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OCTOBER 2011

The mission of the UMAC Newsletter is to promote communication between the executive team and students, make students aware of activities, and inform students of relevant topics in our field. If you have any comments, feedback, or if you want to contribute please contact Talia or Rowena at [umac.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:umac.newsletter@gmail.com)

## In this month's issue....

- ◆ Events Recap
- ◆ Interview Tips
- ◆ CERA & ERM
- ◆ Intern Profiles
- ◆ UMAC Merch
- ◆ Actuarial Jokes
- ◆ Upcoming Events

## A message from your UMAC exec...

### Hello UMAC!

This past month sure has been a busy one. We hope everyone is surviving during the middle of resume season, keep sending out those applications. The mentorship barbeque was a huge success; it was great to see so many of you come out! The pancake sale went tremendously well, a special thanks to everyone who volunteered. We have heard great things from UMAC members about the Speed Interviews which were held last week — from both new students gaining experience with the kinds of questions that will undoubtedly be asked during your real interviews, and from senior students who got the chance to polish up their interviewing skills.

Be sure to look for upcoming information about the Fish Dinner and the Resume Book. Good luck to everyone on your midterms and job searches!

Sincerely,

**The UMAC Executive**

# MentorSHIP Kick-off

On September 15th we celebrated the Mentorship Kick-off at King's Park. UMAC would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who participated! It was a great opportunity to meet not only your mentor or mentee, but other students in the actuarial program. We hope to see you at our future mentorship events!



## PANCAKE SALE



Thank you to Edna Fedya Restaurant (in association with Stella's Café) at 750 One Research Road for donating pancake batter. The pancake sale was a great success, and UMAC was able to raise a couple hundred dollars.

We would also like to thank the following volunteers: Aaron, Ko, Paul, Julia, Samantha, Joseph, Martin, Keith, Michael, Scott, Richard, Keri, Katie, Gao, and Belinda for helping out. We couldn't have done it without you!

## What is an Actuary?

We hope your questions were answered at our annual "What is an Actuary?" event! This year, the presentation featured

- Brock McEwen from Great-West Life
- Charly Pazdor from Eckler
- Winson Li & Melanie Klippenstein from Wawanesa.

UMAC would like to thank everyone for coming out and our speakers for taking the time out of their busy days to share their insight about the career.



This year's UMAC Speed Interview event was a huge success with employers from Great-West Life, Wawanesa, Aon, Investor's Group, Eckler, and representatives from Asper's Career Development Centre. We would like to thank UMSU for sponsorship the sandwiches, and for everyone who volunteered their time to help UMAC. Students who participated in the event had a great opportunity to experience what it feels like going into an actuarial interview, and hopefully now have more confidence when it counts for real!

Many employers offered some excellent tips and examples of questions you should be prepared for. Check them out below.

## Questions:

- What is it about the actuarial profession that drew you into the program here at the University of Manitoba? Does selecting the field as a career tell us more about your math skills or your personality?
- Give me an example where you had to assume leadership of a group to ensure completion of a task. Describe the process and the results.
- Where do you see yourself five years from now?
- Have you ever had a disagreement with another member of a team you were on? How did you resolve the conflict?
- Give an example of a time you were given an assignment or project to work on and were given very little instruction or direction. How did you approach the situation? What was the outcome?

Tell me . . .

- ◇ about yourself.
- ◇ what made you want to pursue a career as an actuary.
- ◇ about a time when you handled multiple responsibilities. How did you organize the work you needed to do? How did you manage your time?
- ◇ about a time when you were part of a successful work group or project team. Why was it so successful? What was your role?
- ◇ about a time you had to analyze information and make a recommendation.
- ◇ about a time where you faced adversity or a setback, how you reacted, and what the outcome was.
- We all make mistakes. Imagine a situation where you've produced a report and sent it to your client. A few days later, going through the file, you discover an error that was not caught when your work was peer reviewed. What do you do?
- Provide an example of a time where you communicated technical information to an audience of varying technical background. How did you change your communication style to ensure all individuals clearly understood you?



