

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PENN STATE UNIVERSITY ACTUARIAL SCIENCE CLUB

CENTER OF ACTUARIAL EXCELLENCE



This past December, the Society of Actuaries recognized Penn State as a Center of Actuarial Excellence. CAE is a part of the SOA's plan to strengthen the importance of the academic aspect of the profession. The requirements for receiving this honor are dependent on many things, such as curriculum, faculty, the number and quality of students and alums, research, and connection to industry. Visit this [SOA website](#) for more info on the criteria.

CAE status is awarded for a period of five years beginning December 20, 2010 and continuing through December 31, 2015. This designation acknowledges Penn State as a University with an outstanding Actuarial Program and provides us with the opportunity to compete for substantial grants for education and research. The students and faculty couldn't be more proud of this achievement and hope to maintain this status for years to come! Click [here](#) to read the PSU announcement on it.

CLUB OFFICERS

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CIGNA



CLUB MENTORING PROGRAM NEEDS ALUMS

The Actuarial Science Club just started a new mentoring program for students. It was created to provide an easy and efficient way for juniors to ask questions and receive advice from experienced students. The mentors answer questions about classes, exams, career preparation, resumes, etc.

The students selected to be a mentor were those who have already passed an exam and had an internship. In the fall, a new list will be created for the incoming junior class. We also hope to expand the program to freshman and sophomores so they can gain knowledge

about the Actuarial Science Major ahead of time.

Next year, the Actuarial Science Club wants to expand even further. We are currently looking for alumni to volunteer to mentor senior actuarial students next year. The purpose of this program is to provide seniors with someone to talk to and get advice from during their job search and while studying for exams. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, or would like more information, please contact Dylan Garboski at dmg5199@psu.edu.

PHILANTHROPY - THON



Overall Penn State raised a total of \$9,563,016.09 benefitting The Four Diamonds Fund.

This past year the Actuarial Science Club participated in the largest student run philanthropy in the world, THON. Penn State raised an astounding \$9,563,016.09 benefitting The Four Diamonds Fund. Even though it was only our second year participating as a club, we were able to raise **\$5,784** For The Kids! A special thanks to our THON Chair, Justin Airoso, and to Paul Andrejko and Chris Park, who represented the Actuarial Science Club in the 46-hour dance marathon this past February! They stood for 46 hours with no breaks and were incredible throughout the weekend! Members of the club participated in three canning weekends last year in New Jersey and Northeast Philadelphia to raise money towards our total. We are excited to continue our involvement in THON next year through canning weekends and other fundraising events!

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE CAREER FAIR



SEPTEMBER'S SUCCESS

The annual Actuarial Science Career Fair was held on September 16, 2010. Prior to the Career Fair, a Resume Workshop and an Interview Workshop were held to prepare students for the upcoming recruiting events. A Special thanks to Actuarial Club President, Julie Guthrie and Vice President, Paul Andrejko for leading these events.

A total of 24 companies attended the Career Fair, representing consulting, healthcare, life, and property/casualty companies. Sponsors of the Career Fair were Towers Watson, CIGNA, United HealthCare, Prudential, Genworth Financial, and University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. There was great student turnout, as students from every year were in attendance. Many companies followed up with information sessions and on-campus interviews. Thank you to all employers and alumni who came to the Career Fair and company information sessions. Also, a special thanks to Mimi Peng and the Actuarial Science Club Officers for running the Career Fair this past September!

JOIN US NEXT FALL

If you would like your company to be a part of Penn State's Actuarial Career Fair next fall please contact our Corporate Liaison, Daniel DiCello, at dvd5076@psu.edu. The **standard registration fee is \$250**. However, if you would like to gain extra exposure for your company, you can become a Gold or Platinum sponsor.

