Actuarial Science, Insurance and Risk Management Career Fair

The Actuarial Science Club would like to thank each of the thirty-one companies in attendance at the career fair this semester. Sophomore Emily Fishel expressed, “I think the University of Iowa does a great job of providing resources for job and internship opportunities, especially for students who are motivated to access those resources. The career fair, in particular, effectively connects actuarial students to many fantastic companies.” Students are grateful for our alumni’s participation during the recruiting season and their dedication toward the actuarial science program and students at the University of Iowa.

New Exam Manuals in the Main Library

The Actuarial Science Club received funding from the University of Iowa Student Government, UISG, to purchase manuals for the new SOA exams. Actex and ASM manuals for exams IFM, LTAM, SRM and STAM are now available for students to check out and study from for up to four hours at a time in the Main Library, in addition to current manuals for exams P and FM. Exam manuals are a significant expense on top of course textbooks and the Club is grateful for the support from UISG to help alleviate this cost for students.

Mr. Eric Palmer, CFO of Cigna

Alum Eric Palmer visited the University of Iowa to share advice from his time at Cigna. He addressed the importance of transferrable skills and how he acquired them in various financial and actuarial positions to his most recent role, serving as the Chief Financial Officer. He recommended that actuaries in their early careers seek out knowledge to learn about the business which will set themselves up for success in future roles.

This academic year, 35 students were awarded the Charles E. and Eleanore G. Wilson Scholarship for Actuarial Science and Statistics. Mr. Wilson was only able to attend the University of Iowa in 1937 because of the financial assistance he received. He had a long and successful actuarial career. Mr. Wilson generously established this scholarship to give future students at the University of Iowa the same opportunities he had and to help the actuarial profession.
Student Mock Interviews and Career Fair Preparation

Leading up to the Actuarial Science Career Fair, the club hosted several events to prepare students for their job and internship searches, including a resume workshop, student mock interviews, an experienced intern panel, and company presentations. During the student mock interviews, experienced interviewees shared their tips and helped fellow students craft thoughtful responses to common interview questions. These events and interactive activities instilled the necessary skills in students to present themselves well to companies during the fair and subsequent interviews. Junior Emily Hay shared, “The resources available to me during the recruiting season prepared me to be calm and confident during a stressful period and helped me land my summer internship.”

Mr. Dave Kester, President and Owner of Coaching Actuaries

The club was also fortunate to have Dave Kester as a guest speaker this semester. Kester presented his perspective on developing actuarial analytical skills by asking thoughtful questions. He also emphasized his advice on prioritizing and supporting a work-life balance. In addition, Kester spoke to his passion for education and how he used his actuarial expertise to shape his successful career and business.

Midwest Actuarial Science Conference

After hosting the Midwest Actuarial Science Conference at Iowa last fall, students traveled to the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee this year for a weekend full of presentations and panels to guide future actuaries. Freshman Collin Kepner shared, “I found the session on acing interviews presented by a panel of actuarial recruiters to be the most beneficial. Some key takeaways were to be confident, know your audience, be responsible on social media, understand your strengths, and ask questions.” Skills and topics emphasized during the conference included exam preparation, interviews and the importance of effective communication. Kepner reflected, “The information I learned at the conference will be invaluable in the future and hearing from experienced actuaries who are passionate about their careers cemented my desire to pursue actuarial science.”

Mr. Mark Yu, FSA, MAAA

Mark Yu returned to campus as an alum to share his successful career in actuarial and enterprise risk management roles. Yu encouraged students to seek out volunteer opportunities and expressed how his initiative in serving as a volunteer exam grader led to his current position on the SOA Board of Directors. Additionally, Yu communicated the importance of taking on new roles outside of one’s comfort zone to develop new proficiencies and how he took those risks which brought tremendous opportunities that shaped his career path.

DECEMBER 2018 B.S. GRADUATES

Muhammad Muaz Foong – B.S. Actuarial Science, B.S. Statistics, B.A. Mathematics
Peiwen Gu – B.S. Actuarial Science, B.A. Mathematics
Xing Liu – B.S. Actuarial Science, B.S. Statistics
Mohammad Hafiz bin Mohommad Tarmizi – B.S. Actuarial Science, B.S. Statistics
Abu Hurairah bin Sallehuddin – B.S. Actuarial Science
Ailin Zhang – B.S. Actuarial Science, Minor in Mathematics

SOCIAL EVENTS

Outside of career development and educational presentations, actuarial students connected at board game nights, a picnic and Frisbee and kickball in the park. This semester, the club hosted a joint social with Gamma Iota Sigma at Airliner downtown Iowa City for pizza. At the event, students got to know their peers with similar interests.