## Tips:

- Research the company before the interview and show this knowledge of the company at the interview. Be able to answer the question "Why do you want to work at this company?"
- Be honest and use specific examples from your own experiences at school, work, or volunteering.
- Don't hesitate to take a second to think over a question and formulate a response, or ask for clarification if you're not sure what they're asking.
- Keep eye contact and stay relaxed throughout the interview. Remember that your body language says a lot.

**Thank you to Gaetan Ruest (Investors Group), Crystal Dirks and Chris Jansen (Great-West Life), Kathy Kirkpatrick and Jill Latschislaw (CDC), Charly Pazdor (Eckler), Andrea Sherry and Maja Dos Santos (Wawanesa), and Tim McGorman (Aon) for their participation and contribution.**



# An Overview of CERA and ERM



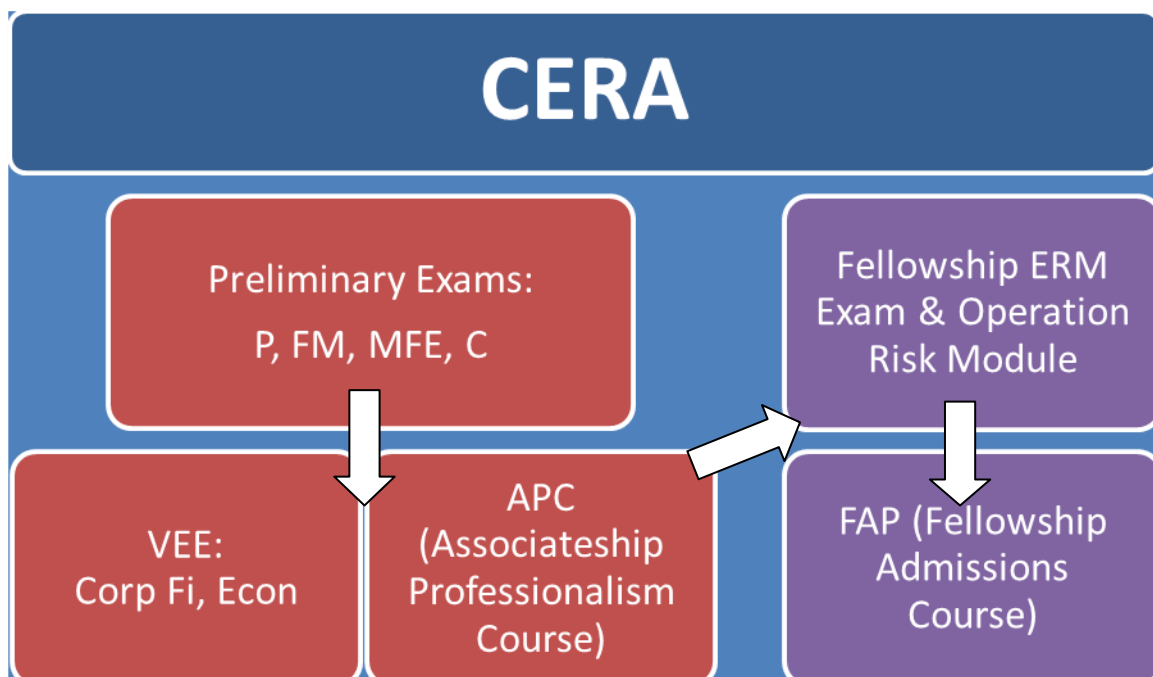
By Talia Pankewycz

Given the current economic upheaval, risk management is getting a lot of attention now even though it is a long-standing tradition in the financial industry as well as in the not-for-profit sector according to the University of Manitoba's Dr Sam Cox. He notes that while companies have long managed things like interest rate risk and mortality risk, enterprise risk management (ERM), which he defines as a general approach to managing the risk of an enterprise through a unified framework, is on the rise. Any risk retained by the company should be considered, including things like reputational risk, operational risk, pension risk, and building liability risk, among others. While the effects of good risk management, Andy Kenyon of Great-West Life notes, are not always easy to see or quantify, a comprehensive approach is advantageous, as poor risk management can be disastrous. Implementation of an organization-wide strategy can change the way information is shared, collected, and reported across a company. This, along with the discovery of correlated risks and a more centralized control system, leads to cost savings, more efficient operations, and a more stable company.

