

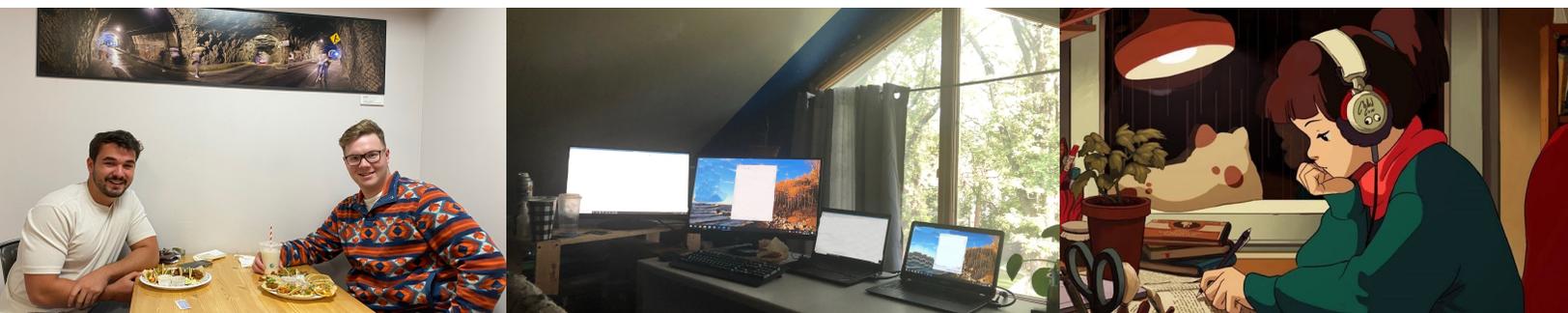
September 2020

Issue 1  
2020-2021

# UMAC

*Newsletter*

*Inside the Issue...*



**PRESIDENTIAL  
WELCOME!**

**REMOTE  
INTERNSHIP  
PROFILE**

**HOW TO  
KILL  
DISTANCE  
LEARNING**

**umäc**  
x

*University of Manitoba Actuarial Club*



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## WELCOME FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS



Just two boys with 17 tacos and big plans

Hello UMAC!

We would like to congratulate everyone for their hard work over the summer period! Whether you completed an internship, passed an exam, took a class or used the summer to relax, you took a great step in developing yourself as a future actuary! Under normal circumstances, we would be welcoming everyone back to school in person. It's amazing to consider that 6 months ago, the University of Manitoba community was forced to transition to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

University will look a lot different this year. Despite this, **your UMAC executive team has been working extra hard to ensure the best experiences are still available to you!** September will be a busy month, kicking off with the actuarial recruitment period and our fall mentorship program. **There is lots to be excited about for the upcoming year!**

We encourage everyone to stay connected with the club. Check your email account regularly for information about upcoming events, along with social media and the club's website. Finally, take time to connect with other students in the actuarial program. Having a quick chat with someone is a great way to take a break from studying and will keep the strong community network UMAC is known for!

-Alex Morakis & Brett MacFarlane

## GOALS FOR THE 2020-2021 YEAR

### BROADEN ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Continue with Excel and R workshops
- Introduce SQL and Python workshops

### EXPAND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Build relationships with companies that do not actively recruit from U of M
- Implement a fall resume and cover letter workshop

### ACTUARIAL SURVIVAL GUIDE

- Release the second edition of the Actuarial Survival Guide

### PROMOTE CASE COMPETITIONS

- Use Warren Centre funding to send UMAC team to a national or international case competition
- Secure a corporate sponsor for the UMAC Cup case competition

# MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE TEAM

and learn a fun fact!

BRIXTON REID  
ASNA REP



An NHL referee gave me his jersey

ALEX MORAKIS  
CO-PRESIDENT



I make my own wine

BRETT MACFARLANE  
CO-PRESIDENT



I was the forgotten exec team member at last year's Fish Dinner

KATHERINE STOBBE  
COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR



I played a violin solo with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra

