Dear Alumni & Friends of the BYU Actuarial Program,

Here's an update on the highlights of BYU’s Actuarial Program over this past year:

New Additions to the Advisory Board
► This Spring we welcomed three new members to the actuarial advisory board—Blake Murphy from Aon Hewitt, Dave Sandberg from Allianz Life, and Steven White from Guy Carpenter.
► We look forward to serving with these new members and appreciate their willingness to help strengthen BYU’s actuarial program.

Retirement of Bruce J. Collings
► After many years of dedicated service to the Statistics Department and to the actuarial program, Bruce Collings retired this past December.
► Dr. Collings taught a significant portion of our actuarial courses, spent countless hours consulting with students about their careers, and worked to keep up with the ever-changing actuarial curriculum.
► The Department has created an actuarial education fund in honor of Dr. Collings. Our thanks to many of you who have made contributions to the fund. We have a goal of raising an additional $150,000 for this fund to reimburse student’s fees for the exams. We invite your contributions to this fund.

Actuarial Internships
► Students benefited from opportunities to participate in actuarial internships including students like Aaron Smith, who got experience in creating models and exposure to how technology is being used to build bridges between consultants and their clients at Mercer in Seattle, WA. Aaron accepted a position with The Hartford upon graduation. Bryce Cook felt his internship with SelectHealth in Salt Lake City, UT gave him a glimpse into the health insurance industry and valuable experience that assisted him in receiving a job offer from Mercer.
► We are indebted to those of you who have forwarded notices of internships and job openings at your companies as well as to those who have made recruiting visits to campus. We continue to ask for your help in this area. You can email this information to Ruth Dauwalder at ruth@stat.byu.edu. Actuarial internships are extremely important and you are making a difference!
► During the last year Select Health set up three internships for our students. This has been a great boon to the program and provided much needed internship experience for several students. We welcome other such opportunities.

Looking Ahead…
► We continue to evaluate our program against benchmarks such as the Society of Actuaries “Centers of Actuarial Excellence” criteria. As we make strategic decisions and work to increase the professionalism of the program, we welcome your input on what you view as important elements of a program that will prepare competitive graduates.
► Pioneer Mortality Study – A team of students has analyzed the mortality experience of the Mormon Pioneer wagon and handcart companies migrating west to Utah. The next phase of analysis will be to investigate the earlier voyages from Europe.
► Joint Projects with Companies – We are looking for opportunities to help companies solve analytical problems through cooperative projects.
► Please email us at actuary@stat.byu.edu to provide feedback on any of the above items or if you know of someone who would like to be included on our emailing list. We also invite you to contribute to the actuarial education fund through the ‘Making a Gift’ link.

We value our connection with you, and feel our program can be strengthened by your expertise and experience.

Allie Tomlinson, FSA, MAAA
Chairman, BYU Actuarial Advisory Board

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