

RISKY BUSINESS

—News and notes on the Actuarial Studies Program—

Department of Mathematics

Spring 2010

The University of Texas at Austin

Daniel, Maxwell passing the torch



See Old Director on page 2

From the outgoing Director



Lots of people have asked me questions about my pending retirement; I thought I'd answer some here.

"Why are you retiring now?" Because it's time, and I'm still having fun. It's time in that I'm about to turn 70 and I first was the teacher of record in a class in winter 1962—that's a lot of tests under the bridge! You might ask why quit when still having fun. Too many of my colleagues have retired after hating their final year or so, and I'd rather go out happy.

"What are you going to do?" Less! Actually, less *and* more—less of what I have to do and more of what I want to do. For one thing, my wife Ann and I hope to travel to some places that were never appealing at the times of year when we could take vacations. And I intend to exercise more regularly, do some writing, play around with music, and generally relax.

See **Old Director** on page 2

From the incoming Director



I am aware of the challenges and expectations that face me when Jim retires, but I am not worried. Mainly because of the groundwork that Jim has laid and the support from the administration, alumni, practicing actuaries, faculty, and staff that he has grown. I know that there are many eager people on whom I may rely.

As director, I am solely accountable for any failures or missteps in our program. But future success will be measured by your accomplishments: the accomplishments of our students on exams and as interns; the accomplishments of our alumni as employees, partners, advisors to our program, and as professional leaders. Let me know how I may help you, and I will. This is your actuarial program, so let me know how you would like to see the program evolve. I promise to work hard for and with you.

Several years ago I had two all-star

See **New Director** on page 2

Jim Daniel and Mark Maxwell are using their thirteen months together on the faculty to conduct a smooth transition to Maxwell's succeeding Daniel as Director of Actuarial Studies upon Daniel's retirement. Maxwell joined the faculty as Clinical Professor and Paul V. Montgomery Fellow last July, and Daniel will retire at the end of August.

Maxwell taught probability during the second summer session and continued work on his new probability and statistics textbook with Len Asimow of Robert Morris University. In the fall semester he taught interest theory and the first of our two courses covering Exam MLC/3L on life contingencies and completed that textbook, which was published by ACTEX in January. Maxwell also started learning the ropes at UT, taking short courses on administrative computer systems, meeting key people, and advising some students, while Daniel performed most of the regular administrative functions. The student club's weekend exam-prep review seminars for Exams P/1 and FM/2 were also taught by Maxwell.

This semester Maxwell is teaching the first of our two courses covering Exam C/4 on modeling, a section of probability, and our Seminar on Actuarial Practice along with its associated writing component. He also handles almost all advising for fall 2010 or later and graduate admissions for fall 2010, and is in charge of our effort to hire a research-active actuary to join the faculty in the fall. And he'll again teach those exam-prep review seminars for the Actuarial Science Club this spring. Daniel continues to handle matters whose impact

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**Taylor Triggs
Arlington, VA**

Graduates in May 2011 in Math and Econ. Passed P/1, FM/2. Trumpeter in Longhorn Band, Basketball Band.

Old Director continues

"Won't you miss it?" The teaching and the students, sure. Not the red (or burnt orange) tape. And not the SoA. I'll keep teaching my exam-prep seminars for C/4 and MLC/3L as long as possible, and that will give me the pleasure of teaching.

"Any final thoughts?" [Nobody ever asks this, but it's my column, so let's pretend.] Most of you know me only as an actuarial teacher. I've actually worn three hats in my career. When I arrived here in 1970, my hat was that of a dedicated researcher in numerical analysis. By the late 1970's, I traded that hat for one of an administrator, at various times chairing the Math Department, chairing UT's old Faculty Senate, and serving as the Navy's chief scientist for basic research in Europe and the Middle East. It wasn't until 1989 that I donned an actuarial educator's hat.

But it's been my 21 years wearing that third hat that have been the most satisfying of my entire career. Nothing else gave me such a sense of accomplishment, thanks to the hundreds of actuarial students, the alums, and the industry actuaries that have been so supportive.

I'm happy now to be passing that third hat to Maxwell, who'll bring increased energy to our program. And I'm excited about seeing how my fourth hat—that of a retiree—fits.

Thanks for the memories!

Jim Daniel

Silvia Adduci

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Gets Math PhD this May. Passed P/1, FM/2. Former nun, businesswoman. Enjoys reading mysteries.

