

# μmāctuary X

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA ACTUARIAL CLUB NEWSLETTER



μmāctuary  
X

University of Manitoba Actuarial Club

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OCTOBER 2018

# MESSAGE

From Rachel Reeves, Communications Chair

Hi UMAC!

I hope you've been having a great couple months back at school! September and October are always busy, and seem to fly by so fast. As this is my first newsletter for UMAC, I'd really appreciate your feedback and any ideas on how I can make the next one even better. In this issue, we're taking a break from the Internship Profiles you may have seen in the past, and focusing on bringing in articles on topics you wanted to learn about. Also new to the newsletter is an exam recognition page to congratulate our members on exam success. This is a great way to let club members know where you are in your designation and for you to reach out to each other for exam tips. I'll include the Internship Profile and Exam Study Tips pages in newsletters to come, so don't worry if they were your favourite. They'll be back!

Thanks to everyone who helped out with this edition of the *Umactuary* and please reach out if you're interested in being featured in future editions!

*-Rachel Reeves*

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University of Manitoba Actuarial Club

# Meet the Executive Team for 2018-2019



## Adrian Ferens

Co-President

Hey UMAC! I'm AJ and I am thrilled to be your Co-President for the upcoming school year! After being given the opportunity to contribute to UMAC as Secretary the previous year, I am beyond excited to continue giving back and adding value to the actuarial community this year! Kyle and I are very excited to introduce some of our key initiatives to continuously assist our members and make this year a fantastic experience overall. If you have any questions about who we are, our initiatives, please don't hesitate to reach out to me .



## Kyle Palamar

Co-President

Hi UMAC my name is Kyle Palamar and I am excited to be your Co-President for the upcoming year. Having been a member of UMAC since beginning my actuarial studies, I am looking forward to having the opportunity to give back to the group and assist students through their studies and careers. We have many exciting events and initiatives planned this year, if you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out and ask; I'm looking forward to a great year with all of you.



## Cody Baldauf

Treasurer

Hey UMAC, I'm fired up to be your Treasurer for 2018/2019! My main responsibilities include acquiring and managing funding, online payments, as well as budgeting for social, academic, and career events, most notably the UMAC Annual Fish Dinner. Outside of class you might see me as a referee on the soccer field or playing on the volleyball court. Hopefully you don't catch me on the dance floor. Feel free to contact me if you have questions specific to the Treasurer role, UMAC in general, or want to talk non-actuarial.

# Meet the Executive Team for 2018-2019



## Kondwelani Kalinda

International Student Representative

Hey UMAC! My name is Kondwelani Kalinda and I am more than excited to be this year's International Representative. My main focus for the year is to add value to international students through a new and improved mentor-ship program. Apart from this, increase involvement of ICM students by advertising all events on the education portal. I plan to also implement a SOA exam group study program as well as an actuary help center that offers tutoring services. Feel free to stop and say hi whenever you see me, we have a great year ahead of us!



## Shreyas Chaudhari

Secretary

Hey UMAC! My name is Shreyas Chaudhari and I am your secretary for the 2018/2019 school year. My main responsibilities and initiatives are - consistently updating and improving the website, ensuring members are aware of UMAC events through the website, email and calendar, and implementing a job board on the website for easy access to job applications. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or even just to have a conversation! I highly recommend getting involved - it'll be worth it!



## Rachel Reeves

Communications Chair

Hi UMAC, I am so excited to be your Communications chair for the 2018-19 academic year. I can't wait to share with you the ideas I've had for the newsletter and would love to hear from you about any content you'd like me to cover. I'm always looking to improve, so feel free to reach out or stop me in the halls and let me know your thoughts and feedback. I'll keep you up to date on all of the events coming up this year so be sure to check out our social media! I'm looking forward to a great year and getting to know some of you better!

# Meet the Executive Team for 2018-2019



**Kyra Lyle**  
ASNA Representative

Hey UMAC, I'll be responsible for organizing and recruiting all you fun loving, networking seeking, job searching students for this years conference! Other than spending endless days at school studying for exams, I enjoy spending time at the lake, eating obscene amounts of chocolate ice cream and busting a move on anything that may resemble a dance floor! Any questions you may have, whether it's UMAC related or about the latest RuPauls Drag race season please don't hesitate to stop me in the halls! I look forward to meeting you!!