- **GOLD Sponsors** (\$500)
 - Receive a half page advertisement in the Career Fair program
 - See last year's program [here](#)
- **PLATINUM Sponsors** (\$1000 & up)
 - Receive a full-page advertisement
 - Receive an additional table at the Career Fair
- **Larger Contributors** can receive advanced access to Resume Booklets, an article on your firm in the Actuarial Science Club's newsletter, and/or an opportunity to give talks in our Speaker Series.
- **Note:** The fees for the Gold and Platinum sponsorship cover the registration fee as well.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Greg Malone

Connecticut Valley Actuarial Alum

Greg Malone, FSA / MAAA and PSU class of 1995 (Actuarial Science) has been president of the Connecticut Valley Alumni chapter since 2007 and was president of the PSU actuarial science club in 1994-95. He has worked at CIGNA for 15 years in the Hartford area and is on our Actuarial Advisory Board. The Connecticut Valley chapter has been named a "group of distinction" for six straight years by the PSAA (PSU Alumni Association), has about 130 members, and has a freshman scholarship endowment that just passed \$100,000 to place the chapter in the top 5 among PSAA groups. You can get more information about the chapter at www.psuctvalley.org.

Greg is running for the PSU Alumni Council with the election period running through May 31. All PSAA members are eligible and encouraged to vote.

ALUMNI TAILGATE

Last fall, the Actuarial Science Club welcomed the Alumni by organizing a tailgate on September 18th, before Penn State defeated Kent State with a score of 24-0. It was on the same weekend as the Actuarial Science Career Fair and the Alumni Board meeting for everyone's convenience. In addition, twenty alumni gathered the night before at Bar Bleu and had a great time. This year, we are planning another tailgate for our visiting Alumni. It will take place on Saturday, September 24th before the game against Eastern Michigan University. All Alumni are invited. Also, would anyone like to help organize a reception or dinner the night before (say at Bar Bleu or the Allen Street Grill? Ron will be happy to help you with it.



Actuarial Alum Tailgate

Prof Gebhardtsbauer talking to PSU Actuarial Alum Kay Mooney (Chief of Staff to Chairman of Aetna)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Associate Director, Variable Annuity Pricing SunLife

This position has responsibilities with the Pricing function of the Annuity Profitability Management Department, and will be involved in various projects including product development, pricing, regulatory filing support and new business modeling projects.

Emphasis is on developing and maintaining pricing methods and models, and utilizing these models to produce product information such as product profitability, reserve and capital requirements, and dynamic hedge costs. This person may have opportunity to manage actuarial students and staff. The position requires an FSA with 4+ years experience in financial reporting and/or insurance modeling. Strong knowledge of MG-ALFA actuarial projection system & familiarity with pricing process for annuities or other lines of business is preferred. Knowledge of financial reporting, valuation and capital modeling is helpful. E-mail resumes to laura.basoli@sunlife.com.

Experienced Health Actuary State Farm

State Farm is looking for experienced Health actuaries (LTD, Med Sup, DI pricing) for their Life/Health Actuarial group. The Health position requires at least 3 years work experience, preferably someone who is (or is close to being) an ASA. The position is posted on www.statefarm.com. If you have questions, you can email Eileen Koke at eileen.koke.gewz@statefarm.com

Did you know that one of the first PSU students to wear the Lion Suit was an actuary? See [this article in the Philadelphia Inquirer](#) about Thomas Kelly.

OUR MANY TALENTED ACTUARIAL STUDENTS

PSU Blue Band



Paul Andrejko

Paul has been playing trumpet with the Penn State Marching Blue Band since he was a freshman. A typical Game Day in the Blue Band begins five hours before kickoff with a morning practice followed by a parade to the Bryce Jordan Center for a pre-game pep rally. After marching Penn State's traditional pre-game routine, the band performs a new half-time show each week. Following the game, the band puts on a post-game performance and parades back to the Blue Band Building. Between practice and performance, Paul spends about 20 hours a week with the band.

Although it's a lot of work, Paul says being in the Blue Band has been a great experience. He's traveled to Michigan, Purdue, Ohio State and four bowl games with the band. His favorite part of playing in the band is being on the field in front of crowds of over 110,000 people in Beaver Stadium.