**David Hough
Cedar Park, TX**

Graduates in May 2011 in Math. Passed P/1, FM/2. Former engineer. Enjoys time with his kids.

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New Director continues

students, Katie and Jill. They were preparing for the CAS/SOA probability exam. So they could ask me questions, they took to studying in a conference room next to my office during breaks between my classes. I was a bit worried to lose some of my free time, but happy to help them. They prepared every day, but soon asked fewer and fewer questions of me. One day I started to solve a problem for them, when they interrupted and curtly suggested that I stop talking ("shut up Maxwell" is what I remember them saying). A door was opened, and they wanted to finish for themselves. That was my favorite moment of "teaching" ever.

I shared that story because I learned from my students that day. It does not matter so much what I do, want and know - it matters what they did, wanted and learned. I knew they would pass their exam and exams to come. I knew they would make great interns who sought out projects and produced quality work. That day, I knew they would make outstanding actuaries. I wasn't wrong, as kids these days would say.

So where would I like to see the program when I retire 31 August 2029? In typically Texas grandeur, I *just* want to have the best program in the world: the first place employers recruit, the first choice of students, the finest faculty, advisors, and alumni. I hope to inculcate a sense of ownership for everyone involved in our program - beginning as students. How awesome would it be if each student who earned a scholarship decided to endow a scholarship when they could? How awesome would it be if we all worked to recruit, develop, and retain the best students, faculty and staff? How awesome would it be to have a culture where students work together to become all they can be? Pretty awesome.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to thank Jim. Thanks for your contributions to the profession, your work in developing our actuarial program, the bonds that you fostered, and the many things you have taught and done for me. Thanks for everything except the high expectations you created. Some people move the piano and some people play the piano. Bravo Jim, you played very well. So in your retirement, watch too many exotic sunsets with Ann, drink too much wine, and enjoy your fourth hat. You more than earned it.

Maxwell

New Associates recognized

Starting with the 1994 issue, *Risky Business* has attempted to recognize all new Associates that have come through the UT program since its move to Mathematics. No attempt is made to recognize other important status changes, however: Fellowship, membership in the Academy, marriage, parenthood, Lotto winnings, and the like. We don't have a team of reporters, remember!

The following list shows the new Associates in the SoA or the CAS. Any omissions are regretted, and corrections will be appreciated.

ASA:

Kauschel Balanadu, American General Life (Houston); Chris Figaro, American General Life (Houston); Brian Gaudet, Trustmark (Lake Forest, IL); Jonathan Glowacki, Milliman (Brookfield, WI); Tuner Hall, Phoenix Life (Hartford, CT); Moses Kim, Buck Consultants (New York, NY); Jennifer Morel, Mercer (Newport Beach, CA); Sumi Parekh, Mercer (Dallas); Derek Ray, HealthMarkets (North Richland Hills); Carol Schultz, Humana (Louisville, KY); William Strange, Buck Consultants (Dallas); Christy Trang, Towers Watson (Dallas), and Elizabeth Wiley, Rudd & Wisdom (Austin).

ACAS:

Eddie Bradford, Bradford Consulting (Pflugerville); Michael McPhail, USAA (San Antonio); and Tu Ta, USAA (San Antonio).

**Danny Marts
Houston, TX**

Graduates in May 2011 in Math and Econ. Passed P/1. Dean's Scholar.

Passing the torch continues

is largely restricted to his remaining time before retirement.

Daniel and Maxwell will both be on campus this summer to complete the transition, transferring lots of paper and computer files.

For information on Maxwell, see the 2009 issue of this newsletter, available as a pdf file at http://www.ma.utexas.edu/dev/actuarial/oddsandends/Risky_Business/. Contact him at Maxwell@math.utexas.edu or 512/471-7169.

Scholarships, donors appreciated

Most issues of *Risky Business* list, in tiny type, the students that win various scholarships. That doesn't show the scholarships themselves very well. In appreciation of the donors, this issue instead is listing just the scholarships, the donors (when not obvious), and the dollar amounts we currently expect for the 2010–11 academic year; those amounts will increase if donors increase the awards.

The permanently funded endowed scholarships are: James Morris Dial Scholarship in Actuarial Studies, endowed by his family in his memory, \$2,000–\$3,000 annually; Bruce Fuller, Jr., Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Actuarial Studies, endowed by Bruce Fuller and friends, \$2,500 annually; John S. Rudd, Jr., Endowed Scholarship in Actuarial Studies, endowed by his family and friends in his memory, \$2,000–\$3,000 annually; and the Eugene Wisdom Memorial Scholarship in Actuarial Studies, endowed by his family and friends in his memory, \$2,000 annually.

