The CAS Legacy

by Albert J. Beer

Editor's Note: Published here are excerpts from the "Presidential Address" given by Albert J. Beer at the 1996 CAS Annual Meeting in November. The complete text of the address will be published in the Proceedings of the Casualty Actuarial Society, LXXXIII (1996).

I know that I am forever grateful to those actuaries who have made a difference in my career: Mike Fusco, Kevin Ryan, Tom Murrin and Fred Kilbourne, who each showed me that inspirational leadership can easily accommodate a wonderful self-deprecating sense of humor. And Jim MacGinnite, Chuck Bryan, Dave Hartman, Stan Khury, Allan Kaufman—all of whom represent a tireless dedication to serving the profession, often at great personal sacrifice. Mary Hennessy, Mike Toothman, Mike Walters, and Dave Flynn—who showed me that the qualities of personal integrity and caring for people are not inversely related to financial success.

One of the easiest mistakes to make as a member of the actuarial profession is to take the prestige afforded to us for granted. There is little doubt in my mind that the FCAS is regarded as the most prestigious designation within the property/casualty insurance industry. Whether it be at our desks, a conference room, or a board room, our colleagues bestow upon us a special respect that is clearly unique to the actuarial profession.

In this context, it is extremely important that we all recognize the huge debt of gratitude we owe our predecessors for crafting the foundation upon which our renowned profession rests. We are all obligated to continue this great tradition and should each be personally committed to enhancing the status of the actuary well into the future. We each share the significant responsibility of protecting and nurturing this gift of our CAS Legacy.

New Fellows Honored


Third row, from left: Russell H. Grieg Jr., Terry D. Gusler, Maureen Anne, Cavanaugh, Edward Daniel Thomas, Jason Louis Russ, Judith Michalovko, Feldmeier.

Fourth row, from left: Stephen Vernon Merkey, Sallie Smith Robinson, Melodee Jane Saunders, Stephen Howard Kantor, Timothy P. Kenefick.

Fifth row, from left: Giovanni A. Muzzarelli, Craig A. Allen, Elizabeth E. Leyda Hansen, Behram Mehelli Dinshaw, Camille Diane Minogue, Brian M. Stoll.


Seventh row, from left: Melinda Helen Oosten, Daniel A. Powell, David Young Na, Cheng-Sheng Peter Wu, Michael B. Kessler, Sara Elizabeth Schlenker.

Eight row, from left: Kelly S. McKeethan, Madan Lal Mittal, Mark A. Ad-diego, Bertrand Jean LaChance, Brian Cornelison.


Waterloo Seeks Actuarial Professor

Applications are being accepted for a tenure track position or definite term position in actuarial science at the assistant or associate professor level at the University of Waterloo.

Because of Canadian immigration requirements, this announcement is directed to Canadian citizens and permanent residents. Applicants must have a Ph.D. with research in mathematical sciences, and interests closely related to actuarial science. The closing date for applications is February 28, 1997.

Please submit a curriculum vitae and arrange for three letters of reference to be sent to:
Professor Mary E. Thompson, Chair, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1.
First row, from left: Michele P. Gust, Lisa Jenny Brubaker, John R. Ferrara, CAS President Albert J. Beer, Robin Austin Harbage.
Fourth row, from left: Carol A. Cavaliere, Annie Blais, Clifford Arthur Pence Jr., Shawna Sue Ackerman, Michelle G. Sheng.
Sixth row, from left: Nicholas P. Giuntini, Matthew G. Lange, David L. Homer, David A. Russell, Kirsten Costello Hernan.
Seventh row, from left: Marc Freeman Oberholtzer, David Michael Elkins, Frank Samuel Conde, Timothy F. Koester, Edward Johnson Yorty, Catherine Cresswell.

New Fellows Not Pictured:

Journal of Actuarial Practice

Actuaries and other interested researchers are invited to submit articles to the Journal of Actuarial Practice on any subject matter related to actuarial science or insurance.

The Journal of Actuarial Practice is a refereed journal that accepts papers, articles, commentators, essays, or book reviews in any area of actuarial practice including life, health, pensions, investments, reinsurance, nonlife or general insurance.

Calls for Papers

Please send a short abstract (150 words or less), and five copies of the completed paper by June 2, 1997 to:
Colin M. Ramsay, Editor
Journal of Actuarial Practice
P.O. Box 22098
Lincoln, Nebraska 68542-2098
Phone and fax: (402) 421-8149
E-mail: absalom1@ix.netcom.com

Actuarial Sightings

Walter Haner, a consulting actuary from New Jersey, recently experienced two actuarial sightings.

Actuaries At Battle

One sighting occurred while Haner toured a Civil War battlefield in Spotsylvania, Virginia. He explained it like this:

"I was with Robert Crick, an historian for the National Park Service and Gary Gallagher, a history professor at Penn State. We were walking on the battlefield when Gary remarked that 'standing behind trees was a better idea from an actuarial perspective than fighting in the open.'

Robert also referred to actuaries within the context of life expectations on the battlefields."

Actuaries On Ice

While playing hockey on a local adult team, Haner skated onto the ice and noticed the name of the opposing team, "Kwasho Lipton." He asked one opponent if the team members were associated with the actuarial consulting firm of the same name. "Yes," replied the opponent. "Most of us are consultants with the firm." "Actuaries?" Haner asked. "Yes; the opponent replied. But the team of actuaries lost the game. Haner's team of adults from various walks of life won 9-1.

Inventing Actuaries

Edward C. Shoop has been following a story that Sports Writer Frederick C. Klein of the Wall Street Journal occasionally covers. The story is about Andy Brown, a pension actuary in Cincinnati who has invented a tennis racket with a hexagonal-shaped handle. Brown is neither a tennis pro nor an engineer, but a partner in the Cincinnati actuarial firm of Schneider & Brown, and has been trying for about "a dozen years, ... to peddle an invention that he's convinced will make playing tennis easier for the multitudes," Klein reported in the January 3, 1997 edition of the WSJ.

To date, Brown has been unsuccessful with the invention, but he keeps on trying. ■