

SEPTEMBER 2021 | 2021-2022 ISSUE I

# UMAC NEWSLETTER

YOUR QUARTERLY DIGEST OF ALL THINGS ACTUARIAL

(IT'S INTERACTIVE! ALL NEW AND CLICKABLE)



## I. WHO'S TEACHING YOU?



## II. MEET THE 2021-2022 EXEC TEAM



## III. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



## IV. UMAC RESOURCES



@umactuarialclub



University of Manitoba Actuarial Club



www.umactuary.ca

Hey UMAC! Welcome to the 2021-2022 academic year! Congratulations on making it through the past few weeks of university and recruitment. We know this can be a very busy time for students, and we appreciate all the hard work and effort that goes into applications, interviews, and classes.

We are so excited to be your UMAC Co-Presidents this year, and we have lots of initiatives planned to make this year stand out.

Brixton and I are always happy to answer questions, have meetings, or listen to suggestions. We hope to keep members engaged, have interactive events, and help students succeed in their actuarial careers. We encourage members to sign up for our mailing list, follow our Instagram and LinkedIn, and attend all events to get the most out of UMAC. Feel free to message us or schedule a Zoom meeting - we would be happy to see you over our computer screen!

*Katherine Stobbe and Brixton Reid*  
UMAC Co-Presidents, 2021-2022



**WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?**

- Edition 2 of the UMAC Actuarial Survival Guide & the UMAC Actuarial Exam Guide
- Revamped mentorship program, in partnership with WAC!

# WELCOME, FROM YOUR CO-PRESIDENTS

**SOME OF THE INITIATIVES WE HAVE PLANNED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR INCLUDE:**

- Compiling a list of Coding Resources for students
- Promoting traditional & non-traditional opportunities to the mailing list outside of recruitment
- Continue to provide support to members in a semi-virtual environment

# IMPORTANT DATES

## & UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPT 25**    **DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM (SEE PAGE 7)**

**SEPT 26**    **MENTORSHIP MATCH-UP**

**SEPT 27**    **DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR JOB POSTINGS**

**SEPT 28**    **LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR ASNA CASE COMP**

**SEPT 30 5:30-7:45**    **SPEED INTERVIEWS**

**OCT 2 3:00**    **MENTORSHIP BBQ**

A highly anticipated event (especially given its cancellation last year) where mentors and mentees can enjoy a day of fun and games, and get to know other UMAC members.



**OCT 4 6-7**    **WHAT IS AN ACTUARY?**

**INTERVIEW SHORTLISTS RELEASED**

**OCT 7 6-7:30**    **FIRST INTEREST THEORY STUDY SESSION**

IF YOU'RE IN THE UMAC EMAIL LIST, YOU CAN'T MISS ANY OF THESE EXCITING DATES! SIGN UP AT

[WWW.UMACTUARY.CA/SIGNUP](http://WWW.UMACTUARY.CA/SIGNUP)



*"Being an actuarial professor, my happiest moments are seeing my students graduating and finding good jobs."*



## WHO'S TEACHING YOU?

Ever wondered why our professors do what they do?

If you haven't already, you're bound to encounter Jeffrey Pai, Ph.D. throughout your school career in Actuarial Math. Jeffrey is teaching Interest Theory (ACT 2120) and Actuarial Models I (ACT 3130) this year, but has taught many other undergraduate and masters courses at U of M in the past. He went to University of Connecticut to study Actuarial Sciences (Master's) and get his Ph.D. in Statistics as well. He started his career with post-doctoral work at the Basel University in Switzerland. Two years later, the Dean of Commerce (now Asper) invited him to apply for an actuarial professor position at the Warren Centre, and he has been teaching at U of M since 1996.

### Why actuarial?

Jeffrey: I love Mathematics and I do well in numbers! Being an actuarial professor, my happiest moments are seeing my students graduating and finding good jobs! Our actuarial students have made significant contributions to the industries, nationally and internationally.