The annually funded scholarships are: AEGON-USA Actuarial Mathematics Scholarships, funded by the long-term care operation in Bedford, \$5,000 annually; Butch Dye Memorial Actuarial Scholarships, funded in his memory by family and friends, \$6,500 for 2010–11 and at least \$2,000 annually thereafter; Hewitt Associates Actuarial Scholarships, funded by the office in The Woodlands, \$5,000 annually; George R. Jordan, Jr., Actuarial Scholarships, funded by the actuarial program gift funds, in various amounts; JPMorgan Compensation and Benefit Strategies Actuarial Scholarship, funded by the Irving office, \$2,000 annually; Mercer Actuarial Scholarship, funded by the Texas offices, \$1,750 annually; Milliman Standard of Excellence Actuarial Scholarship, funded by the Texas offices, \$3,500 annually; Clif Mitchell Actuarial Scholarship, funded by Clif Mitchell, \$2,000 annually; Rudd & Wisdom Actuarial Scholarships, \$10,400 annually; D. W. Simpson & Co. Actuarial Scholarship, \$1,000 annually; Towers Watson Actuarial Scholarships, \$10,500 annually (\$5,000 from the former Towers Perrin and \$5,500 from the former Watson Wyatt); Troncoso Consulting Group Actuarial Scholarship, \$2,000 annually; and the USAA P&C Actuarial Scholarship, \$2,000 annually.

Two career fairs offered each year

Two career fairs are offered each academic year for actuarial employers to meet candidates for entry-level jobs and summer internships. The Career Services office of the College of Natural Sciences, in which the Mathematics Department and its actuarial program reside, organizes each of these.

The Career EXPO occurs each September, while the Spring Career Fair occurs each February. Approximately 130 employers usually participate in the fall fair, seeking students from throughout the College; about 100 usually attend the spring fair. Actuarial employers are often grouped together at the fair to make it easier for actuarial students to visit them all.

While most career fairs sponsored by the various colleges of UT-Austin are restricted to students majoring in a department in that college, actuarial students seeking degrees in other colleges such as Business are allowed to participate in the fairs of the College of Natural Sciences. Thus these two fairs provide one-stop shopping for employers wishing to talk to students interested in actuarial careers

regardless of their formal major.

The fee for an employer to register this year was \$350, with a reduction to \$200 for not-for-profit employers. Registration includes an 8' x 10' booth space, 8' table, two chairs, sign, buffet lunch, and afternoon refreshments. There is a limit of four recruiters per booth, but an additional booth space can be purchased.

For information on these fairs, see <http://cns.utexas.edu/careers/career-services/finding-job-opportunities/career-fairs> or call Career Services' Suzette Ruedas, 512/471-6700, s.ruedas@mail.utexas.edu.

**Matthew Samuel
Lufkin, TX**

Gets actuarial MA May 2011. Passed
P/1, FM/2. Plays guitar, sports.

How to reach us:

Jim Daniel can be reached at
512/471-7168
daniel@math.utexas.edu
Mark Maxwell can be reached at
512/471-7169
maxwell@math.utexas.edu

Alums continue mock interviews

The UT Actuarial Alumni Association (UTAAA) continues to conduct Mock Interviews at the beginning of each fall semester for students of the actuarial program. Many thanks to the following volunteers who conducted interviews and offered job search and resume advice to 23 students at the September 2009 Mock Interviews:

Adam Henry, Mercer – Dallas
Allan Mak, Towers Watson – Houston
Betsy Liu, New York Life – Austin
Dave Hardwick, Mercer – Dallas
Eddie Bradford, Texas Mutual – Austin
Jesus Flores, Towers Watson – Dallas
Joe Lopez, Hewitt Associates – Irving
Lillian Cho, Towers Watson – Dallas
Marissa Williams, Mercer – Dallas
Victor Wong, Mercer – Dallas

In addition, thanks to Towers Watson for sponsoring lunch at Mangia's Pizza for the actuarial students and alumni volunteers at the end of the Mock Interview event. If you or your employer are interested in sponsoring lunch at this year's event, please contact the UTAAA Chairperson.