PSU Lacrosse

Alex Garrity

Alex has been a varsity member of the Lacrosse team his whole time here at Penn State. Being a Division One athlete is practically a full-time job. On a typical day he has a 2-hour workout before classes, and team practice after classes, which can take several hours, followed by a film of a game.

Maintaining balance between lacrosse and school is also challenging because the sport is very physically demanding. Players spend a lot of time in the



weight room, so when it comes time to study, athletes are often exhausted.

For Alex, lacrosse has been an amazing experience. While it requires traveling across the country every other weekend in the spring, long days, and physically demanding work, the rewards are worth the sacrifice. It is definitely possible to pursue Division I Athletics while in the Actuarial Science major; it just requires good time management.

PSU Boxing

Dan Nysch

Dan has been on the PSU boxing team since September 2010. He dedicates at least 2 hours a day, 6 days a week and goes on morning runs to prepare for matches. Sparring, film work, conditioning, proper nutrition and watching Rocky are just a few of the things that helps him succeed. This year, Dan represented the team in the 185-weight class, where he finished 2nd in the Eastern region and 3rd in the nation with an All-American honor. He currently has a 3-2 record with 1TKO. His goal is to become the national champion in his weight class.

In addition of being in the one of the hardest majors at PSU and dedicating many hours towards boxing, Dan is also a brother of the Sigma Pi Fraternity and works as a short order cook at Boots Sub Shop. Dan prides himself on making delicious cheese steaks, French fries, hoagies and a variety of other foods.

For Dan, taking up boxing has been awesome and worth all the time he puts into it. So support Dan and the PSU Boxing Team by attending next year!



COMPANIES WHERE SENIORS GOT JOBS

Accenture Consulting	HANTH, JESSICA
Aetna (Hartford)	DAVIDHEISER, DEITRICH
Aetna (Hartford)	GRIMES, KATE
AXA (Hong Kong)	LI, CHUNG HOWARD
Black Rock (NYC)	PENG, ZHAOXIN
Buck (Secaucus)	GENTRY, ROBERT
Chubb	PARR, ANDREW
Deloitte (NYC)	HUANG, ZOE
Deloitte (NYC P&C)	MCDONNELL, CAITLIN
Eire Insurance	CAPRISTO, GINA
Humana (Louisville)	SIRC, JOSEPH
IBM (DC)	CHEN, LESLIE
Independence BC/BS (Philly)	SPRIK, DANIEL
Intel (Malaysia)	RAZLI, AMAR
John Hancock	XIE, FAN
Korea Life	PARK, WONIL
Medicare	TOMLINSON, DERIK
Mercer (Boston)	AIROSO, JUSTIN
Mercer (DC)	FAIRCHILD, RUSSELL
Mercer (Princeton H&W Ben)	SNAVELY, VICTORIA
OR Ret Plan & London School of Econ	WU, CHU
Phoenix (Hartford)	ELSON, HOWARD
Prudential (Newark)	ANDREJKO, PAUL
Prudential (Newark)	GUTHRIE, JULIE
Prudential (Newark)	ZYGMUNT, JOHN
PwC (Philly) Actuarial & Insurance Mgmt	HARDER, ANDREW
Sibson (Manhattan)	GRAMOLINI, BRIAN
Teach for America	LINN, JONATHON
The Hartford	NOLEN, SCOTT
Towers (NYC)	MCCLANE, JORDAN
Towers Watson (Boston)	GARRITY, ALEXANDER
Towers Watson (DC)	SIEGEL, LEE
Towers Watson	PARK, CHRISTOPHER
Travelers (Hartford)	UNGER, MAX
United Concordia (Harrisburg)	SHAW, ZACH
United HealthCare (Trumball)	SHEA, SUSAN
United HealthCare (Trumball)	HORSCH, ZACH

Thank you Employers for hiring us!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EXAM PASSERS!

