



Member Spotlight for August 2022- Kyle Bartee



Where do you work and what is your position?

For the last two years, I have worked in the Product Management department at GAINSCO, a non-standard auto insurance company based in Dallas, TX. After 10 years as a pricing and reserving actuary for homeowners and auto insurance at another company, I took a page from my Chief Actuary's playbook. He became VP of the Product Management department for his own career advancement and was able to apply his knowledge and skills in a non-traditional role for actuaries, so I did the same. I have always believed that actuaries can add value in almost any department of a company, and I have joined the ranks of many other actuaries in non-traditional roles as proof of that.

Why did you decide to become an actuary?

After teaching math for a few years, and having my first kid, I decided to change careers. Unfortunately, a teacher's salary is not what it should be, so I wanted to find a career where I could better support my family. As I was researching math careers, Actuary was always in the top two of the lists I saw. It wasn't the easiest path because I had to go back to school to get an internship so that I could land my first job, but this rewarding career path was definitely worth it.

What aspects of the field do you love?

One of my favorite parts of this job is data visualization. After digging into the weeds of the vast data sets at our disposal and trying to gain insights for actionable ideas, I get to create visuals to help support and explain how those strategic changes will benefit our



company. Getting to actively participate in what direction our company takes to achieve our short and long term goals is very rewarding.

What is the best career advice you have ever received?

As a lifetime learner, I am always willing to take advice from others. The best I have received, simply put, is that your job does not define who you are. That means you should try to figure out who you are outside of work, like what you believe in and what you stand for. Knowing who I am has helped me have the courage to stand up for what I believe is right, both professionally as well as personally. It helps me be at peace no matter what the outcome because my core values of honesty and integrity are not changed due to circumstance. It is also important to remember that standing up for what you believe doesn't mean putting others down for having different beliefs. It requires mutual respect and seeing the value in others even if you disagree with their perspective.

Do you have any advice for those just starting out?

I know exactly what it's like to be stressed out about finding that first job. I started looking for a job in 2009, at the bottom of the recession, but my career didn't start until 2011. I know it is tempting to jump on the first opportunity that comes your way.

However, if you know it's not a good fit, it could lead to being burnt out and becoming jaded. In my opinion, it is not worth the toll it takes on your mental health, and it saves you and your employer the hassle of going through that process again in 6 months to a year down the road.

What is your favorite CAS memory?

My favorite memory was at my first CAS Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL. There is typically a "fun night" at the annual meeting, and I got to see a bunch of actuaries breaking all kinds of stereotypes by having a blast at Universal Studios. I think I rode the Hulk five times with my friends that night, and I realized that actuaries absolutely know how to have fun.



What is a fun fact about yourself that many people don't know about?

Before going down the path of getting a Math degree and starting my career as a teacher, I received a Congressional Nomination to go to the Air Force Academy. My dream was to be an Air Force Pilot, but my eye sight wasn't good enough.