

# UMAC NEWSLETTER

## September 2024 Edition

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

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This newsletter will provide updates, insights, events, and opportunities for all UMAC members! I am looking forward to meeting all of you!

Tharindu

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# Welcome!

Hey UMAC! As this year's co-presidents, we wanted to extend you all an official welcome back to school! We hope you all had a relaxing summer and are ready to get back into the swing of things. Whether you're back in classes or working a fall internship, we are here to support you along the way.

As co-presidents, we are very much looking forward to an exciting year with you all. Our focus will be to create an environment where all UMAC students feel welcome, supported, and excited for the future. We aim to focus our efforts to better prepare you all for recruitment, and focus on having a fun year with tons of fun events.



As always, feel free to reach out to us.  
We are here for you every step of the way!

Send an email, let's chat  
[umac.copres@gmail.com](mailto:umac.copres@gmail.com)

Follow these steps to  
ensure you never miss an  
important message!

## UMAC Fall Checklist

- Become a UMAC member & join the mailing list
- Join the community announcements WhatsApp group
- Visit us! Our office hours are every Wednesday at 2:30 starting September 18th
- Sign up for the mentorship program
- Check out our Fall Events and meet some new friends

Our first event will be a recruitment prep session on September 10th.

Join us to learn some networking tips from the CDC and discuss all your recruitment questions with the UMAC exec team.

We want to make sure that all of you make the most of your time in university, so please do not hesitate to use the support system that is here for you!

Looking forward to a great year UMAC!

Sincerely,

Your 2024/25 UMAC Co-Presidents  
Alyssa Crymble & Hannah Thiessen

# Meet The Team



**Alyssa Crymble**  
Co-President

**Hannah Thiessen**  
Co-President



**Eric Strick**  
Secretary

**Owen Wiedlawski**  
Treasurer



**Mylea Hildebrand**  
Promotions Coordinator

**Brendan Gingras**  
Special Events Coordinator



**Tharindu Kottegoda**  
Communications Chair

**Jayden Belza**  
ASNA Rep



**Kunal Patel**  
International Student Rep

# and the Engagement Committee



**Nazli Tahmasebi**  
**Communications Assistant**

**McKenzie Rosenberg**  
**Special Events Assistant**



**Maryna Rozdymakha**  
**General Engagement Team**

**Masela Kankinda**  
**General Engagement Team**



**Ethan Ramsay**  
**General Engagement Team**

**Tabby Wanjiru**  
**General Engagement Team**



# UMAC Mentorship Program

Sign up by  
Sept. 20th!

**Mentees** 

**Mentors** 

By Mylea Hildebrand

## What is it?

The UMAC Mentorship Program is an excellent way for new students to get advice and support on their actuarial journey from 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.

## How to sign up?

To sign up, fill out either the mentee or mentor sign-up forms, it's that easy!

The sign-up form will remain open until September 20th, you will get paired with your mentor by September 23rd.

## Who should participate?

Anyone! If you are a new student, with no actuarial exams/internships done, you should sign up to be a mentee.

If you are an older student, who has passed some actuarial exams and/or has actuarial internship experience, you can sign up to be a mentor in our program.

Personally, I had a fantastic experience with the UMAC mentorship program. Having a mentor early on helped so much to make me feel more comfortable in the actuarial field. My mentor helped me with everything from difficult course decisions to what questions to ask at info sessions, but more importantly they were someone I could talk to in the actuarial community when I didn't really know anyone else. As a mentor I had the opportunity to provide my mentee with the same guidance and information that was passed on to me.

## One helpful tip I can give

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 and decide on a check-in schedule that works for both of you. I hope you all can share the same positive experience that I did during my time in the mentorship program!

# ASNA 2025

WHEN?  
WHERE?  
WHY?  
HOW?

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

The Actuarial Students National Association (ASNA) is the host of the largest and most exciting actuarial event of the year! Get ready for...

