THIS WEEK:

What's Happening Next?
Future Event Sneak Peek

Event Summary: Excel Tutorial

Interview with Rebecca, Co op tips and tricks

Presidents' Talk:
Jasper Interviews Angel, ASNA’s President-Elect
Are you interested in actuarial science and want some expertise from upper-year actuarial science students? Are you interested in learning about both current developments in the industry and future challenges the industry will face? If so, make sure to check out the UW ActSci Club’s Industry Overview on Friday, June 15th from 6 PM – 9 PM at the MC Comfy!

At this event, you will be given the opportunity to socialize and talk to various upper-year actuarial science students in various actuarial science fields. Students specializing in pensions, consulting, life, reinsurance, and property & casualty will be present at the event. These experienced students will be able to answer any questions regarding a specific field in actuarial science and offer tips on how to maximize success in actuarial exams, courses, and extracurricular activities.
For those who decided to attend our excel tutorial, I hope you all have learned something new about Excel! How was pizza and drinks? Aren't they delicious?

If you have learned something from Jason and Hamza, I hope you can come to the next event. We will be hosting more tutorials, with subjects including the coverage VBA and R.

For those who did not show up to our Excel tutorial, well, even though you have missed out on Jason's soothing voice and Hamza's tips and tricks, be sure to check out your email for the final Excel file used for the tutorial.

It is always great to attend events. I mean you get pizza AND you make friends among other things. Why miss the next event? Please be sure to be on the lookout for future events!
Interview with Rebecca Jiang
Tips on landing your first Co-op!

Interview with Rebecca, Event Coordinator (4A)
Learn useful tips on landing the first co op!

• Where have you worked and what are some good perks about them?

LONDON LIFE AND RSA!

I have worked at London Life Insurance Company and RSA. London life was a big company and had so many different departments. They have a rotation program so that we can have a chance working at different areas as a full time. The office of RSA was quite small compared to London Life, but it gave me more chances to bond and connect with the full times. The work I did there was been valued and respected.

• Work ethic is very important, how do you approach your work terms? Do you have a goal during your work terms?

I treat co-ops as opportunities to try different industries and teams. It gives you a good idea what you enjoy doing and what kind of work you want to avoid.

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW TO LEARN AT THE JOB SO I WAS ALWAYS EAGER TO LEARN AND TAKE ON DIFFERENT PROJECTS.

I usually have a goal in my mind before starting a co-op term like getting a decent review or the return offer. However, the most important goal for a co-op term for me was to learn something new everyday.
• What are your thoughts on extracurriculars?
Extracurriculars are really important since there are plenty of opportunities to show and develop your leadership skills. Start doing something you are actually passionate about. This can give you something to talk about on your resume and bring you happiness at the same time. You will meet a lot of like-minded friends and network with important people in the industry that you are interested in. I met a lot of fun people at ActSci club, not gonna lie. Being more involved is generally a good idea and having extracurriculars (especially ActSci club!) will stand out in your resume.

• What do you think are the key aspects that helped you land your first job?
So before you go into the first interview, make sure you research, research, research! You should know some of the basic information such as their client roster and what kind of services they offer. Knowing the company will give you an advantage when you have to answer that devious question at the end, “so any questions for us?” Well, how would you answer that question without any knowledge of the team? Make your research count!

Be confident at the interview and always show the enthusiasm towards the position. If you are not confident at your first interview, fake it until you make it! Practice with friends can be a good start. Maybe go over some common questions like “so tell me a little about yourself” can be really helpful.
"But if you want to go big and reach higher, there are always new things you can explore in the field."

**So what do you like about ActSci?**

I chose to major in Actuarial Science, and especially the life insurance path because it involves using statistics, probability and various modelling techniques to predict mortality. I also like the systems of writing exams to achieve the FSA designation. If you are satisfied with your exams and designations, then you can appreciate all your effort that led you here. But if you want to go big and reach higher, there are always new things you can explore in the field. We are able to quantify and track our success in the form of examinations unlike many other fields that stress on experiences and how long you have been working. There are a rising number of females in the field, so I suppose it is great in that sense too.

**What are some barriers to land your first Act Sci job?**

When the first year students start to find their first co-op job, they have to compete with upper-year students who have already had work experience. However, there are lots of companies that have lots of openings for actuarial students. Their goal is to develop more young talent so it is easier to land a first ActSci job when applying to those companies. Make sure you are applying to jobs that match the skill level. Look into the job responsibilities and see whether it is a reach or it is a fit.
Hi Angel, congratulations on becoming president-elect of the ASNA committee! Before we begin, do you think you could give a quick introduction about yourself?

Yes of course. I am currently in my third year of study in Actuarial Science and Statistics. In the past, I have done co-ops at Desjardins, Northbridge, and Sun Life. As for exams, I have passed 4 of the preliminaries in the first two years, and am now concentrating on ASNA, to help other students to succeed in the actuarial field.

J: I see that you’ve worked in both the life and p&c sides of the industry. What are some of the biggest differences between the two in your mind?

The biggest difference is perhaps the time horizon and the risks associated. Typical life products are often longer-termed, and thus due to its nature, involve heavy financial management. This means that it is exposed to more risks such as longevity, and financial-related risks like market risks. P&C products, on the other hand, usually have shorter terms. The market also changes rapidly since there are constantly new products that can be insured. Because life companies have a larger market, they are often larger and have more actuaries, while P&C companies are often smaller in comparison. Both markets are very interesting, and have its own pros and cons.
What was one of the biggest challenges you faced on last year’s committee?

The biggest challenge I have faced is probably developing a case on my own. During all the previous years, the case has been built for ASNA, but last year we needed to come up with our own. Instead of purchasing an obsolete case from the internet, I decided to create one that is more current and more interesting to the audience. It was very difficult, but luckily, I received technical help from SOA.

Now, onto ASNA. How did you get involved and why did you run to become president-elect?

During my first year at Waterloo, I attended ASNA 2016. Frankly, I wasn’t even sure what actuarial science was at the time. During the convention, however, I had the opportunity to talk to many professionals and attended many of the seminars, which introduced me to actuarial science, and opened my eyes to all the exciting new development in the field. I became interested immediately, and joined ASNA as a volunteer the year after, and then VP Case Competition last year, and finally, as President-Elect this year. ASNA gave me a truly amazing experience, and I wish to create a better if not the same experience, for others like me.

“I wish to create a better if not the same experience, for others like me.”
WHAT ABOUT ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES?

There were many happy memories from ASNA, my favorite is probably the night before the convention, where all the execs huddled in the hotel suite to put together the convention bags together. I really like the feeling of everyone working towards a common goal, which is also one of the reasons I kept returning to ASNA.

"I REALLY LIKE THE FEELING OF EVERYONE WORKING TOWARDS A COMMON GOAL."

I KNOW YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO SAY MUCH ABOUT THIS, BUT WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE ASNA CONVENTION NEXT YEAR?

Ha ha, I can’t leak anything about the convention to you, but we will have more companies than we did last year, and more interesting events. The city it’s held in is also very beautiful! ASNA is also expected to kick off its job portal this year, where we are partnering up with CIA to provide a platform for students to find internship and full-times.

Lastly, any tips for students in the actuarial program?

Get involved, and meet others, you never know what might come your way. Lastly, study for your exams, and keep cool.