



Penn State University

January 2019 NEWSLETTER

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE CLUB #25

January 2019

Contents

President's Talk	<u>3</u>
Cigna Q&A with Noah Blake	<u>4</u>
Prudential Q&A with Kevin Chow	<u>6</u>
Actuaries Can Run	<u>8</u>
Students with Internship Offers	<u>10</u>
Students with Full-Time Offers	<u>11</u>

Presidents' Talks

Current President Paul Birch:



Hello everyone,

Welcome back from break! I hope you all had a relaxed and enjoyable holiday season, and are re-energized for another semester of learning. I'm very excited to see what the next few months has in store for all, and there will be lots of opportunities to learn and grow as actuaries.

Actuarial students were certainly busy throughout the fall semester. From the Major Forum to a talk by former American Academy of Actuaries President Steve Alpert, the club hosted 35 different events for students. Under the club's new points system, 133 students received 2 attendance points, paid dues, and fulfilled their mock interview requirement, and 326 students had at least one interaction with club resources. One student even attended 19 events! We certainly appreciate everyone's transition to the new system, and encourage you to check out the Points Tracker page on the www.psuactsci.com website or ask a club officer if you have any questions about the points system.

As usual, our signature event for the fall semester was the Actuarial Science Career Fair. Held on Monday, September 17th in the Business Building Atrium, students engaged with recruiters from over 30 different companies, and many went on to land interviews, internships and jobs with those companies. Special thanks to the Corporate Outreach team of Grace McStravock, Shiva Alladi, and John Miller for all their time and effort in arranging the event!

Looking ahead to the spring semester, there are many more exciting events to enjoy. In late January, the club will be hosting a CAS-sponsored case competition. A field trip is also in the works, and is a great opportunity to personally see an example of an actuarial workplace. For those still looking for jobs and internships, there will be regular position postings in club emails so make sure to check your inboxes! Make sure to keep attending events - not only can you earn club points for them, but you can also learn invaluable skills and lessons that'll better prepare you for next recruiting season.

As we begin a new semester, we also introduce a new executive board. If you're interested in serving on the board and helping to grow the club throughout the year, make sure to apply. As I'm closing out my term, I'd like to thank the members of the 2018 executive board for all of their service and efforts in keeping the club running - it's been an amazing team to work with. Finally, I'd like to thank all the students in the Penn State Actuarial Science program for your hard work and motivation. We are lucky to have an exceptional bunch of students, and Penn State would not have a world-class actuarial program without all of you.

Keep up the good work!

Paul Birch

Cigna Q&A with Noah Blake



What made you decide to go intern at Cigna?

The size of the company and the breadth of opportunities were two main factors that were appealing. After interviewing, it became clear just how much Cigna valued their actuaries specifically, and how much they cared about investing in them and developing them to be business leaders. I wanted to go somewhere that I knew would value me highly, and would provide a lot of career opportunities and flexibility down the road.

In three words, how would you describe your internship experience at Cigna and why?

Valuable, memorable, and entertaining. Cigna's internship was truly valuable for developing not only my actuarial skills, but also my business acumen and knowledge of the health insurance industry as a whole. It seemed that every day had its own fun and interesting activities, people, and conversations, all of which made the summer a truly memorable experience.

What challenges did you face during your internship?

My project was very open-ended. There was no specific end-goal product that my team had in mind - instead, it was up to me to develop my project in a way that I thought made the most sense. It was intimidating to not have my work directly laid out for me, but being able to really own my project and feel proud of my work product was very rewarding.

What have you learned from your internship?

My internship boosted my Excel competency, my knowledge of the health insurance industry, my comfort in a business atmosphere, and my communication skills.

Cigna Q&A with Noah Blake

Can you share some thoughts about beginning a full-time position with Cigna?

I'm very much looking forward to starting my career at Cigna. I already feel extremely taken care of, and I'm very excited to work with my future coworkers. Cigna has some of the brightest and most fun actuaries in the industry.

Do you have some takeaways or suggestions...

Take some time to really understand your work before you actually start working on it. Your work product will be exponentially better if you have a legitimate grasp on what you're doing and why you're doing it before you even start - plus, you'll learn more along the way. Look for the gray areas in your work, and think of how to add some color to them. It is in those places that the real critical thinking of actuarial work takes place, and navigating those gray areas are how the the best actuaries distinguish themselves.