**Sonil Tappia**  
Promotions Coordinator

Hey UMAC, my name is Sonil Tappia and I am very excited to be the Promotions Coordinator for this school year. I will be responsible for organizing the annual "What is an Actuary?" event as well as arranging high school presentations. I also have a ton of other ideas for how we can help UMAC grow. I strongly encourage each member to shoot me an email or text and become more involved with the community so that we can have an incredible year.



**Braeden Hamm**  
Special Events Coordinator

Hey UMAC! My name is Braeden Hamm and I am this year's Special Events Coordinator. I will be responsible for organizing many of the events that go on throughout the year such as the Mentorship BBQ, Speed Interviews, and Study Sessions. If you have any questions about classes, exams, careers, or even life, feel free to reach out and I will do my best to help!

# What We've Been Up To



## What Is An Actuary?

On October 2nd, we heard from industry professionals Tannis Wiebe, Martin Marion, Jonathon Harder, and Jared Mickall about the different roles of actuaries and why it's a satisfying field to be in. Tannis and Martin talked about their experience at Wawanesa and how technology is changing the way they do business. Jonathon explained how Investor's

Group is harnessing the power of data science to provide customers with more suitable products. Finally, Jared shared many examples of actuaries as business professionals and situations that require client's trust.

Thanks again to our speakers!



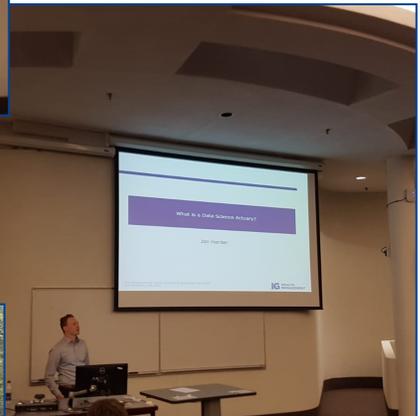
## Fall Mentorship BBQ

September 24th

The mentorship BBQ is always a fun annual event where mentees and mentors get to hang out, compete in games, and get to know other



club members. The mentorship program is designed to help pair up a younger student in the program with an upper level student for support, exam and career advice, and to strengthen the sense of community within the club. This year it was quite cool outside, but we headed out to King's Park and had a great time! Thank you to all our mentees and mentors who are taking part in the program this year!



**See page 8 for Upcoming Events!**

# Networking Basics

Rachel Reeves

We've had many responses saying you were interested in hearing about networking tips, and from all the events, I can see why. Making a connection with a potential employer, your peers, or clients can be tough. Often times, trying to make these connections can make you feel phony, awkward, and intimidated. However, these invaluable relations can make all the difference when you're sitting across from someone in an interview and they've already had an introduction to how you'd be a great asset to their team. It's possible that your connection is what landed you the interview in the first place.

The following tips are going to help you make a great first impression and hopefully a connection that will help you in your life and career. First and foremost, you have to get out of your comfort zone and talk to someone you don't already know. Now this may seem obvious, but I've found that a lot of the time, attending events can be a time of catching up with people you might've not seen in a while, and you miss out on the opportunity to meet the unfamiliar people around you. According to an article published by Forbes, it's a good idea to make a goal of making at least one new connection at each event you go to. If you're like me and going up to a

stranger makes you feel nervous, than this approach is for you! It's a lot less intimidating to start expanding your circle one person at a time and a lot more fun. The article also suggests you research others attending the event and generate some questions you might want to ask someone. This can be a great way to show your interest in a certain company or subject and help you stand out.