## 1. Career Fair

Here you will find many opportunities to explore different companies and career paths

## 2. Networking Events

You will meet with employers, industry professionals, and other students from across Canada

## 3. Coffee Chats and Interviews

With the potential for full time or internship offers!

## 4. Workshops and Seminars

Expand on your actuarial knowledge

## 5. Social Nights

Unwind and connect with your peers all while exploring the scenic city of Niagara Falls!

*Sheraton Hotel in  
Niagara Falls, Ontario  
January 17th-19th*

## Why Should You Attend?

ASNA is an event with something for everyone. With many great opportunities to learn, meet new people, progress in your career, and with over 40 students from UMAC in attendance last year, you won't want to miss it!

## How Do I Sign Up?

Keep an eye on updates from UMAC and ASNA (Instagram: @anea\_asna). When registration opens, we'll remind you to secure your spot! We can't wait to see you!

# IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Sep 9

MENTORSHIP MATCH-UP (ROUND 1)

Sep 10

RECRUITMENT PREP SESSION

Sep 20

FINAL DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE  
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Sep 23

MENTORSHIP MATCH-UP (ROUND 2)

Sep 23

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT JOB APPLICATIONS

Sep 24

WELCOME BBQ

Oct 3

SPEED INTERVIEWS

Oct 10

FISH DINNER



# Recruitment 101

With Meg Murray



**Meg Murray is a full-time Actuarial Associate at Wawanesa on the P&C side, she is one of the friendliest faces you will ever meet, but don't let this fool you, she also knows how to crush the competition. You may also recognize her as she graduated from the University of Manitoba and was both a UMAC member and executive.**

**Meg eating the best pizza of her life**

## How can I land my first internship?

Attend many info sessions and participate at them! Show genuine curiosity and interest in a company and in the work of those you talk to. Strong willingness to learn is a key trait of actuaries.

Plus, info sessions are one of your chances to show your personality, or "human" side. Companies don't hire brains, but whole people. They want someone who will also contribute to company culture. So if possible, try to relax and simply have some good conversations about what interests you at the companies.

Then of course, have a perfectly polished resume and cover letter. Attend workshops for this if available, and definitely have friends/mentors look over your writing. Last, be well prepared for your interview!

## How do I stand out in info sessions?

Ask questions!

Oftentimes info sessions can be a little nerve-racking, especially if you're new to attending them. However, remember that while companies are there to get to know candidates, you are also there to get to know a company.

If you get nervous, come up with a few questions beforehand that you can draw on if you blank.

Note: Pay attention to the presentation – make sure you DO NOT ask questions that were answered in the info session presentation.

Extracurriculars, exams, and software knowledge are all great assets if you want to bolster your resume, so these are important to learn. However, internships are generally for learning the basics, not because you already know everything, so don't be afraid if you're still building up your skill set!



# Interview Advice From Meg



Don't be afraid to talk yourself up. This is the time to say how awesome you are!

## Prepare! Prepare! Prepare!

The best interviews happen when candidates are prepared!

Prepare answers to the most common interview questions (behavioural and technical) and have your mentor and/or experienced friends give you mock interviews. The Asper CDC has an interview guide which has some applicable questions, and UMAC of course has resources as well (read the Actuarial Survival Guide!). My best interview prep came straight from my mentor though and the mock interviews we did! Use the star method for answering questions.

### Research the company

You will want to know the basics of the company, like what type they are (life/p&c, mutual or proprietary), what their values are, etc.

Last, they will end with a time for you to ask some questions. Take full advantage of this time. Your questions are important to show your interest in the company, specific departments, or maybe even your interviewer's work, and will prove further that you took the time to prepare for your interview!

If you don't land an internship, that's okay! You aren't alone.

Keep on applying! Other internship openings will be promoted throughout the year, including many positions at the annual ASNA convention in January.