Cigna Field Trip

Prudential Q&A with Kevin Chow



Can you introduce yourself?

Hi, my name is Kevin Chow. I am currently a senior majoring in Risk Management - Actuarial Science Option and minoring in Statistics and Information Systems Management. After my freshman year, I was selected to attend Prudential's Actuarial Success Awareness Program (ASAP). This led to two internships and I am looking forward to returning to Prudential this coming summer as an Actuarial Associate in the Actuarial Leadership Development Program (ALDP).

How does Prudential stand out from other companies?

I believe that Prudential stands out from other companies in two distinct aspects: breadth of opportunities and culture. Associates within the ALDP have the opportunity to take 12-18-month rotations around various roles across the company. Prudential recognizes the value an actuary can provide to functions across the company, so associates can choose to be placed into roles ranging from valuation to investment management positions. Prudential fosters diversity, encourages collaboration, and focuses on developing talent. This supportive culture makes every day at Prudential exciting and fulfilling.

Can you briefly describe your ASAP and internship experience?

ASAP was a great experience, especially as a freshman. I had the opportunity to network, shadow, and learn from senior actuaries in the company. This really allowed me to learn about the life insurance industry and experience a day in the life of an actuary. From my positive program, I decided to commit myself to the actuarial career. As an intern, I had the opportunity to contribute significantly to the teams I was placed into. In addition, we had weekly networking sessions with vice presidents and chief actuaries, volunteering opportunities, and panel discussions with senior executives across the company. These opportunities created a well-rounded internship experience that allowed me to build my technical abilities, give back to the community, and develop business skills that will propel my career in the future.

Prudential Q&A with Kevin Chow

What is something that surprised you about Prudential?

The one thing that surprised me the most about Prudential was their commitment to bettering the community. Employees are encouraged to volunteer and donate money to causes they believe in, but Prudential is also actively involved with impact investing. They recognize that investments should generate a financial return and create positive, measurable social impact. As a result, Prudential is on track to build a \$1 billion impact investing portfolio by 2020.

What advice would you give to students who want work at Prudential?

Be yourself! Prudential is looking for more than a good student. They want candidates who are able to connect with others, have unique backgrounds or experiences, and are passionate about what they do.



Prudential Field Trip

Actuaries Can Run



Many students in the Actuarial Science Club are involved in different clubs, organizations, and teams. A few students, who are very passionate about running and fitness are involved in Club Cross Country. Club Cross Country is a flexible club, as far as commitment, since attending competitions is not required and all students are welcome to join for friends and great exercise. They meet to run for an hour or so daily at 4:30 at Rec Hall with more intense training days on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Grace McStravock and Aidan Lake are active cross country competitors who think that Club Cross Country is very important in helping them maintain a balance in their actuarial academics.

Junior Grace McStravock is a big advocate for having the club as a way to get away from her actuarial science work and uses it to help her de-stress. She said, “[Club Cross Country] is the one place I can go and feel totally free from my work.” Maintaining this balance is very important for any student and doing so with physical activity and fresh air make it even better for you and your health! Grace also mentioned that after running, she “feels refreshed and ready to take on the challenges of being an actuarial student.” Sophomore Aidan Lake, says that it is more than just relaxing, and when he is running he is “flooding oxygen into his brain and reacting quickly to changes in [his] environment” which is a good change of pace after having your head down studying for many hours.



Club Cross Country also serves as a place to socialize and meet other people outside of the classes that you have with the same actuarial science students. Aidan said that he “loves cross country because of the people,” and spoke about how the combination of the dynamic team environment and individual effort makes the club so special.

Actuaries Can Run

The mental process of running in long distance races is very similar to that of taking and passing actuarial exams. Grace mentioned, “Both are extreme mental challenges,” and that sometimes for both activities, “If the conditions are bad, they’re bad for everyone.” Whether it’s the air quality or having to study during a semester or during an already short break, there is adversity in both that you have to overcome and push yourself through. She concluded, “In running, cycling, and exam-taking, at the end of the day, no one can do the work for you - they can just help you find the grit within yourself to keep trying.” Aidan said that, “The strict regimen and discipline that goes into studying for an actuarial exam is similar to long months of training that go into preparation for a race.”