The Chartered Enterprise Risk Analyst (CERA) designation is a new designation offered by both the Society of Actuaries and the Casualty Actuarial Society with the goal of broadening the role of actuaries in risk management applications. While slightly different in each jurisdiction, the CERA designation is supported by 50 organizations internationally. Mr Kenyon notes that there is a great value in actuaries having a strong grasp of risk management, just as there is value in knowing the basis of investments or group insurance. Lise Arbez of Manulife Financial agrees, further stating that the CERA designation has opened her eyes to the wide variety of risks involved in doing business, and how best to deal with them. The business world is getting more turbulent and complex, and the CERA designation represents an opportunity for actuaries to expand their reach beyond the traditional scope, as well as stay on the cutting edge of an ever-evolving field.

**The author wishes to extend a special thank you to Lise Arbez, Andy Kenyon, Dr Sam Cox, and Maambo Mujala for their contributions.**

**Ms Arbez, ASA, CERA, is Senior Actuarial Associate with Group Retirement Solutions at Manulife Financial; Mr Kenyon, FCIA, CERA, is Associate Manager of Group Creditor/Direct Marketing at Great-West Life; Dr Cox, PhD, FSA, CERA, is the Warren Centre Chair at the University of Manitoba.**



# Intern Profiles

## Ray Huynh

Great-West Life



***Ray Huynh is a fourth year Actuarial Co-op student graduating in December 2012. If you have any questions feel free to email him at [raymond\\_huynh@hotmail.com](mailto:raymond_huynh@hotmail.com)***

This summer I was fortunate to be able to stay in the city and still have the opportunity to complete an internship at Great-West Life (GWL). At GWL, I worked in the Asset/Liability Management (ALM) department for the Valuation Team. During the summer my main responsibility was developing a database in MS Access that quantifies the financial impact caused by changes in the yield curve. I was also busy with some ad-hoc requests that included working with MS Excel and GGY AXIS. Now that school has started, I am still at GWL working part-time.

At GWL, they do an excellent job of integrating the interns with the rest of the actuaries and company. When we first started, we were paired with a senior actuary not within our department to act as our mentor. We were invited and encouraged to attend all the actuarial webcasts and summer speaker series. With a cafeteria and delicious food that guaranteed to help me gain twenty pounds and a gym with state of the art training equipment and fitness classes to help me lose it, GWL truly does have the complete package.

There were also many events happening outside of work. The Actuaries Club of Winnipeg hosted a golf day and passer's night. The Actuarial Professional Development Committee at GWL hosted a social event at the Winnipeg Art Gallery and recently an Ultimate Frisbee night.

Overall, I had a great time at GWL and in ALM. It is a dynamic workplace where I learned a lot of skills, absorbed a lot of information at different presentations, met and networked with different professionals in the industry and, most importantly, played my first round of 18!

During the summer of 2011, I had the opportunity to work at Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company. This was my first actuarial internship and I was fortunate enough to learn a lot during my sixteen weeks there.

I had two summer projects. Both involved a lot of programming in a language that I hadn't heard of before, but my reporting manager and the department helped and provided a lot of guidance. My first project was for the Actuarial Pricing – Auto department. I created a program to monitor the business using different rating variables. My second project was for the Corporate Actuarial department, and involved creating a program to monitor reserves for various locations and lines of business.

I enjoyed my internship for various reasons. I did not know much about Property and Casualty, and the experience broadened my perspective on the industry and the number of opportunities that are present in it. The work is always interesting and challenging and is also true to my nature. Being an actuary involves using your intellect as well as communication skills. I enjoyed getting to work on mentally stimulating projects and interacting with actuaries and people from other departments.