# Meg's Post-Grad Advice

## Where to work post-grad:

There are many things to consider when looking for a full-time workplace. Company values, workplace culture, career development opportunities, salary, work environment, work-life balance, expectations (like how quickly you're encouraged to reach your actuarial designations), the city you would like to live in, and many more. Maybe you want to rotate to a tropical location during your career - some companies have this opportunity. Maybe you want to start a crocheted clothing business for ferrets and other fashionable weasels (strange, but good for you!) - you may want to find a company that is open to work hour flexibility.

If you don't yet know if you want to be a life or P&C actuary, then consider the above list and apply to insurers from both sides who stand out to you. I did not know which track to take, but I did know what values, workplace culture, location, and work life balance I was looking for, and that helped me narrow down my options.

## Full time interview process:

Full time interviews are just slightly more intense internship interviews! Instead of one interview, there are two or more rounds of interviews. You are often also interviewed by a panel of interviewers as opposed to just one or two people. Interviews last longer as well. Some companies may interview a candidate all day, with rotations between interviewers, and a break for food in the middle. My longest round of interviews in this format was a half day long, ending with lunch.

You can expect the questions to be a bit tougher than internship questions too. For instance, they generally ask tougher technical questions about the work listed on your resume. The stakes are higher for them to hire a full-time employee, so they want an in-depth look into who you are as a professional, and as a person.

That being said, if you did well in internship interviews, don't overthink it. Prepare well as you did for internship interviews, be sure to thoroughly review what you did in your internships, and try your best to relax - you can do this!

## One of the best things I did for recruitment each year

was making notes about my internship projects as I was working on them. You will likely forget about different projects you had if you do not write them down, so take notes! Your future resume writing and interviews will be much easier with this fresh knowledge to review.



# Launch Your Actuarial Career

By the Asper Career Development Centre

Prepare to take the next step in your professional journey! Actuarial Recruitment season is approaching, offering you access to top employers and valuable career development resources.

September 3rd

**Job Postings Launch:** Explore exciting opportunities from leading companies in the actuarial field, including internships, summer, co-op, and full-time positions.

September 9th – 12th  
& 16th – 19th

**Employer Information Sessions:** Network directly with industry leaders, gain insights into their companies, and showcase your skills.



## 2024 Market Trends in Actuarial Recruiting

The actuarial profession boasts impressive growth projections with a 23.2% increase in employment between 2022 and 2032 - much faster than the average for all occupations!