In conclusion, it is important for all students, especially actuarial students, to stay involved in different activities. If they can also maintain a healthy lifestyle at the same time like the students in Club Cross Country, that’s a bonus!



Students with Internship Offers

Name	Company	Location
Alladi, Shiva	Munich Re	New York, NY
Birch, Vince	Long Term Care Group	Treose, PA
California, Margot	Highmark Health	Pittsburgh, PA
Chen, Yiling	KPMG	New York, NY
Cherry, Courtney	Highmark Health	Pittsburgh, PA
Cikowski, Shannon	EY	Philadelphia, PA
Coleman, Alexis	Lincoln Financial	N/A
Dalby, Olivia	AXA XL	New York, NY
Dolan, Tyler	State Auto	Columbus, OH
Donten, Noah	Prudential	Newark, NJ
Feng, Mayting	Buck	Secaucus, NJ
Gersh, Aaron	PwC	New York, NY
Grabowski, Connor	Mercer	Philadelphia, PA
Guanowsy, Taras	Highmark Health	Pittsburgh, PA
Gupte, Atharv	General Re	Stamford, CT
Haver, Frankie	Cigna	Bloomfield, CT
Howe, Maria	Transamerica	Cedar Rapids, IA
Huang, Lu	Reinsurance Group of America	Chesterfield, MO
Kahn, Judy	Willis Towers Watson	New York, NY
Lake, Aidan	Transamerica	Berwyn, PA
Liu, Elysia	New York Life	New York, NY
Ma, Siyi	Willis Towers Watson	Arlington, VA
Miller, John	Transamerica	Cedar Rapids, IA
McStravock, Grace	Cigna	Philadelphia, PA
Morris, Ashley	Highmark Health	Camp Hill, PA
Nachison, Brent	Deloitte Consulting	New York, NY
Nguyen, Duong	BC/BS of Western NY	Buffalo, NY
Niedermayer, Jacob	UnitedHealthcare	Shelton, CT
Nybro, Nicolette	Munich Re	New York, NY
Patel, Akash	Cigna	Bloomfield, CT
Putt, Nathan	Transamerica	Exton, PA
Roby, Michael	Cigna	Philadelphia, PA
Rohrbacher, Blake	Highmark Health	Pittsburgh, PA
Ryan, Avery	Aetna	Blue Bell, PA
Seibert, Allison	Mercer	Philadelphia, PA
Weber, Rachel	Prudential	Newark, NJ

Students with Full-Time Offers

Name	Company	Location
Anees, Azam	PwC	Chicago, IL
Babst, Christopher	Great American Insurance Co.	Cincinnati, OH
Benson, Bobbi	Genworth Financial	Richmond, VA
Bergerman, Rafael	CNA	Chicago, IL
Birch, Paul	Aetna	Blue Bell, PA
Blake, Noah	Cigna	Philadelphia, PA
Callahan, Michael	Oliver Wyman	New York, NY
Chow, Kevin	Prudential	Newark, NJ
Dong, Chloe	AIG	New York, NY
Frederick, Ethan	Deloitte Consulting	New York, NY
Johnson, Daniel	Mutual of Omaha	Omaha, NE
Jubran, Yousef	Lincoln Financial Group	Boston, MA
Lamont, Thomas	KPMG	New York, NY
Lombardo, Alyssa	Willis Towers Watson	Arlington, VA
Piccari, Tom	Aetna	Blue Bell, PA
Rosencrance, Alex	Genworth Financial	Richmond, VA
Sukunda, Joe	Munich Re	New York, NY
Tamburo, Kelly	Deloitte Consulting	New York, NY
Ventrello, Alex	Erie Insurance	Erie, PA
Verna, Jason	GEICO	Chevy Chase, MD
Wetzel, Morgan	Highmark Health	Pittsburgh, PA
Winters, Lisa	Wakely Consulting Group	Denver, CO
Xia, Xin (Vera)	Cigna	Philadelphia, PA
Yen, Ichen (Ivan)	Aon	Chicago, IL