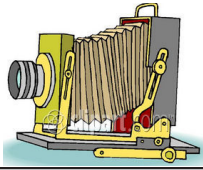
This is a great opportunity to give back to the UT Actuarial Program. If you would like to participate as a volunteer during our Mock Interview event, please make sure you have joined the UTAAA, and your information in the Membership Directory is current. A flyer containing additional details about the Mock Interviews will be sent to members at the end of the summer.

If you are an alumnus of the UT Actuarial Program, and have not joined the UTAAA, please do so now! There is no fee to join – simply provide your contact information so it can be added to the Membership Directory which is distributed to its 120+ members, as well as to current UT actuarial students. New and updated contact information should be provided to the UTAAA Chairperson:

Lillian Cho, Towers Watson, 5420 LBJ Freeway, #800, Dallas, TX 75240; 972-701-2542; lillian.cho@towerswatson.com

**Joel Stalica
Austin, TX**

Graduates in May 2011 in Math.
Passed P/1. Loves Longhorn football,
playing piano.



Focus on students

Students win national awards

A senior actuarial student won two nationally awarded scholarships for the current academic year, while a junior student won one.

Stephen Nyamapfumba, a U.S. Permanent Resident originally from Zimbabwe who will graduate in December 2010, won both an Actuarial Foundation Actuarial Diversity Scholarship and a scholarship awarded by the International Association of Black Actuaries (IABA) Foundation. Dalesa Bady, from McKinney, TX, graduating in May 2011, also won an Actuarial Foundation Actuarial Diversity Scholarship.

Stephen has passed both Exams P/1 and FM/2 and plans to take both MFE/3F and MLC in May, followed by C/4 in November. He transferred to UT-Austin last spring to seek our actuarial degree; his GPA is 3.78 and he earned University Honors in both his semesters here so far. Upon graduation next December Stephen hopes to become an actuary and obtain his Associateship by spring 2011. His outside interests include playing soccer and tennis.

Dalesa has passed Exam FM/2 and is taking P/1 this spring. She too is seeking our actuarial degree and is carrying a 3.34 GPA. She loves playing basketball, tutors at the UT Learning Center, and is vice-president of the students' Actuarial Science Club. This summer she will intern with Towers Watson in Dallas.

The Actuarial Foundation Actuarial Diversity Scholarships are for Black/African American, Hispanic, and Native American Indian students and are intended to recognize and encourage academic achievements that may lead to a career in the actuarial profession.

Students of African descent originating from the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and African nations are eligible for the IABA Foundation scholarships as part of the IABA's efforts to contribute to an increase in the number of black actuaries.

Joyce Wang Arlington, TX

Graduates this December in Math.
Passed P/1, FM/2. Enjoys tennis,
basketball, music.

Aeron Riordon Eugene, OR

Graduates May 2011 in Math. Passed
P/1. Loves hiking with his son,
playing organ, singing in soul band.



Jim Daniel with some of the departing students at the May graduation party

Expenses of *Risky Business* are paid with gift funds from friends of the program.

Actuarial Science Club has varied activities, educational and social

The students' Actuarial Science Club began the year with an Internship panel; a panel of students described their internship experiences and answered questions.

Our Speaker Series kicked off with a full month of guest speakers and then eased into some social gatherings to reward everyone's hard work after the rush of recruiting. Speakers covered general and specific actuarial topics as well as current event topics such as health care reform.

We continued the tradition of Plucker's Trivia nights and bowling, and held holiday themed parties including a Halloween Mixer and a Thanksgiving potluck. This year we initiated Game Night, in which we've provided food (of course!) and classic board games to give our members a chance to take a break and get to know each other.

We showed the campus that actuaries can indeed play sports, winning two out of four Intramural Basketball games this year! We held a fund raiser at Tapioca House to raise money for gifts for our top three active members so as to encourage member participation and turnout.

Our community outreach includes donating candy to UT's Longhorn Halloween and participating in Project 2010. The Club contributed to our members' success in passing exams by providing mock exams, renting out seminar DVDs, and arranging the review seminars taught by Dr. Mark Maxwell; we donate most of the net proceeds from the seminars to the actuarial program's scholarship fund.

Anika Huq, President

Placement operation

As announced in the 2005 issue of *Risky Business*, job and internship placement operations are now located in the Natural Sciences Career Services (NSCS) office. For detailed information on how the eRecruiting system operates, contact NSCS: 512/471-6700, recruit@cns.utexas.edu, or see the website at cns.utexas.edu/careers/.