Humana in Sugar Land, TX. We also appreciate the job information sent by *Edgar Davenport* from Willis, Nashville, TN; *Jeff Collie* from Lincoln Financial Group; *Julie Walsh* from Kingery and Associates; *Jen Glaze* from Chubb Insurance; *Scott Rollins* from S. C. International; *Karen Snider* from TRAK Legal; and ...

4. AMSA Activities in the Spring'08 Semester

- January 28, 2008, the first AMSA Meeting of the Semester. Mr. Chance Phelps from BCBS of TN visited campus and talked to ACSI students.
 - February 20, 2008, Mr. Mark Bracher, MAAA, FSA, Senior Manager, Trend Actuary of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of TN will speak to ACSI students.
 - March 2008, Michael S. Johnson, ASA, from AIG American General will talk to ACSI students.
- More activities of AMSA can be found at www.mtsu.edu/~amsa/Calendar.htm.

5. 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.

If you are interested in setting up a scholarship for ACSI students bearing your's or your company's name, please contact Dr. Hong or MTSU Foundation Office for assistance.

6. Contact Information

For the 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.

Weblinks: 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. *Dusty Gray*, AMSA president's email: djg2u@mtsu.edu.