### What made you want to be an actuarial professor?

Jeffrey: I love doing research! After receiving my Master's degree, I gave up an actuarial job opportunity in New York City to study my Ph.D. I also love teaching! I moved from Switzerland to Manitoba (not a bad decision at all) to teach actuarial courses. For the past 25 years with U of M, I had worked for local and international companies as an actuarial consultant. I had given exam seminars in New York and Chicago areas. I've published many actuarial study manuals. I've been serving as an independent reviewer for SOA Exam P since 2013. I've taught most of the courses offered at the Warren Centre. I believe all of these efforts are making me a better actuarial professor.

**ACT 2120 is one of the first courses that students will take to introduce themselves to the actuarial field. What tips and tricks do you have to give for them to succeed in this course and all their future actuarial courses?**

Jeffrey: Do the Academic GOAL (AG) practice questions on a daily basis. Test yourself using the AG Quizzes. If you perform well in the AG Quiz, you should do well in the course quizzes and tests. Attend the UMAC review class before each test to get more tips and tricks!

**You have an infamous message on UM Learn for every single one of your courses saying "This course is very hard. Do not miss a class." What is your advice to students who are trying to pursue an actuarial career?**

Jeffrey: Be serious about your decision to study in this field. Spend extra time in this course and investigate whether you really like to pursue an actuarial career. It's a good investment of your time. If you like it and you do well in this course, it's likely you will do well for the rest of the actuarial courses. If you do well in this program, it's likely you will have a bright future in your actuarial career!



*As accomplished as he is, Jeffrey also believes in a healthy work-life balance. Outside of his busy work schedule, he makes sure he takes summers off and sabbaticals to make time for his hobbies. He loves to golf, go on hikes, and travel. In fact, he practiced safe (masked) travelling to the Death Valley (CA), the Red Rock National Park (NV), the Zion National Park (UT) and the Riding Mountain National Park (MB) [pictured] just this year!*

He shared a success story of one of his students, Puxuan Wang, who recently graduated this year with a 4.46 GPA (not a typo). She entered the program in 2018 and completed 6 actuarial exams during her study at the U of M, all while raising 2 young kids. Now, she works in the Corporate Actuarial Department at Wawanesa. He likes to share this story to his students now in hopes of motivating them to succeed just as well as she did! He says that the key to her success was as simple as "studying a little bit everyday." Jeffrey and Puxuan proceeded to win the UM Student Teacher Recognition Award this year.

# MEET YOUR TEAM

WHAT DO WE EVEN DO? HEAR FROM US PERSONALLY!



**KATHERINE STOBBE**  
**Co-President**

"It's like bossing people around but with happy outcomes"



**BRIXTON REID**  
**Co-President**

"Emails, meetings, and stress with a side of achievement"



**YUXUAN LIU**  
**Secretary**

"The one who adds people into the email list and runs the website"



**ADAM KROMPIEWSKI**  
**Special Events Coordinator**

"Missing an email from me would be a bad idea"



**CHANG (STEPHY) SHEN**  
**ASNA Representative**

"I'm not the regular sales man, I'm here to promote ASNA"



**PUNEET DUA**  
**Int'l Student Representative**

"Just trying to prove not all actuaries are nerds internationally"



**ALEXIA LECOCQ**  
**Treasurer**

"Committing to Excel-lence in UMAC's finances"



**AMELIE PALAGANAS**  
**Communications Chair**

"A solid excuse to be on Instagram all day"



**MATHIS PENNER**  
**Promotions Coordinator**

"Casually promoting career paths and life decisions"

# UMAC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

By Adam Krompiewski

## WHAT IS IT?

The UMAC Mentorship Program is an excellent way for new students to get advice and support on their actuarial journey from older, more experienced students! From career advice to exam and course help, to creating a strong friendship, this program is catered to helping students ease into the actuarial field.

## WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?

This year, in addition to what we normally do, we have added a third partnership with the Winnipeg Actuaries' Club (WAC)! With this, our mentors will get to be partnered with a WAC member, who is a working actuary in the field. This allows the mentor to gain further insight into internships, career advice, and more.

## WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Anyone! If you are a new student, with no actuarial exams/internships done, you should sign up to be a mentee in our program. If you are an older student, with some actuarial exams written and/or actuarial internship experience, you can sign up to be a mentor in our program. Lastly, if you are on WAC, you can sign up to be a WAC member mentor on our program!

