

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE BULLETIN

Updates Fall 2021

We have secured the services of a professional actuary from industry, to prepare students for the professional actuarial examinations starting with the Financial Mathematics (FM) examination.

We are also pleased to announce our new mentorship program. The program assists mentees in becoming better acquainted with their major field of study and the professional community, providing tools to learn more about the actuarial profession. Our mentors are seasoned professionals with many years of experience and will assist our students with professional growth through a series of sessions with specific objectives. The mentees will have the opportunity to connect with actuaries in the field right now. Overall, the objective is to support mentees as they progress through our program, preparing them for interviews, internships, and careers.

Do you know a high school student or young adult considering a degree in actuarial science? Encourage them to attend our upcoming open house to learn more about UWM's math programs – math, data science, applied math and computer science, and actuarial science.

October 21, 2021 – 4:00 to 5:00 pm – Live Stream via Zoom

Parents are welcome at this event that will cover academic requirements, research opportunities, internships, and admissions. Register at:

<https://uwm.edu/letters-science/event/math-actuarial-science-virtual-open-house/>

Get to Know Us

Quentin Clemens

Actuarial Club VP of Mentor Programs

I am a senior Actuarial Science major graduating in May 2022. I recently passed Exam FM and P and plan on taking IFM in the Spring. I am in charge of organizing and growing the university's actuarial mentoring program. In my spare time I like playing basketball, video games, and kicking it with friends and family.

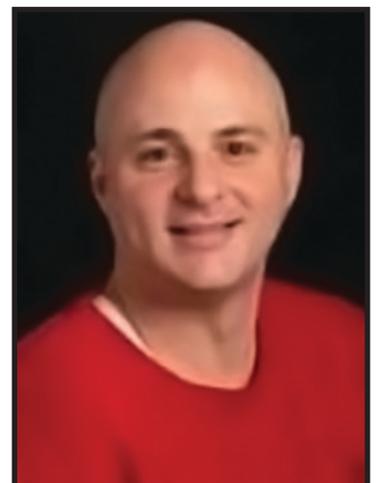


Undergraduate Student Jhonette Balingit

Hello, my name is Jhonette (jah - net) Balingit and I'm currently a sophomore studying Actuarial Science. I'm planning to sit for exam FM this October using Coaching Actuaries. I'm originally from the Chicago area where I like to visit the city and take pictures. In my free time I like to travel to California, get coffee, and cook. I hope to work for a consulting company in the future.

Faculty Member David Spade

Professor Spade is in his fourth year as a faculty member in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. He earned his PhD in Statistics at The Ohio State University in 2013, after which he joined the faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Professor Spade typically teaches courses in mathematical statistics, linear regression, and time series analysis. His research interests include Markov chain Monte Carlo methods and mixing times, statistical phylogenetics, statistical genetics and genomics, and statistical epidemiology.



Spotlight on Alumni

Taylor Gehrke, FSA, MAAA, CERA

Oliver Wyman

Taylor graduated from UW-Milwaukee in 2015 with a degree in actuarial science. He is a health insurance consulting actuary at Oliver Wyman in the Milwaukee, Wisc., office. His professional experience includes pricing Affordable Care Act compliant major medical health products, reserving, and performing analyses to assess the impact of changes in health policy, and much more. He earned his CERA and FSA credentials in 2018 and 2019, respectively. He enjoys rock climbing during his free time.



Spotlight on Advisory Board Member



Kelly Backes, FSA, MAAA
Milliman

Kelly graduated with honors from UWM with a double major in actuarial science and economics. She is a principal and consulting actuary with the Milwaukee office of Milliman, joining the firm in 2014.

Kelly's experience includes eighteen years in the actuarial health field, including both consulting and health insurance company experience. Her expertise lies in all areas of the Medicare Advantage market including strategic planning, bid pricing support, product design, desk review and audit support, organizational start-up assistance, feasibility analysis, forecasting, part D settlement analysis, and reserving. She conducted bid desk reviews and audits on behalf of CMS for several years.

Kelly began her actuarial career at Assurant Health, where she spent six years working extensively in its individual commercial actuarial department leading pricing and filing, managing form discontinuance and roll over support, and providing statistical analysis related to corporate retention and application placement initiatives. She then moved to Oliver Wyman, where she provided pre and post-ACA pricing support for individual and group products, as well as related commercial services including reserving, forecasting, assisting federal and state governments with ACA compliance and initiatives, and state filing review. Over her career, Kelly also developed rates for a variety of Medicaid programs and populations.

She resides in Pewaukee, Wisc., with her husband, two children, and two poodles. Kelly is an outdoor enthusiast, who enjoys hiking, paddle boarding, boating, and exploring everything Wisconsin has to offer. She loves road trips with her family and finding the "unique" in every adventure.

Gratitude

The Actuarial Science Department and Club would like to extend our collective thanks to this month's guest speakers: Chelsea Adler, Marlee Nichols and Drake Menzia. Your shared experience & expertise is invaluable to those starting their actuarial journey!



Chelsea Adler



Marlee Nichols



Drake Menzia

Fundraising

To achieve our goal of producing the best actuaries of the future, we encourage our students to start professional exams early and participate in professional development seminars.

Funding is required to enable our students to pay the costs of taking the professional examinations. The costs are relatively small for working professionals but can be debilitating for some students.

To help us reach our goals you can donate on-line: www.give.uwm.edu/actuarial-science
Alternately, you can fill out the form below and donate by mail.

Name(s): _____

Degree: BA Master's PhD Year: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to: UWM Office of Development – Attn: Leslie Horn, PO Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413

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