

UMAC

Your #1 source for all things actuarial : Industry and Academic

NEWSLETTER

September 2023 Edition



WELCOME BACK UMAC!

I hope that all of you are excited and ready for the start of the new school year!

In this edition, we will introduce you to all of the resources available to you as a UMAC member, talk all things recruitment, and get you up to speed with important upcoming events!

-Alyssa



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WELCOME UMAC!

Tara Cyr and Matthew Lehmann- 2023/2024 UMAC Co-Presidents

Hi UMAC! Welcome to the 2023/2024 academic year! We hope you all had a great summer and were able to make time for some well-deserved rest.

We are very excited for this upcoming year. As Co-Presidents, we are dedicated to bringing UMAC's **community** and **engagement** back to pre-covid times, so you as students can get the most out of UMAC. You can look forward to almost all events being back in person, more social events, and more ways for students to get involved!

We want to challenge you to take advantage of these opportunities. Come out to events, meet new people, develop your actuarial skills and knowledge, and make connections that will enrich your university career and who knows, may even help you land your dream actuarial job.



Throughout the year, do not be afraid to ask for help. That is what we are here for! Make sure you are on the UMAC email list and our new WhatsApp community group to ensure you know what is going on. If you have questions or feedback throughout the year, you can always email the club at umacexec@gmail.com or email us personally at our addresses below.

We look forward to connecting with you at future events!



Matthew.lehmann8@gmail.com
Cyr tara4@gmail.com

MEET THE TEAM



MATTHEW LEHMANN
Co-President

"My role includes co-leading the UMAC exec team, maintaining good communications with employers and the university, organizing the Fish Dinner, and more!"



TARA CYR
Co-President

"My role is developing a strong actuarial community, while supporting strong communications among execs, students, employers, and the University"



ALI RUEST
Special Events Coordinator

"I organize and plan all the wonderful UMAC events! You don't want to miss an email from me ;)"



GRIFFON NEUFELD
Promotions Coordinator

"My role is to help introduce current and potential students to the actuarial profession and what the U of M has to offer"



MEG MURRAY
Treasurer

"My role is management of club funds. Budgeting, expense payments, funding applications etc."



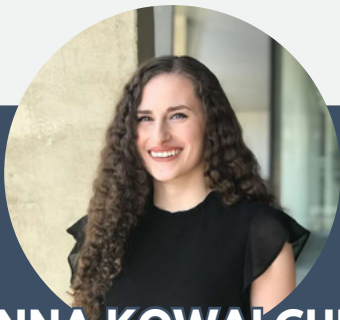
RUTIK PATEL
International Student Rep

"My role is advocating for international students and ensuring resources are available for them from the club."



ALYSSA CRYMBLE
Communications Chair

"I manage the UMAC Instagram and LinkedIn accounts, create the newsletters, and design content for club events"



ANNA KOWALCHUK
Secretary

"My role as secretary is managing the UMAC email lists and inbox, the UMAC website, and helping out other execs where needed!"



RYAN WIEBE
ASNA Rep

"Sept-Jan: your go to person for all things ASNA conference. Jan 19-21: Your ASNA conference tour guide in Montreal"

UMAC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

By Ali Ruest

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 is different this year?

This year, we are giving the opportunity to mentees to get paired with a mentor before recruitment season begins! If you would like a mentor before recruitment season, make sure to sign up by Friday, September 8th. The sign-up form will remain open until September 22nd. For those who sign up before September 8th, you will get paired with your mentor on September 11th. For those who sign up after September 8th, you will get paired with your mentor on September 25th.

What is WAC?

A couple years ago, UMAC expanded the mentorship program to include the Winnipeg Actuaries' Club (WAC). WAC is a local association of Fellows and Associates of recognized actuarial organizations. With the expanded mentorship program, our mentors will have the option 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, I had a fantastic experience within the UMAC mentorship program. During my year as a mentee, I learned a great deal from my mentor. They taught me how the exam process worked, how to study, what to look for in an internship, and more. On the other hand, as a mentor I was able to provide my mentee with guidance and information that I wish I knew early on.

"What I enjoyed most about the UMAC mentorship program was being able to connect with individuals who have already accomplished what I want to achieve. These role models provided guidance and support in my academic, professional, and personal pursuits. Through the program, I gained a better understanding of the actuarial community and what it takes to be a successful actuary."

-Darbara Kaushal
2nd year Asper student and
previous UMAC mentee



The one helpful tip I can give is to keep in touch with your mentor and attend any mentorship events. It is such a beneficial and positive experience both socially and from a career development standpoint. I would recommend exchanging numbers with each other to stay connected. I hope you all can share the same positive experience that I did during my time in the mentorship program!

WHAT IS ASNA?

BY RYAN WIEBE

What is the ASNA Conference all about?

ASNA, the Actuarial Students National Association, is your gateway to a vibrant community of actuarial science students hailing from universities across Canada.