Personally, my experience with the mentorship program was amazing. During the year I was a mentee, I learned so much more than I could have ever imagined from my mentor. From exams to internship advice, to how to study, resume advice, and more. All those benefits along with making a new friendship with my mentor! That was the biggest perk for me - my previous mentor and I still regularly catch-up to this day on things, and I know I can always still reach out to him for help or advice. I cannot stress enough how useful this program is.

**The one helpful tip I can give is to stay connected with your mentor and attend any mentorship events that you can! It is such a beneficial and positive experience, both in career development and in social aspects. I suggest partners stay in touch through text/FaceTime! My mentor and I exchanged numbers, so that it was easy to contact one another. We would occasionally FaceTime for longer conversations, which only occurred 1-2 times a semester.**

I hope this encourages you to sign up for the program this term!

**SIGN UP BY TOMORROW, SEPTEMBER 25TH!**

**MENTEES**



**MENTORS**



# EVER HEARD OF ASNA?

BY CHANG SHEN



The Actuarial Students' National Association (ASNA) is a non-profit organization run by and for actuarial students across Canada since 1989. The main event is the ASNA Convention, which is usually held in January, typically on a weekend (Friday to Sunday).

The ASNA convention provides undergraduate actuarial students across Canada with the greatest professional learning, recruitment, and networking opportunities available. The students get to attend several professional seminars hosted by industry leaders, while taking advantage of the largest actuarial job fair in the country.

Some companies also host casual game events - this would allow students to experience a casual conversation with company representatives under a more low-stress environment.

Overall, the convention is a great opportunity to connect with recruiters and fellow actuarial students within Canada. ASNA offers a chance for us to develop our networking skills and become more comfortable with employers, as well as valuable opportunities to learn more about the actuarial field. We encourage everyone in the actuarial program to attend the ASNA convention!

## *We get it, you're smart.*

Help us in congratulating our summer exam passers!

### **P**

Adam Krompiewski (July)  
 Matthew Lehmann (September)  
 Tara Cyr (September)

### **IFM**

Ashish Kumar (July)  
 Celia Dang (July)

### **STAM**

Jillian Legrange (June)

### **FM**

Adam Krompiewski (August)  
 Anna Kowalchuk (June)  
 Griffon Neufeld (June)  
 Ishpreet Kaur (June)  
 Meg Murray (June)  
 Nathan Krishner (June)  
 Tara Cyr (June)

# UMAC RESOURCES

The actuarial journey is not easy and we know it. Here are a few UMAC approved resources to help you survive even the most stressful of times!

## LET'S MAKE SOME ACTUARIAL FRIENDS

LEARN HOW TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN  
THE ACTUARIAL COMMUNITY!

1. Follow us on social media. Get all the important communication at your fingertips!
2. Sign up for the UMAC email list!  
Never miss out on important events and information.
3. Sign up for the mentorship program.
4. Attend webinars and info sessions.  
Free networking opportunities? Say less.
5. Join your course group chats. What better way to bond than crying over exams together?
6. Participate in case competitions.
7. ATTEND EVENTS! Just come, you're always invited.



**THE ACTUARIAL SURVIVAL GUIDE 2.0**

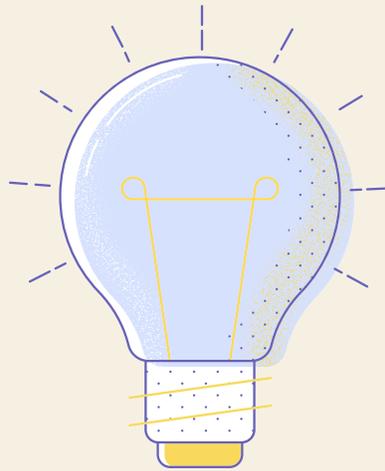


**THE ACTUARIAL SURVIVAL EXAM GUIDE**



**...AND MORE ON THE UMAC WEBSITE!**





# THOUGHTS?

Share your ideas, feedback, and suggestions for the newsletter to me!



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