Imagine now that you have found a person in the room that you don't know and you've introduced yourself. Where do you go from here? A good approach would be to try and find common ground. If you've done your research as suggested, now is the time to ask them the questions you came up with. Otherwise, some ideas for a topic of conversation is how you both ended up at the same event and thoughts about it, what are the new projects you've been working on or they've been up to, or what area does your work focus on (Fallon). Whatever the topic is, make sure that you're being genuine and communicating effectively. According to an article by Alison Doyle, effective communication includes the following skills: listening, nonverbal communication, clarity and concision, friendliness, confidence, empathy, open-



mindedness, respect, feedback, and picking the right medium. Taking a closer look at the first eight skills will help you communicate better in a networking setting. Doyle explains that good listening is not just hearing the other person, but understanding what they're saying and asking follow up questions, if needed, to clarify. It can make a good impression to show you were listening after you joined a group by making a comment or asking a question in regards to something that was said. Body language, eye contact, and tone of voice are key contributors to nonverbal communication and should convey to the other person that you are relaxed and focused on what the other person is saying. Friendliness is often tied into nonverbal communication, and can be sensed through a smile, uncrossed arms, and pleasant tone of voice. By practicing this skill, you will appear more approachable and

Continued on next page...

## Networking Basics

others will feel comfortable talking to you. If someone says something you disagree with, use empathy and respect towards them so that you don't turn the conversation sour. Instead, accept that they might have a different perspective than you. Lastly, it's important to be genuine in your interactions. When you are meeting new people, just be yourself. Join in on conversations or listen, but make sure you're giving other people a chance to contribute to a group conversation. Try not to repeatedly steer the conversation back to yourself and your accomplishments, but include the aforementioned communication skills and engage others in the group. You will leave a positive impression on those around you and hopefully make the desired networking connections.

For more information on how to refine your communication and networking skills, visit the articles in the citations. Happy networking!



### Citations:

Doyle, A. (n.d.). These Are the Communication Skills Employers Look for in Employees. Retrieved September 25, 2018, from <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/communication-skills-list-2063779>

Fallon, N. (2015, March 30). Going to an Industry Event? 5 Ways to Network Better. Retrieved September 24, 2018, from <https://www.businessnewsdaily.com/7878-in-person-networking-tactics.html>

Forbes Communications Council. (2018, April 23). 10 Networking Tips To Help You Make A Great First Impression At An Event. Retrieved September 24, 2018 from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbescommunicationscouncil/2018/04/23/10-networking-tips-to-help-you-make-a-great-first-impression-at-an-event/#3af70a60301b>

## Did you know we've updated our website?

Visit [www.umactuary.ca](http://www.umactuary.ca) to stay up to date on upcoming events, see past newsletter editions, access exam resources, and more!

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**COME JOIN THE U OF M  
ACTUARIAL CLUB!**

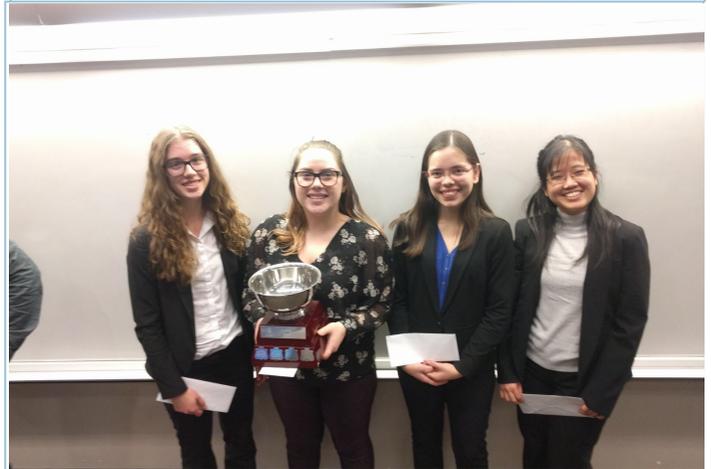
Seeing Beyond Risk

# Upcoming Events



The Fish Dinner is a professional event that brings together students, employers, and faculty members for an evening of networking, scholarship announcements, and great food. We are honoured to welcome Clayton Zaluski, Consulting Actuary of Worden-Zaluski Consulting, as our keynote speaker this year.

The Fish Dinner is a phenomenal opportunity for all actuarial students to network with top recruiters from across Canada and the United States. You will meet many employers in a non-interview setting, in which you can freely ask them questions about their company and experience, and target areas that you would like to learn more about. Furthermore, the keynote speaker's speech will provide an excellent perspective of the actuarial industry.



