



UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA ACTUARIAL CLUB - MARCH 2014

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Upcoming Events

Hey UMAC! We are less than two months away from the summer break, but we still have a heap load of events coming up. So, if you haven't had the chance to attend many UMAC events this year then no problem, here are some important dates as well as events that you might want to actuarially attend:

- **March 6th**: UMAC Bowling Night
- **March 13th**: Executive Candidate Platforms Due
- **March 17th**: New York Life Info Session
- **March 21st**: Poker Night
- **March 27th**: Election Day
- **April 3rd**: Karaoke Night

UMAC Elections

This month, we will determine next year's UMAC Executive team. Anyone interested in applying for a position this year is required to submit a platform by **March 13th**, from which candidates will be announced. Campaigning will commence from **March 17th-27th**, and on the last day elections will be held. Students were emailed a copy of the constitution earlier last month and will be sent another reminder in the near future.

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Recap of Events

ASNA Convention 2014: Toronto

During the first week of the year, several UMAC students were given the chance to attend the annual ASNA Convention in Toronto, Ontario. The convention spanned three days and provided students with learning and networking opportunities. Outside the convention, students were able to visit local tourist attractions such as the CN Tower, The ROM (Royal Ontario Museum), and Ripley's Aquarium. Overall, the weekend was an enormous success and turned out to be a great deal of fun for everyone. Until next year!

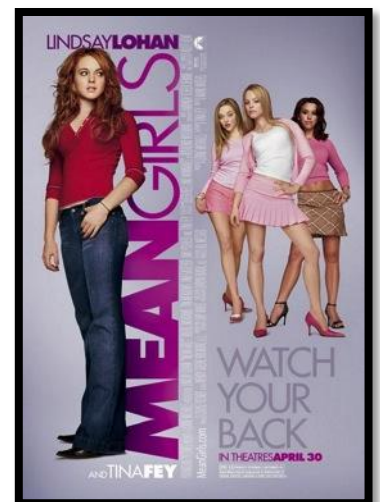


Movie Night

On February 6th UMAC hosted movie night! Students met up after class, ordered pizza and pop, and relaxed while they watched the all-time classic Mean Girls. "Gretchen, I'm sorry I laughed at you that time you got diarrhea at Barnes & Nobles. And I'm sorry for telling everyone about it. And I'm sorry for repeating it now."

Town Hall

As we enter the month of March, it is time to acknowledge the eventual departure of this year's executive and determine next year's team! At Town Hall, current UMAC exec each gave a brief speech about his/her responsibilities and an overall description of their role. Elections for the 2014-2015 academic year are near so please check your inboxes for steps on how to participate!





Congratulations to Stefan Baluta!

Stefan, a now-double major in Actuarial Math & Finance here at the University of Manitoba, has recently taken the Bloomberg Aptitude Test (BAT) and scored an outstanding 710/800 (99th Percentile). He has been inducted into the global Bloomberg Hall of Fame and was featured on CBC Radio! Way to go Stefan!

What is the BAT?

The BAT is a global two-hour online standardized test that is administered by the Bloomberg Institute. It has been designed to assess student's financial competencies as well as other core business subjects such as economics, investment banking, and even raw math. The purpose of the test is to showcase your financial aptitude to employers and connect students with the right job opportunities.



Q&A with Stefan

1. What made you decide to write the BAT?

I was interested in taking some finance classes to supplement the actuarial courses of my degree. It was Professor Jacoby in his investments class that recommended all students attempt the BAT. I thought it sounded interesting, so I tried it after completing my final exams in December.

2. In your opinion, how has your background in actuarial mathematics contributed to your performance on the BAT?

Studying actuarial math was definitely an asset when taking the BAT. Many questions either directly or indirectly involved financial mathematics, a subject which I have spent countless hours studying. More importantly, there is a great deal of overlap between the key subjects studied in actuarial math and those tested in finance.

3. Would you recommend actuarial students to write the BAT? Why or why not?

I would say the BAT is a test worth taking. The Asper School of Business sets up opportunities for students to take the test for free on campus several times every year. As I see it, the only single disadvantage is a bit of a time commitment. The possible benefits range from increasing one's interest in finance, adding a strong line to one's resume, and being recognized on a larger scale if one's mark is high enough.

4. You are now in the same league as Jonathan Toews in terms of celebrity status, how does it feel?

Haha thanks! I feel like you are exaggerating, and that's ok. I feel like people are excited to share in this moment of my life. I am trying my best to use any recognition I gain as a way to improve my friendships and relationships with the people around me. If it gives them a reason to start a conversation with me, then it gives me a chance to deepen my relationship with them. This achievement is big right now, but my relationships with people will define me for a lot longer than my score on a test.

GET TO KNOW YOUR WARREN STAFF: DR. PAI

We all know the great Dr. Jeffrey Pai (Ph.D, ASA, P.Stat, ACIA), but do we *really* know him? Ever wondered what Dr. Pai is up to outside of his immense actuarial duties to our program? Who is the man behind that awesome paisley tie? Here is a small table outlining a few facts that you probably did not know about our Director.