ABDULLAH HARUNANY  
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE



I'm an unfortunate Arsenal Fan

JILLIAN LEGRANGE  
PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR



I ran a marathon

MAX PICHE  
SECRETARY



I once broke my arm trying to jump off a swing

LYNETTE RUTBEEK  
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR



I was once trampled by a horse

ASHLEY-ROSE ASELTINE  
TREASURER



I was beside Niall Horan (in disguise) at a PGA golf tournament

## INTRODUCING THE NEW WARREN CHAIR

Dr. Xikui Wang received his BSc degree in Mathematics from the Central China Normal University in 1984, MSc degree in Mathematics in 1989 and PhD degree in Statistics in 1995, both from the University of Saskatchewan. He taught mathematics and statistics at the University of Alberta from 1995 to 1998, then moved to the Memorial University of Newfoundland as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in 1998. In 2000, he joined the Department of Statistics at the University of Manitoba as Assistant Professor, and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2002 and Full Professor in 2008. From 2008 to 2011, he served as Associate Head and Acting Head in Statistics, and became Department Head in January 2012. From May 2016 until June 2020, he was Associate Dean at the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

On July 1, 2020, he joined the Asper School of Business as the LAH Warren Chair of Actuarial Research and (tenured Full) Professor at the Warren Centre for Actuarial Studies and Research. His research interest mainly includes biostatistics and risk management. For many years in the past he was Adjunct Professor at the Warren Centre, taught several actuarial courses and participated in many actuarial activities that involved UMAC.



He is very happy to join the Warren Centre and the Asper family and looks forward to working with all faculty, staff and students, and UMAC. **His goal is to contribute to the research profile, teaching excellence and collegiality both at the Warren Centre and in the Asper School. His vision of the Warren Centre is to be recognized nationally and internationally for its innovative research, for its excellent education at undergraduate and graduate levels, and for its active outreach.**

# IMPORTANT DATES

## SEPTEMBER

SEPT 8 4-5 - Intro to Info Sessions & Recruitment

SEPT 10 4-6 - Manulife Info Session

SEPT 14 12-1 & 7-8 - Intact Info Session

SEPT 15 6-7:30 - Mercer Info Session

SEPT 16 5-6 - Cigna Info Session

SEPT 17 4:30-6 - Co-operators Info Session

SEPT 17 6:30-8:30 - Wawanesa Info Session

SEPT 18 3-4:30 - Willis Towers Watson Info Session

SEPT 21 6-7:30 - Sun Life Info Session

SEPT 22 5-6 - Munich Re Info Session

SEPT 23 5:30-7 - Canada Life Info Session

SEPT 24 4:30-6 - New York Life Info Session

SEPT 25 - Mentorship Applications Due

**SEPT 28 - Deadline for Job Postings**

SEPT 28 5:30-7:30 - Mentorship BBQ (tentative)

SEPT 30 5:30-7:30 - Speed Interviews

RSVP on Asper  
Career Portal to  
attend Info  
Sessions

## OCTOBER

OCT 5 6-7 - What is an Actuary?

## NOVEMBER

NOV 19 6 - Pete Neuwirth's talk on "Holistic Financial Wellness"

# WORK-FROM-HOME AT WAWANESA

BY SHINE WANG

Hello UMAC! My name is Shine Wang and I am in my final year in the Faculty of Science. Over the summer, I had an internship at Wawanesa Mutual (P&C), and I can't wait to share my exciting experience! The P&C division offers a rotation programme for all interns where you work for two different teams to get first-hand experience on how different actuarial roles can be. I worked on the Data Analytics team and Personal Pricing team.

In Data Analytics, my job was to use time series forecasting models to predict frequency and severity of homeowner insurance claims. The process involved using Python to manipulate data, understanding neural network models and being able to modify scripts for specific uses. My work duties can be summarized as learning, coding and debugging. It might sound scary, but when the models you worked on successfully run, I can assure you it is the most rewarding experience.

Then I moved to Maritime Pricing team and worked on the Radar Live project. Radar is a software that the pricing team uses to price policies and run proposals. My role was to coordinate with other teams to rebuild the radar pricing models for both homeowner and personal passage auto policies. This task took consistent practice, but was a challenging and interesting experience! I think pricing is a fundamental part of actuarial work and is a direct application of what we learn in school. It is a fast way for new interns to understand how the whole business runs: what our policies look like, how we file each rate change and how different regulations affect our pricing algorithms.

In summary, the whole experience was enriching. Everyone at Wawanesa was extremely nice and willing to help. Even as an intern, I felt valued with challenging projects. I learned new things and talked to new people every day. Although we were all experiencing a special time right now, I could still feel the effort everyone in the company made to make sure interns had an amazing experience!.

## TIP FOR NEW INTERNS:

**Pay attention to details and don't give up!** When you ask someone from CS background about their work, they will tell you to expect to spend some debugging, no matter how carefully the code was written. A successful model involves eliminating loads of tiny mistakes hidden everywhere. So, pay special attention to every detail and don't give up when things don't go your way.