The best part about working with my department is that they were very friendly, funny and easy going. We did hang out outside the office which enhanced our relationships. I got to know my colleagues on a more personal level and interacted with them well.

I would definitely recommend an internship at Wawanesa Mutual. You will get a chance to learn a lot about insurance and meet a lot of great people.

## Maambo Mujala

Wawanesa



***Maambo Mujala is in her final year of Actuarial Mathematics through the Faculty of Science. If you have any questions you can email her at [maambo.mujala@gmail.com](mailto:maambo.mujala@gmail.com)***

# Intern Profiles

## Hannah (Izza) Evangelista

Allianz Life Insurance - Minneapolis, Minnesota



*Hannah Evangelista is in her last year in the actuarial program at the University of Manitoba. She'll be graduating with a B.Comm (Hons) in Actuarial Mathematics in December 2011. You can contact her at [hannah.evangelista@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.evangelista@gmail.com)*

This summer, I had the opportunity to work in the Market Consistent Embedded Value (MCEV) modeling team at Allianz Life Insurance, located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Allianz has a great and well-developed twelve week summer internship program – the class of 2011 had twenty-one actuarial interns and over forty interns overall! Additionally, Allianz provides housing all of its out-of-town interns, which was extremely helpful for me as it was my first time living on my own. It is a ten minute walk from work, and is close to everything you need, including grocery stores, shopping centres, and bus stops.

My responsibilities this summer included managing changes to the MCEV projection models for Allianz's fixed annuity, variable annuity, and life business. I also created an Excel tool that improved Value of New Business MCEV reporting. Over the course of my internship, I was able to expand upon my previous programming skills in C++, VBA, and SQL, as well as learn how to use MoSes actuarial software.

As interns, we also had the opportunity to have lunches with members of other actuarial departments, arrange step-ins, and have coffee talks with the executive leadership group. At the end of the summer, each intern presented to the entire actuarial department, including the Chief Actuary, which was a great experience.

Besides working, Allianz ensures that its interns have fun. There are lots of organized events including bowling, Minute to Win It, and a day of volunteering. One of my favourite events was the annual "mazing Race-themed picnic. On weekends the interns often got together, going to Twins games, visiting Downtown, Uptown, and Dinkytown, and taking advantage of the many free and beautiful things Minnesota has to offer.

Overall, I had a great experience in Minneapolis. If you have the opportunity, I definitely recommend spending the summer with Allianz. I made great relationships, had lots of fun, and learned a lot about the actuarial profession from an international perspective. Without a doubt, I know that the skills and knowledge I gained will contribute to my future success as I pursue an actuarial career.

## UMAC Merchandise

You've probably seen our t-shirts around...! They've been selling out almost as fast our pancakes. If you're interested in purchasing one for **\$15** then please send Rowena an email at [umac.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:umac.secretary@gmail.com). We have a limited quantity of our first edition t-shirts available but will gladly put in your order for the next batch (\$5 deposit required). Sizes come in S-M-L-XL.

Designs: 1) ACTUARIES: Love a 10 but will settle for a 6...  
2) ACTUARIES: We get paid to do models



**Do you have an awesome idea for a t-shirt?  
If so, let us know!**

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## DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE A FUNNY BONE?

By Maambo Mujala

All the functions of  $x$  are at a party. They are all having fun, dancing and mingling except  $\exp(x)$ .  $\exp(x)$  is standing alone in the corner looking miserable. The other functions notice this and approach him they ask him "exp(x) why don't you integrate with us?" and he replied, "because it makes no difference!"

An actuary and an underwriter are watching the eleven o'clock news. A story comes on involving a man on a window ledge threatening to jump. The underwriter says, "I'll bet you fifty bucks he doesn't jump."

The actuary says, "I'll take that bet." A few minutes later the guy jumps.

As the underwriter reaches for his wallet, the actuary says, "Never mind. It's not fair. I saw it on the six o'clock news".