P EXAM

ABDUL MALEK,
 MUHAMMAD NASRI
 AINSWORTH, SIMON
 ZACHARY
 ANDRASSY, KIRSTYN
 ANDREJKO, PAUL
 BETZLER, MATTHEW
 BONCZEK, MATTHEW
 BRAHM, MICHAEL
 BROSER, MARTIN
 BRUCE, GREGORY
 CAPRISTO, GINA
 CARDUCCI, MICHAEL
 CHEN, LESLIE
 COSSU, ALEXANDER
 D'ARMI, MATT
 DAVIDHEISER,
 DEITRICH
 DAVIS, PAUL
 DIORIO, BRIAN
 ELSON, HOWARD
 FAIRCHILD, RUSSELL
 FONDRK, TYLER
 GARBOSKI, DYLAN

GEESEY, DOUGLAS
 GENTRY, ROBERT
 GETTS, PATRICK
 GOLDING, MICHAEL
 GOSTOWSKI, EVAN
 GRAMOLINI, BRIAN
 GRIMES, KATE
 GUTHRIE, JULIE
 HALL, KATHARINE
 HAN, JIHUN
 HARDER, ANDREW
 HORSCH, ZACHARY
 HUANG, JESSE
 HUANG, ZOE
 HUI, XIAOTONG
 IULA, RAFFAEL
 JONES, CHRISTIAN
 JONES, NICHOLAS
 KASLANDER, JAIME
 KEEN, JUSTIN
 KERN, MALLORY
 KIM, BYUNG HA
 KIM, SOOYEON
 KOZLOWSKI, CHRIS
 KWON, YOUJIN

LESHER, EDWARD
 LI, CHUNG HO
 LI, RAN
 LINN, JONATHAN
 LIU, YI
 LOCH, CONNOR
 MONTEMAYOR,
 BLAKELY
 MORAN, TIMOTHY
 MOSIER, TIFFANY
 NOLEN, SCOTT
 NOVAK, THOMAS
 NYSCH, DANIEL
 PALM, ERICA
 PARK, WONIL
 PARR, ANDREW
 PENG, ZHAOXIN
 PUGH, BEN
 ROGERS, ROBERT
 ROUSE, KATHRYN
 SHAW, TAYLOR
 SHAW, ZACHARY
 SHEA, SUSAN
 SHEN, XIAOFEI
 SHI, KEYI

SIDHU, JASDEEP
 SIEGEL, LEE
 SIRC, JOSEPH
 SPRIK, DANIEL
 STACKHOUSE, MATTHEW
 SUN, FANG
 SZE, ANDREW
 TAO, XUEYING
 TAPPE, JOSEPH
 TOMLINSON, DERIK
 UNGER, MAX
 VACCARO, MICHAEL
 VOTTERO, CECILY
 WALDEN, ANDREW
 WANG, KAICHENG
 WARNICK, BRITTA
 WERNER, DANIEL
 WU, CHU
 XIE, FAN
 ZHENG, QUN
 ZHOU, XIN
 ZHOU, YUNHUA
 ZYGMUNT, JOHN

FM EXAM

ABDUL MALEK,
 MUHAMMAD NASRI
 AMER, ATHIRAH
 ANDREJKO, PAUL
 BLASIAK, KRISTA
 BRAHM, MICHAEL
 BROSER, MARTIN
 CAPRISTO, GINA
 CHANG, HSUAN WEI
 CHEN, LESLIE
 CHEN, YI
 CHIEFFE, EDWARD
 COSSU, ALEXANDER
 DICELLO, DANIEL
 DIORIO, BRIAN
 ELSON, HOWARD
 FAIRCHILD, RUSSELL
 FISHER, TODD
 FONDRK, TYLER
 GARBOSKI, DYLAN
 GARRITY, ALEXANDER
 GENTRY, ROBERT
 GETTS, PATRICK

