

Director's Updates Fall 2022

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee's actuarial science program is one of 13 universities globally recognized by the Society of Actuaries (SOA) for its University-Earned Credit (UEC) program. Beginning this year, degree-seeking students who participate in approved courses will be eligible for specific SOA exam credit after obtaining the required score.

UWM is among the nine universities in the U.S., two in Hong Kong and two in Australia, recognized by this SOA education program. Each of these universities are SOA Centers of Actuarial Excellence (CAE) that also meet the eight criteria and specific requirements of that program. UWM applied for the SOA's UEC program and has successfully completed the intensive UEC evaluation process, ensuring their quality, rigor and testing integrity. These university programs are required to apply the standards of the UEC program to their courses. It is the same rigorous standards that the SOA applies to all current examinations.

The SOA is the world's largest actuarial professional organization with nearly 32,000 actuaries as members. Through research and education, the SOA's mission is to advance actuarial knowledge and to enhance the ability of actuaries to provide expert advice and relevant solutions for financial, business and societal challenges.



Spring 2022 Dean's List Recipients

The Actuarial Science Department would like to highlight and congratulate the Actuarial Science Students that have made the Dean's List during the Spring Semester. Their hard work and determination does not go unnoticed. The Students that received the award are as follows.

- Olivia Harter
- Alex Hardy
- Ava Schuett
- Daniela hernandez-Enriquez
- Quintin Heilman
- Adam St John
- Elena Heinrich
- Zhane Miller
- Jhonette Balingit
- Nicholas Geringer
- Cody Santas

Get to Know Us

Incoming Club President

Jhonette Balingit

Hi! I'm Jhonette (jah-net) and I'm the incoming president of the Actuarial Science Club. I've passed exam P & Exam FM, and I currently work for WTW (Willis Tower Watson) for their health & benefits actuarial team. For this school year, I'm planning on increasing membership, expanding our internship network, and working alongside members to streamline the exam process.



Advisory Board Member

Randal Oja, FCAS, MAAA, AU

Vice President - Underwriting, Product and Chief Actuary

Randall Oja joined Church Mutual as senior actuary in September 2011. He was promoted to assistant vice president – senior actuary in January 2016, then to vice president – Broker Underwriting in January 2019. Oja took on the role of vice president – Social markets underwriting in February 2020. He assumed his president position in May 2021.

Oja earned his Bachelor of Science degree with a mathematics major and finance minor from the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater in 1990.

He is a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society, and a member of the American Academy of Actuaries.

Oja is also a member of the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire advisory board for its actuarial program and the university liaison for the Casualty Actuarial Society.

Oja attends Saint Andrew Lutheran Church in Wausau, Wisconsin.

**“Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm.”
-Publilus Syrus**



Undergraduate Student

Simon Dembiec



Hi! My name is Simon Dembiec, I am a senior at UWM studying actuarial science and currently work as an Actuarial Analyst Intern for Trupanion. I have Exam FM passed and will be sitting for Exam P this fall. At school I am involved in Math Club, CRU, Actuarial Club, and I am also the Vice Chairman of College Republicans at UWM. When I am not studying for school or Exams you can find me in the gym, hanging out with my dog, spending time with my friends and family, or participating in a variety of sports!

Spotlight on Alumni

Nicholas Bablitch

Hello, my name is Nick Bablitch. I am a UWM graduate from the class of 2017 with a double major in actuarial science & economics and am an Associate of the Society of Actuaries. During my time at UWM, I was involved with the Cheer & Stunt team, the Actuarial Club as well as the business fraternity Delta-Sigma-Pi.



Since graduating in 2017 I held a variety of actuarial roles in unique areas of the profession. I started my career off as an actuarial intern at Pinnacle Actuarial Resources working on captive insurance solutions in Bloomington, Illinois. Shortly after I accepted my first full time offer at AIG as an actuarial analyst in Stevens Point, Wisconsin assisting with pricing, rate filings and large program renewals for the Travel division.

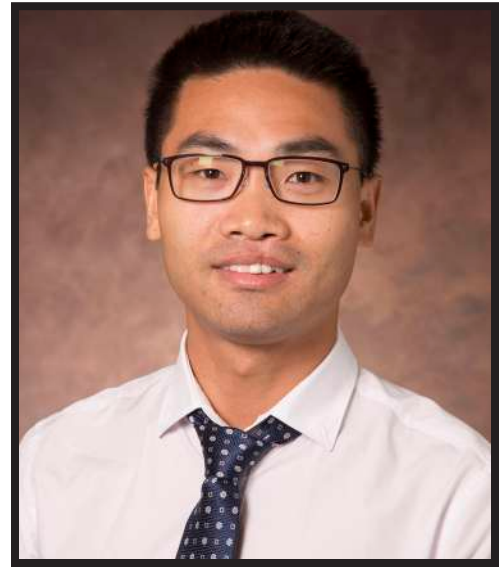
In 2020, I found myself in a unique situation which provided me the opportunity to relocate to New York City to fill in at AIG's Accident & Health (A&H) division as a result of the pandemic where I co-managed the pricing & portfolio management function for A&H specialty markets. After 2 years, I switched over to Arch Insurance to build the Underwriting Analytics department, with an emphasis on predictive analytics, underwriting strategy and profitability management for the A&H, Disability and Travel insurance divisions.

From my experience, I found success in my career by taking initiative through pitching ideas and crafting creative solutions as they emerged in my work. The value an actuary can provide extends far beyond the traditional norms as advancements in technology, changes in market dynamics, and emergence of new risks have created new challenges and opportunities in the industry. I would have never been able to obtain these opportunities if it wasn't for my mentors and the relationships, I developed both at UWM and throughout my career.

New Faculty

Daoping Yu

Daoping Yu received his PhD degree in Mathematics with concentration in Statistics and Actuarial Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) after obtaining his MS degree in Mathematics and BS degree in Information Management and Information Systems. He came back to teach at UWM after working a few years in the School of Computer Science and Mathematics at the University of Central Missouri. He has taught a variety of courses in mathematics, statistics and actuarial science. The courses include but are not limited to IFM, LTAM, STAM, Mathematical Statistics (VEE), Review for Exams Probability (P) and Financial Mathematics (FM). His research is in the interface of actuarial science and financial mathematics with particular emphasis on the statistical modeling of operational risk management. He is an Associate of the Society of Actuaries (ASA).



Jessica Gartner

Hello! My name is Jessica Gartner and I am a Lecturer teaching ActSci 491, ActSci 492, and MthStat 215. Fall 2022 is my first semester teaching full time, as I just left the Healthcare industry working as a professional Actuary.

I graduated from Drake University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, majoring in Actuarial Science and Finance. During my time at Drake, I had 3 internships in the Life Insurance and Health Insurance industries. Since graduating, I worked for Humana and EyeMed in various cities (Louisville, Cincinnati, and Milwaukee).

I am a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, and in my spare time I enjoy reading, playing board games, walking my dog, and spending time with my family and friends.



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.

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Actuarial Science General Fund #39180

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