Imagine an event where learning and networking meet fun– that's the ASNA Conference. For a whole weekend in early January, you'll get to connect with actuarial students from across Canada, network with over 40 companies, and learn from the industry's best. And guess what? This year's party is happening in Montreal, so get ready to leave your worries back home in Winnipeg!

What's in store at ASNA 2024?

Get ready for a well-rounded experience:

- 1. Learning Opportunities:** Engage in workshops led by professionals. Get into the latest trends and listen to industry experts share their experiences. The keynote speakers are also top notch.
- 2. Networking:** Mix with other students, actuaries, and industry reps. Forge connections that could lead to internships, job prospects and friendships.
- 3. Career Fair:** Check out the career fair, where employers present opportunities. Engage with potential employers, explore company culture, and uncover career paths. If all goes well, you might leave ASNA with a job (or two).
- 4. Test Your Skills:** Flex your analytical skills in the ASNA case competition. Showcase your abilities and earn recognition among your peers.
- 5. Social Nights:** Unwind and socialize at the evening events. The ASNA Conference is a perfect blend of professional growth and camaraderie. While you'll be soaking in insights and making strides professionally, you'll also find ample opportunities to connect with peers, enjoy social events, and have a genuinely good time.

Who Should Attend?

Everyone. Whether you are new to the actuarial field and looking to explore its possibilities or a seasoned student looking to find that perfect full-time role, ASNA is the place to be.

How Can You Register?

Keep an eye on updates from UMAC and ASNA (Instagram: @anea_asna). When the registration gates open, we'll remind you to secure your spot! Make sure to join us for UMAC's upcoming ASNA info session, where you can hear past experiences from the event and have all your questions answered firsthand! We can't wait to see everyone in Montreal!!

Make sure to check out the ASNA website: <https://anea-asna.ca/home/>



"Attending the ASNA conference last year was a game-changer for me! The expansive, yet challenging networking environment helped me secure six interviews and receive five job offers. It's a must for ambitious actuarial students seeking top-notch opportunities and a good time with friends!"

-Patricia Rodriguez
4th year Science student

IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SEPT 8	DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM TO HAVE A PAIRING FOR RECRUITMENT
SEPT 11	MENTORSHIP MATCH-UP (ROUND 1)
SEPT 22	FINAL DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
SEPT 25	MENTORSHIP MATCH-UP (ROUND 2)
SEPT 25	DEADLINE TO SUBMIT JOB APPLICATIONS
SEPT 26	WELCOME BBQ
SEPT 28	SPEED INTERVIEWS
OCT 5	FISH DINNER

SIGN UP TO BE ON THE UMAC EMAIL LIST TO RECEIVE REMINDER EMAILS FOR OUR EVENTS AND GAIN ACCESS TO CLUB BENEFITS :
WWW.UMACTUARY.CA/SIGNUP

Recruitment 101

With Taylor Mitchell

What makes a student stand out most to you?

I think it can be a combination of factors. Ultimately, what I look for in a candidate is someone who has a high commitment to learning, strong communication skills, works well with others, and aligns with our Wawanesa values. We do not expect candidates to know everything on their first day, we understand that they will learn and grow. When we review applications for this criteria-- academic achievements can be valuable, but other extracurriculars and experiences add value as well (such as being an active member of their community/school, clubs, sports, volunteering, other internships/mentorships etc.), and any other unique experiences/skills that have contributed to your own personal and professional growth.



Do you have any advice for students that are prepping for interviews?

Whether you are interviewing in-person or online, it is important to do your research on the company ahead of time and be prepared to speak confidently about why you are a good fit for the job. Also, practice! Practice interviewing with a friend, mentor, family member, etc. If you have a virtual interview, practice using an online tool to get comfortable with a video format. Ultimately, it can be uncomfortable showcasing yourself in ~30 minutes. Quickly go over your experiences/skills and read over the job description, everyone has unique backgrounds and perspectives--how would yours add value?

How do the full-time interviews differ from internship interviews?

Intern interviews are ~30 minutes and are more focused on getting to know the candidate along with their experiences/skills rather than focusing on technical/industry-specific materials. For full-time, there is typically a first-round interview and then an on-site second-round interview at our office building where the candidates interview with different departments. Full-time interviews will likely have more technical questions than found in an intern interview.

Taylor Mitchell

FCAS & ACIA

**Manager of Actuarial Pricing
(Eastern Auto) at Wawanesa
Mutual Insurance Company**

"I have been involved in Wawanesa's Manitoba Actuarial Recruitment Committee for almost 3 years now and I am looking forward to meeting more of you this recruitment season!"

Do you hire students with no actuarial exams?

Yes, we hire students without exams. Exams dictate your starting salary and can be an objective measure of a candidate's commitment to learning, but it is not a tool used to filter out candidates. For those that don't have exams, start thinking about what you have to offer an actuarial employer and leverage those experiences/skills. Ultimately, exams help but are not the end all, be all-- do not sacrifice other skills/opportunities to solely focus on exams. Ideally, we look for a diverse group of well-rounded candidates.