The underwriter responds, "So did I, but I just didn't think it would happen twice."

Question: "What do actuaries use as contraceptives?"

Answer: "Their personality."

Question: "What is the difference between God and an actuary?"

Answer: "God doesn't think he's an actuary."

A guy walks into a butcher's shop looking for something for dinner. Sitting in the refrigerator are two piles of what looks like brains. The customer turns to the butcher and says to him "What are these in the refrigerator?" The butcher replies that the plate on the left contains accountant's brains, which he is selling for \$1 per pound and the other contains actuary's brains which he will sell for 10 cents per pound.

The customer was quite surprised at hearing that actuary brains are so cheap, as he always thought actuaries were highly intelligent people, so he asked the butcher about the discrepancy. The butcher replies "Yeah, but have you any idea how hard it is to find accountant's brains?"

Question: Why don't actuaries ever cheat at golf?

Answer: Because they can't round down.

Three men are applying for a job and are signing in at the security desk. The first man signs his name with an  $x$ . The security guard asked why he used an  $x$ , and the man explained that he was illiterate, his name was Alfonso, and so he used an  $x$ .

The second man signs his name with an  $xx$ . The security guard asked why he used an  $xx$ . The man explained that he was illiterate, his name was Bob Jenkins, and so he used an  $xx$ .

The third man signs his name with an  $xxx$ . This time the guard was prepared. He said, "You have a double last name, and you're illiterate, aren't you?". "Well, I am illiterate", the man replied, "but I don't have a double last name. My name is Peter Jones.". "Then why did you use the third  $x$ ?", the guard asked. "Oh, that's my actuarial designation."

Question: How many accountants does it take to find the present value of an annuity?

Answer: Three. One to determine the amount of each payment, one to figure out which account to put the answer in, and one to go ask an actuary how to calculate it.

Question: How do you differentiate an Actuary?

Answer:  $d\text{Actuary}/dx$

Question: How do you differentiate an Actuary on holiday?

Answer:  $d\text{Actuary}/dx + c$



**Do you know any funny actuarial jokes? E-mail them to [umac.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:umac.newsletter@gmail.com)!**

# FISH DINNER?



This year we'll be celebrating UMAC's **50th** Annual Fish Dinner (the real 50th... apparently we've celebrated a lot). If you're new to UMAC, then you're probably wondering... "what the heck is a fish dinner?" The Fish Dinner is an opportunity for students to network with the Actuarial industry. The event draws attendance from the professional community from all over North America, which includes plenty of University of Manitoba alumni. The dinner also features a keynote speaker that will talk about their experiences and current developments in the field (This year's keynote speaker is Max Rudolph... Actuary, CFA charter holder, Private investor, ERM/ALM/ Emerging risks/pandemic Expert...).

To sum it all up—the Fish Dinner is an amazing opportunity for students to network with the industry, see where UofM grads are now, learn about current developments in the actuarial field, celebrate our scholarship winners, eat delicious food, and have a good time. If you only go to ONE single UMAC event this year (which you won't), **make sure it's the Fish Dinner!**

*Invitations will be distributed in actuarial courses by UMAC Exec. Please pay in class. If you're currently not enrolled in any actuarial courses, invitations will be sent out by email and payment arrangements can be made (office hours). **PAYMENT DEADLINE: OCTOBER 27th***

**WHAT?** The 50th Annual Fish Dinner!  
 \$30 (UMAC) \$50 (Non-UMAC Student)

**WHEN?** November 10, 2011  
 Reception 5:30, Dinner 6:30

**WHERE? Dinner:** Bergmann's on Lombard  
**After-party:** Johnny G's (basement)

## Dates to Watch out For...

- October 25
  - \* Deadline for December FM Sitting
- October 27
  - \* Deadline to buy Fish Dinner Tickets
  - \* Allianz Infosession
- November 10
  - \* 50th Annual Fish Dinner
- November 14
  - \* SoA University Outreach Event
- December 8
  - \* Last Day of Classes