A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO DR. PAI:

Question	Answer
1. What made you decide to pursue a Masters in Actuarial Science?	Job opportunity
2. Could you tell us about your first actuarial related job experience?	Teaching at University of Manitoba
3. Who is your favourite mathematician?	Thomas Bayes
4. What sort of activities/hobbies do you enjoy? (eg. play an instrument, sports, etc.)	Golf
5. What is your favourite movie?	Groundhog Day
6. Who is your favourite NBA player?	Ray Allen
7. Until now, what has been your most memorable moment during your time as an L.A.H Warren Professor?	Featured as a "PopularProfs" in the 2004 MACLEAN's Guide to Canadian Universities

EXAM MLC CHANGES

What you need to know:

Exam MLC (Models for Life Contingencies) has undergone a few changes in regards to exam structure and learning objectives. Effective Spring 2014, Exam MLC will include a written-answer component which constitutes to approximately 60% of the exam, whereas previously, the exam has been administered strictly as multiple choice.

The Gritty Details:

- 4 hours in length
- approx. 40% multiple choice and 60% written answer
- unique grading system requires candidates to achieve a score above a certain threshold on the multiple-choice component to have their written portion graded
- 96 points overall (MC 2 points each, with approx 20 MC questions)
- credit for CAS Exam LC but **not** Exam ST
- assumed strong knowledge of calculus, probability, interest theory, and Exam P

IMPORTANT: If you are scheduled to write the Spring 2014 exam, it would be beneficial to read over the Introductory Study Note PDF released by the SOA. A link to this PDF can be found within the Syllabus/Objectives and Learning Outcomes PDF ([url:http://www.soa.org/Files/Edu/edu-2014-spring-mlc-syllabus.pdf](http://www.soa.org/Files/Edu/edu-2014-spring-mlc-syllabus.pdf)). The Introductory Study Note has several useful links embedded on the last page, **including a link to sample written-answer questions and solutions!**

INTERNSHIP PROFILE:

Maja Bakija – *New York Life*

This fall, I interned at New York Life, a life insurance and investments firm in New York City. In 2013, New York Life was ranked #89 on the Fortune 500 List. They are a mutual company, meaning that they do not have shareholders. Instead, the company's policyholders act as its owners and share in the company's profits through dividends.

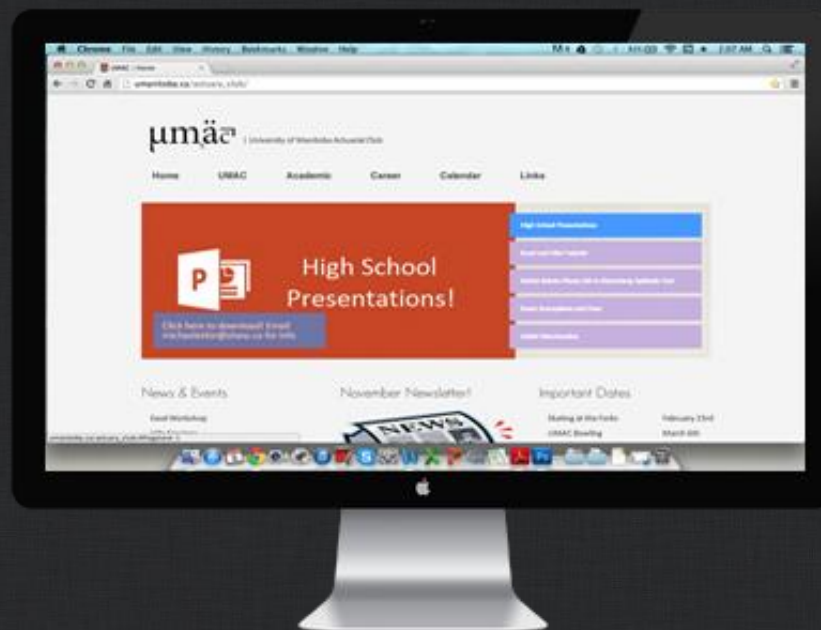
I interned as part of the Advanced Markets Network (AMN) team. The purpose of AMN is to develop, price, sell, and service bank-owned and corporate-owned life insurance (BOLI and COLI), and other life insurance products geared at high-end clientele. BOLI and COLI are a form of life insurance that is purchased by a bank or corporation on its key employees. Banks purchase BOLI as an investment vehicle; corporations usually purchase COLI to fund employee benefit plans.

The main project I worked on in AMN was to build up the capability in the department's pricing model to calculate GAAP earnings for future sales. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) are a different set of accounting standards than Statutory Accounting, which is used to price products, and give a different look at the profitability of a product. This was a very difficult project to undertake, but extremely rewarding! I was given ownership over my assignment, but also received support from my team and others in the company who were always willing to answer my questions. I also gained a lot of computer programming knowledge through this project (I had zero before), working mainly with the actuarial software Prophet. AMN is entrepreneurial in nature, which gave me the opportunity to be one of the first people in the company to develop a project like mine.

Aside from my work, I attended presentations to learn about other areas of the company, town halls with the CEO and upper management, special guest speakers, and fun appreciation events and holiday parties. Actuarial interns were also paired with full-time actuarial student mentors. We would meet for lunches, and did an "amazing race" style scavenger hunt around the Flatiron District. Because there were only five fall actuarial interns, the program was not as formalized as the company's summer intern program, so I got a really good sense of what it is like to be an actuary at the company full time.

Of course one of the coolest parts about the experience was getting to live in New York City! I attended concerts, Broadway shows, and explored the city. New York is busy and bustling all the time, and there is never a shortage of things to see or do. Overall, it was an amazing experience that I am very glad I pursued!





Be sure to check out the UMAC webpage for regular updates!