About Taylor

"I graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in Actuarial Math at the Asper School of Business. My university life was filled with working part-time at my local movie theatre, working various internships, and playing on a variety of intramural teams. Currently, I enjoy playing soccer, curling, volleyball, and slo-pitch, as well as shopping at HomeSense and watching all the reality TV."

Do you have any advice for students who are unsuccessful in landing a job this recruitment season?

Securing a job/internship, especially your first one, can be challenging. It's important to remember that the whole process takes time and persistence. If you find that you're struggling to get an interview, consider having someone check your resume- they might see something that you've missed. Also, networking is one of the most effective strategies for meeting new people and generating job leads- I highly recommend attending one of the U of M Actuarial Info Sessions; we as recruiters do remember certain conversations we've had, and it helps being able to match the person to the application when we review later. On the other hand, if you're getting interviews but no job offers, it might be time to improve your interviewing skills. Rehearse with friends, relatives, or even other jobseekers so they can give you feedback on what you're doing well and where you can improve. If you have a good relationship with a career mentor, previous employer, or professor, ask them to conduct a mock interview with you as well.

Any final words of advice for students going through recruitment this year?

This may be cliché but my advice would be to remind yourself that "comparison is the thief of joy". As a student I found it easy to fall into the trap of focusing on how many interviews my peers were getting, how many exams they had, or how many internships they've previously had. There is no winner in this comparison game primarily because you're comparing yourself to a polished/filtered version of someone else. Stay true to yourself and to what you want and need. Your path will not be the same as someone else's and that's fine.

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES (CIA) PATHWAYS

What is the CIA?

The Canadian Institute of Actuaries is the qualifying and governing body of the actuarial profession in Canada. As an Associate or Fellow of the CIA, credentials demonstrate to employers, the public, and regulators that you are committed to furthering actuarial excellence across Canada. The CIA shares a long history of successful partnership with both of the Society of Actuaries (SOA), and the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS).

The CIA has updated their qualification requirements. Members now have the option to receive Associate (ACIA) or Fellowship (FCIA) designations through any of the three following pathways:

PATHWAY 1:

Designed for students who receive an accredited degree (successful completion of all CIA mandatory courses) from a participating University (Yes, the U of M is an accredited program!) and wish to exclusively use the CIA's educational pathway and exams to achieve ACIA and FCIA designations only.

PATHWAY 2:

Designed for those who wish to hold another recognized Associate-level designation (ex. ASA/ACAS), and also receive ACIA and FCIA designation. Note: candidates in this category **do not** plan on receiving Fellowship designation from another organization (ex. FSA/FCAS)

PATHWAY 3:

Designed for those who wish to hold another recognized Fellow-level designation (ex. FSA/FCAS), and receive FCIA designation via experience, fast-track or mutual recognition.

WHICH PATHWAY IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

CLICK TO LEARN MORE:

[Learn about CIA Membership](#)

[CIA Qualification Pathways - Simplified](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)



**Canadian
Institute
of Actuaries**

**Institut
canadien
des actuaires**

SUMMER EXAM SUCCESS

Congrats!

Patricia Rodriguez – FM

Skyler Tycholis – FM

Darbara Kaushal – FM

Aditya Antala – FM

Melani Fernando – P

McKenzie Rosenberg – P

Clayton Campbell – P

Ali Ruest – FAM

Griffon Neufeld – FAM-L

**Harlan Kumps – CAS DISC Risk
Management and Insurance
Operations**



Coaching Actuaries
Corner

**UMAC members get
exclusive access to CA
discount codes!**

Adapt: 25% off

Adapt + Manual: 50% off

Adapt + Learn: 70% off

Keep an eye on your email for codes!

Your Coaching Actuaries
Ambassador this year is
Shaun Moore!

You can reach him at:
shwlmoore@gmail.com



UMAC RESOURCES

HOW TO GET INVOLVED THIS YEAR

- [Follow us](#) on social media to get all the important communications
- Sign up for the mentorship program:
[Mentors](#)
[Mentees](#)
- Attend webinars, workshops and info sessions
- [Join the UMAC email list](#)
- Participate in case competitions
- Attend events. We have lots of brand new, exciting events planned this year - you're always invited!
- [Join our Community Announcements WhatsApp group!](#)
- Participate in recruitment!



Keep an eye on your email for upcoming volunteer opportunities this year!

OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Speed Interviews
- ✓ Coding Workshops
- ✓ Study Sessions
- ✓ [Actuarial Survival Guide - Exams](#)
- ✓ [Actuarial Survival Guide](#)
- ✓ Case Competition





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University of Manitoba Actuarial Club

What do *YOU* want to see in the upcoming UMAC newsletters?

Send me an email and let me know!



crymblealyssa3@gmail.com