## UMAC Case Competition

The UMAC Cup is a case competition where your team is up against other UMAC members. It is an excellent opportunity to practice problem solving, critical thinking and teamwork to come up with a solution that will make you this year's champion.

Last year we had a group of students (pictured above) who had never competed before bring home the win, so don't let that excuse hold you back!

There will be more info released closer to the date, but keep November 24th open. As the day approaches, you may want to start thinking about who you'll want on your team, as November 17th will be the deadline to register!

Stay up to date on UMAC events by visiting our social media page!



[www.umactuary.ca](http://www.umactuary.ca)



@umactuarialclub

## Upcoming Events

# ASNA 2019

Hello UMAC!! I'm sure you have heard the phrase ASNA Conference thrown around but not 100% sure what it means! In short ASNA Conference is the once a year event where actuarial students and companies across Canada get together for one jam-packed fun-filled weekend of networking and learning! This year we are so excited to head over to Montréal!!

ASNA has an infamous career fair where you are able to network with actuarial companies across Canada that may not routinely recruit from the U of M and possibly secure and internship! Almost every company has the opportunity for students to attend a private breakfast or coffee connection even if you aren't selected for an interview.

One of the most interesting parts of

ASNA is the professional panel and seminars put on by the actuarial companies to discuss new advances in their field, changes to the professional designation, and even the use of new technology.

Of course after all that networking and learning being able to relax and have some fun is always a highlight of ASNA weekend! There are many social events put on by ASNA like a cultural nights and socials! Since This year ASNA is in Montréal so there are an abundance of opportunities to explore one of Canada's oldest cities!!

If you are ready to be a part of an almost 30-year-old tradition but student life has left your wallet a little light, do not despair! Each year 15 Asper and 10 Science students are eligible for funding to help with

travel costs! If you are an actuarial student who has completed Interest Theory with a C+ or higher, have completed at least 1 actuarial exam, have not secured an internship or are participating in the case competition you are eligible for funding!

E-mails will be sent out after the fish dinner for you to sign up for funding and if you have any questions please email or text me or stop me in the halls!!!

Cheers,

**Kyra Lyle**

**ASNA Rep**

ASNA 2018 — Ottawa, ON

## Important Dates

Interview Sign-up.....	October 3rd
1st Round Interviews.....	October 4th—11th
Summer & Co-op Positions	
Offers Extended to Students.....	October 17th
Full Time Positions	
Offers Extended to Students.....	October 24th



**Questions? Comments? Contact us at [umac-exec@lists.umanitoba.ca](mailto:umac-exec@lists.umanitoba.ca)**

# Actuarial Exam Recognition



*We all know that passing actuarial exams is tough. Please join us in congratulating our members who are achieving exam success!*

## Exam P

Rochelle Dickson (September 2018)  
Kyra Lyle (May 2018)  
Emilia Markovic (July 2018)  
Xi Kei Mun (May 2018)  
Yash Rajpara (May 2018)

## Exam FM

Chenyang Li (August 2018)  
Yash Rajpara (August 2018)

## Exam MFE/IFM

Dillon Doan (July 2018)  
Corey Haverstick (March 2018)  
Abigail Koots (July 2018)  
Jeremy Kroeker (July 2018)  
Nadia Lapteva (March 2018)  
Rachel Reeves (July 2018)

## Exam MLC

Adrian Ferens (April 2018)  
Jingcheng Yu (April 2018)

## Exam MAS I

Onesime Deha (May 2018)

## Exam C

Adrian Ferens (February 2018)  
Corey Haverstick (June 2018)  
Wali Naqvi (June 2018)  
Jingcheng Yu (February 2018)

*Have you passed an exam recently? We want to know!*

*Contact us at  
[umac-exec@lists.umanitoba.ca](mailto:umac-exec@lists.umanitoba.ca)*

### Links for Study Material @

Online study software/subscriptions:  
Coaching Actuaries (Adapt)  
The Infinite Actuary (TIA)  
Study manuals:  
ACTEX Learning  
Actuarial Study Manuals (ASM)