**“While the demand for actuaries is high, the market remains competitive”**

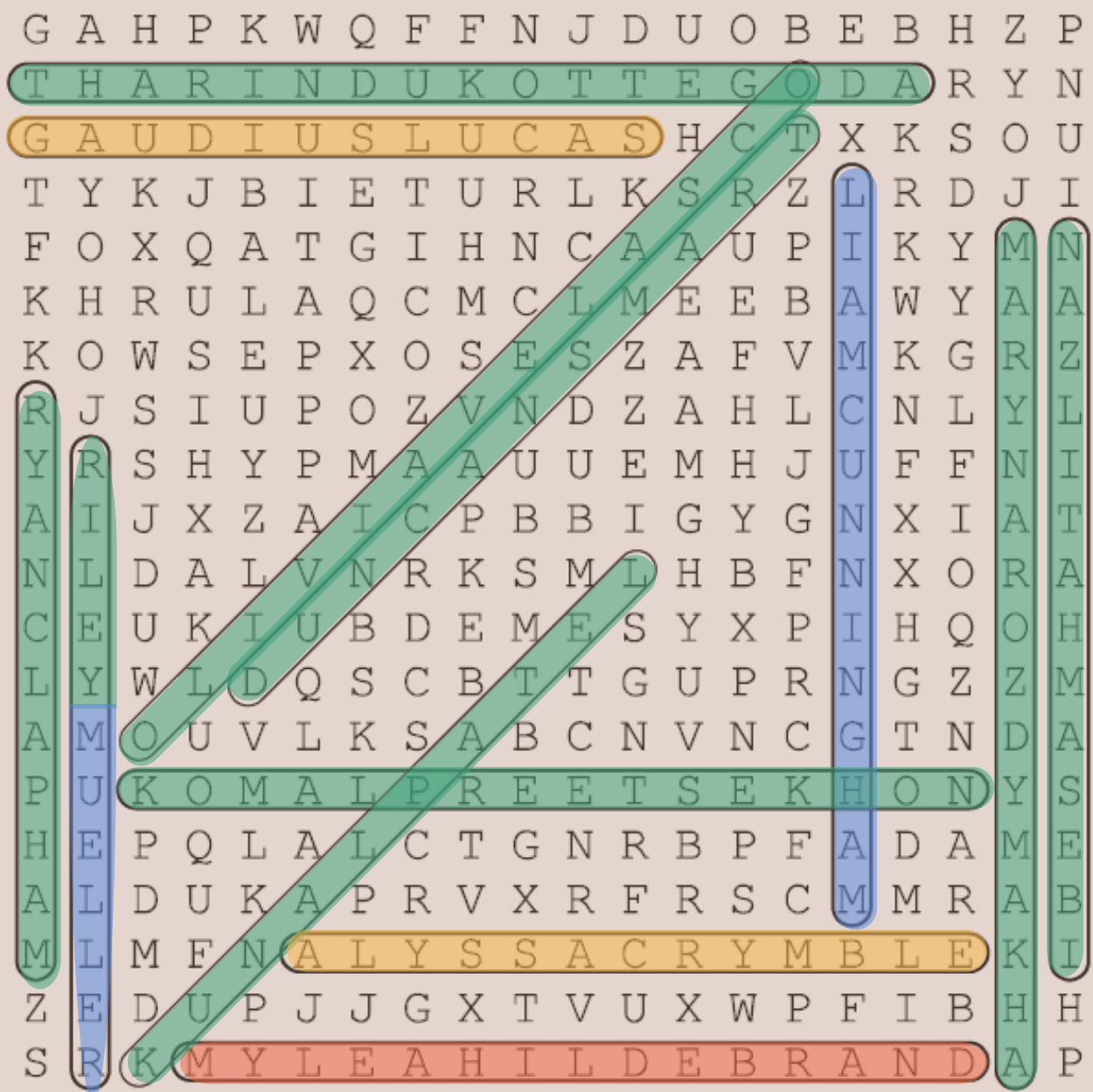


Maximize your chances by booking an Individual Career Consultation with experienced Asper Career Development Centre (CDC) consultants via the Asper Career Portal

Receive expert guidance on:  
Resume and Cover Letter Development  
Mock Interviews  
Networking Strategies

For more important recruitment information, dates, and deadlines, visit the Asper Career Portal.

# CONGRATS TO OUR EXAM PASSERS



EXAM P

EXAM FM

EXAM MAS-1

EXAM SRM



# UMAC Advice and Resources

## OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Speed Interviews
- ✓ Coding Workshops
- ✓ Study Sessions
- ✓ Actuarial Survival Guide - Exams
- ✓ Actuarial Survival Guide
- ✓ Case Competition
- ✓ Recruitment Prep Session



Sign up for our mailing list, you'll never miss important events and info. (PS. If you don't see our emails, check your spam folder!)

## DISCOUNT CODES

- ✓ Check your email for Coaching Actuaries & ACTEX Discount Codes
- ✓ **ACTEX**  
All Digital Study Manuals : 20% off
- ✓ **Coaching Actuaries**  
Adapt: 25% off  
Adapt + Manual: 50% off  
Adapt + Learn: 70% off

**Mylea Hildebrand**  
Coaching Actuaries Rep



**Jayden Belza**  
ACTEX Rep

Join us for the many fun upcoming fall events! Hope to see you there!



**Sept 9**  
**MENTORSHIP MATCH-UP**  
**(ROUND 1)**



**Sept 24**  
**WELCOME BBQ**



**Oct 10**  
**FISH DINNER**

# We want to hear **FROM YOU**

**Want to write in the newsletter?**

**Have an idea to share?**

**Want to share your feedback?**

**Let me know!**



**[umac.communications@gmail.com](mailto:umac.communications@gmail.com)**