GOLDBERG, MAX
 GOLDING, MICHAEL
 GRAMOLINI, BRIAN
 GRIMES, KATE
 GUTHRIE, JULIE
 HANTH, JESSICA
 HARDER, ANDREW
 HOBAN, KEVIN
 HORSCH, ZACHARY
 HUANG, JESSE
 HUANG, ZOE
 JONES, NICHOLAS
 KEEN, JUSTIN
 KIM, BYUNG HA
 KIM, SOOYEON
 KWON, YOUJIN
 LESHER, EDWARD
 LI, CHUNG HO
 LOCH, CONNOR
 LYNN, NIKOLAS
 MCCLANE, JORDAN
 MONTEMAYOR,
 BLAKELY
 MOSIER, TIFFANY
 NOLEN, SCOTT

NOVAK, THOMAS
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 PARR, ANDREW
 PENG, ZHAOXIN
 ROGERS, ROBERT
 ROUSE, KATHRYN
 SHAW, TAYLOR
 SHEA, SUSAN
 SHEN, XIAOFEI
 SHIVY, RYAN
 SIDHU, JASDEEP
 SIEGEL, LEE
 SIRC, JOSEPH
 SPRIK, DANIEL
 TAO, XUEYING
 TAPPE, JOSEPH
 UNGER, MAX
 VACCARO, MICHAEL
 WANG, DONGNI
 WARNICK, BRITTA
 WERNER, DANIEL
 WU, CHU
 XIE, FAN
 ZYGMUNT, JOHN

MFE EXAM

ANDREJKO, PAUL
 GENTRY, ROBERT
 HUANG, ZOE
 LI, CHUNG HO
 NOVAK, THOMAS
 PARK, WONIL
 PENG, ZHAOXIN
 SPRIK, DANIEL

MLC EXAM

ANDREJKO, PAUL
 GENTRY, ROBERT
 HUANG, ZOE
 PARK, WONIL
 SPRIK, DANIEL

We Need Your Help

I hope you enjoyed this newsletter. As you can see, we have a great actuarial program here at Penn State and a very energetic Actuarial Science Student Club (which created this newsletter). The actuarial program that Dr. Arnold Shapiro began in the early 1970s has grown into the largest actuarial program in the US (based on number of students passing exams – easily over 100 each year). About 1/3 of Stat and Math majors enroll in the actuarial program. The other 75 students major in Actuarial Science thru the Smeal School of Business. In total, we have about 125 students entering the program each year. If you would like to know more about us, see the [Actuarial Science Club's website](#) and consider forwarding it to smart math students in your area. You will find:

- where our students are getting jobs,
- employers who recruit at Penn State,
- the Actuarial Science Student Club's Newsletters,
- students who pass exams, and
- how to access student resumes.

We still have the 3 courses Dr. Shapiro taught (Financial Mathematics and Actuarial Mathematics I and II), and we added a course in Derivatives Markets (for the MFE/3F exam). We have courses in Risk Management, Life and Health Insurance, Pensions, and P&C ratemaking taught by other faculty such as alum Brian Johnson, ACAS. Would you be interested in coming back to Happy Valley someday? We occasionally need adjunct faculty, so let us know if you'd ever like to teach a course. The pay isn't much, but if you are like me, you'll love teaching these students. We get the best and brightest ones coming to the actuarial program.

What else can you do? As you might expect, it costs money to keep the actuarial program going. For example, to stay CAE we have to hire a PhD actuary and that takes real money - \$1 million to endow a Professorship or \$1/2 million for an Early Career Professorship. We also have needs that don't involve such large amounts. For example, you may remember getting your exam fee reimbursed for passing an actuarial exam. We also pay students to be Teaching Assistants (they help keep me sane). Unfortunately, due to a lack of funds, we reimburse only 1/2 the exam registration fee now and have had to reduce the number of TAs. Thus, any contribution, no matter what size, would really help the students. Contributions can be made to Penn State University, and mailed to The Smeal College of Business Development Office at 209 Business Building. If you would like the contribution to go to the Eberly College of Science, please state that. In either case, note that you want your contribution to be for the actuarial program. Thanks! Hope to see some of you at the alumni reunion (p. 4).

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PS I got Dr Shapiro's job when he retired three years ago. You can find more about me [here](#).

If you would like to unsubscribe from this list serve, please email [Kelly Towey](#) .