

ETSU ACTUARIAL MATH PROGRAM NEWSLETTER August 2002

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1. Greetings from Dr. Hong

Greetings! It is time for sending you our annual newsletter of the actuarial math program at ETSU now. After spending almost a year at Vanderbilt University, I moved back to ETSU in July. The past year at Vandy was productive and also very enjoyable. I taught *Probability* for seniors there and found the students are really bright. I had an opportunity to attend seminar talks given by Dr. John Nash from Princeton, a Nobel medalist, and Dr. Steve Smale from UC-Berkeley, a Fields medalist over there. I have also visited University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, in the early March (it was still very very cold there), University of Georgia, Athens, GA in late March (it was warm and sun was shining), and also University of North Carolina at Charlotte in May (it was hot). I have finished papers with Larry L. Schumaker and Doug P. Hardin, respectively. They are on splines and wavelets. I am hoping to do some research on mathematical finance and actuarial mathematics soon. If you have some interesting topics, please drop me an email.

I am very glad to see more and more students interested in actuarial mathematics. In Fall 2002, there are 10 graduate students taking the course of Theory of Interest. I am sure many of them will take SOA exams. For those who passed exams, received promotions, or made other achievements, please let me know so that we can enjoy with you and feel pride in your accomplishments. When you have a chance to stop by, we welcome you to talk with our actuarial students by sharing your experiences and giving your advises. May God bless you all!

2. A Report of Recent Activities

(1) Congratulations to our recent graduates:

(i) **Jianshen Cao** received his MS degree in August 2002 and has been working as an actuary for Lorraine Dorsa & Associates.

Thesis title: Minimum Support of Piecewise Linear Wavelets over Triangulations (supervisor: **Dr. Don Hong**).

(ii) **Qingbo Xue** received his MS degree in August 2002 and has been working as a Ph.D. student at the University of Central Florida, Orlando FL.

Thesis title: Construction of Piecewise Linear Wavelets over a Regular Triangulation (supervisors: **Dr. Don Hong** and **Dr. James Boland**).

(2) **Mu Xiong**, a business major student at ETSU passed SOA Course-1 exam with full marks in November 2001.

(3) New officers for the Actuarial Student Association at ETSU were elected in September, 2002. Mr. **Scott Lavoie**, Mr. **Eddie Thomas**, and Miss **Xiaoyu Mu** were elected as president, vice-president, and treasurer/secretary of the Association, respectively.

3. News from Actuarial Alumni

(1) **Anna Mu**, our 1999 graduate, moved to Columbus, OH and is working for Nationwide Insurance. She was working for the St. Paul Company. New email address: muy@nationwide.com

(2) **Andrew Sell**, our 2001 graduate, is working for Provident Companies at Chattanooga, TN, he was in Merastar Insurance Company. New email address: william_sell@providentcompanies.com

4. Actuarial Student Foundation

Contributions from our alumni and companies such as Merastar Insurance Company for the support of the ETSU Actuarial Math Student were received in the past years. We appreciate any support to our actuarial math program.

The Actuarial Student Foundation is restricted to supporting actuarial students in their actuarial career development. If you would like to make a contribution to this foundation, please make your check or money order payable to:

Actuarial Math Students Foundation, East Tennessee State University Foundation, Box 70732, Johnson City, TN 37614-0732