# HOW TO KILL DISTANCE LEARNING

BY EMILIA MARKOVIC

Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic is longer than anyone expected. Our libraries are closed, classes are online, and now we're forced to adapt. Here are some of my tips to master distance learning.

- **Maintain a routine – even if it's a different routine than the one you had pre-COVID.**

I know, I know, you must be thinking – “Emilia, I've heard this a million times already”. But seriously, keeping a routine helps keep you in check. It doesn't need to be the same hair and outfit as pre-COVID, but maintain some normalcy in your life. Try going to bed and wake up at the same time every day. Have certain hours dedicated to school, and others dedicated to “you” time. Now that we're at home, make it a priority to have some human connection and communication, as well as exercise.

- **Plan everything out.**

Now that we won't be hearing our classmates stress out for the test in 2 weeks that we should probably study for, it's important to plan your schedule. I suggest writing a master list of all your deliverables for your classes, and order it by date. Use Excel, Google Calendar, or just write it out and post it above your desk.

- **Try and spice up your study life.**

I know a lot of us appreciate a library if we're just trying to cram in a ton of information. Instead, try and make studying more fun. Prep yourself a nice drink (tea, coffee, hot chocolate, smoothie, etc.), put on some background noise (library sounds, coffee shop, healing frequencies, or lofi), and get to work. Make sure to take breaks away from your desk.

- **Make condensed notes, flashcards, and/or formula sheets.**

I highly recommend you do this to help prepare for exams. It gives a good review, while forcing you to really absorb the material. These can be a powerful review tool, and it can be online, which means less papers on your already crowded desk.

*CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...*

### *HOW TO KILL DISTANCE LEARNING CONTINUED...*

- **Make a daily checklist.**

I've come to realize that writing a checklist can increase one's productivity and willingness to work. Every morning, I suggest writing out your to-do's for the day, and make sure you prioritize what's most important to you.

Another more dynamic way you can do this is with a Kanban planner like Notion (free for students), Trello, or Asana. In this case, you organize all your to-do's, what you have started (but not finished) and what you've completed.

- **Avoid distractions.**

I've found the more clutter I have around me, the more I'm distracted. At the minimum, I suggest keeping your workspace organized, even if it means throwing everything into a box while you study. If you live with others, let them know when you're studying, and when you have a test so you're not bothered. Put your phone away, or use an app like Forest which blocks apps on your phone and in return plants trees.



Whatever your situation, do not let COVID get the best of it, work hard and be prepared to try new things that fit you the best. Good luck!

**Playlist Recommendation: Chilled Cow's 24/7  
Live LOFI Playlist**

# congratulations

## SUMMER EXAM PASSES

### P

Ashley-Rose Aseltine (July)  
Morgan Van Deynze (July)  
Jennifer Mung (July)  
Kailey Rodgers (July)  
Lynette Rutbeek (May)  
Katherine Stobbe (July)

### FM

France Jordan Baluyut (June)  
Erika Britton (August)  
Ashish Kumar (August)  
Kailey Rodgers (June)

### IFM

Keren Chheang (July)  
Raymond Kelly (July)  
Jillian Legrange (July)  
Yuneng Lou (July)  
Brett MacFarlane (July)  
Max Piche (July)

### STAM

Yuneng Lou (June)

### CAS Online Course 1

Emilia Markovic

## ALL ABOUT ASNA

BY BRIXTON REID

ASNA (Actuarial Students' National Association) is an annual conference where actuarial students and company representatives across Canada get together for a weekend filled with seminars, networking, and learning! The highlight of ASNA is the career fair where attendees are able to chat with dozens of members in the industry and try secure internships. It is a great opportunity to not only expand your professional network, but create and strengthen your personal relationships as well.

In January 2021, ASNA will be held virtually on the platform vFairs. Do not worry; although ASNA will be online, it will still provide the same valuable resources and opportunities for its' attendees. It also has the added bonus of being more accessible and financially feasible. Attending ASNA this year would be a great opportunity to meet new people or try for a summer internship! Good luck for the coming months and be sure to check your email and UMAC's social media accounts for updates and more information!



If you have any questions  
let me know at  
[Brixtonr@myumanitoba.ca](mailto:Brixtonr@myumanitoba.ca)

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO FUTURE NEWSLETTERS!

If you have any feedback, ideas for articles, segments, or would like to contribute, please contact [katherinestobbe@gmail.com](mailto:katherinestobbe@gmail.com)!