

## **EDUCATION & RESEARCH**

*(Vote for up to three candidates)*

Gordon Klein

Russell Jay Hendel

Kaitlin Creighton

Greg Fann

Ramzi Abujamra

Vytaras Brazauskas

Alpha N Bada

Wing Fung (Alfred) Chong

Zachary Tirrell

Ben Feng

Lucretia Hydell

**Gordon Klein, FSA, MAAA**  
**Life Consulting Actuary, Experience Studies, Data Analytics, and Research**  
**Milliman**  
**Chicago, IL**

### **Professional Background**

I have worked in actuarial research roles, including asset and liability behavior, as well as educational roles, including independent and university teaching.

### **Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)**

I have been vice chair and member of several Education and Examination committees, including Asset/Liability Management, Portfolio Management, Statistics for Risk Management, and Group Insurance Pricing.

I am currently on the Individual Life Experience Committee and the Individual Annuity Experience Committee. I have also been on a Mortality Improvement committee.

I have presented at many SOA meetings and published in the predecessor to the North American Actuarial Journal (the Transactions of the Society of Actuaries).

### **Other Relevant Volunteer Experience**

Treasurer of the Eastern Iowa Brass Band (now called Iowa Brass) for two years.

### **Why are you interested in leading this section?**

Part of my career in actuarial education and research should consist of helping guide the future of the profession, as we continue to grow and incorporate new ideas, technology, and products.



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**Russell Jay Hendel, ASA**  
**Adjunct Faculty III**  
**Towson University**  
**Towson, MD**

**Professional Background**

**DEGREES / MEMBERSHIPS**

- Doctorate in Theoretical Mathematics
- Associateship (A.S.A.), SOA
- Member, American Academy of Actuaries

**RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS**

- Author: *Theory of Interest for Financial Mathematics* (FM) (online)
- Co-Author of “*Comprehensive Problem-Solving and Skill Development for Next Generation Leaders*,” (R. Styron and J. Styron, Eds.), IGA Publishing, 2017

**SOA NEWSLETTER PUBLICATIONS**

- *Expanding Horizons*, Education and Research Council, 8 articles
- *The Stepping Stone*, Leadership and Development, 3 articles
- Education Publications: (12 articles in the *Journal of Systemics, Informatics, & Cybernetics*, JSCI)

**JOBS**

- *Towson University* (CAE), Dept. of Mathematics [Lead on assisting students in preparation for Exams P and FM]
- Video production and Helpdesk (Exam P, FAM), *ACTEX* (produces Actuarial Software, Books, and Educational Resources)

**Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)**

- *Education and Research Council* (2021-2024: Former Vice Chair & Chair, Current friend)  
*Leadership and Development Council* (Current)  
*Investment Council* (Current)
- *Leadership Meetings*, SOA, November 2021, November 2022
- Member, *SOA Case Study Committee*, Fall-Spring 2016-2024
- *Chair, MLC Actuarial Syllabus Committee*; 2013-Summer 2016
- Member, *Exam MLC Actuarial Committee*; SOA; 1995-2013
- Member, *End-of-Life Actuarial committee*, 2011-2012  
Member, *Exam MLC Actuarial Syllabus Committee*, SOA; 2010-2011
- Member, *Fellowship SOA Exam Module Committee on Retiree Benefits* (2005-2007)

**Other Relevant Volunteer Experience**

None

**Why are you interested in leading this section?**

I am running for a seat on the E&R Section Council to participate, contribute, and lead in education initiatives, informed by 50 years of teaching, several dozen education publications, co-authorship in a book on pedagogy, and active and current participation with both university mentoring and pedagogic software development.

Tapping on these experiences, I am keen on maintaining my productivity for educational opportunities and educational resources, developed during the past four years, while a friend, vice-chair, and former chair of the E&R council. Becoming a council member, would facilitate increasing my influence.

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**Kaitlin Creighton, FSA, CERA, MAAA**  
**Consulting Actuary**  
**Milliman**  
**Chicago, IL**

**Professional Background**

Kaitlin is a consulting actuary with Milliman's Chicago office primarily focusing on actuarial appraisals for mergers and acquisitions with life and health companies. Prior to becoming a consultant at Milliman, she worked within the Life and Health departments of State Farm and COUNTRY Financial in a variety of roles, including on the ALM, modeling, new business pricing, and inforce pricing teams. She has also been involved with the implementation of VM-20, VM-21, and VM-31 models and requirements. While at COUNTRY Financial, Kaitlin also helped design and update the student program throughout the many changing requirements implemented by the SOA.



**Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)**

- POG Member, "Retirement Wealth by Race and Ethnicity: Differences, Trends and Contributing Factors" published April 2024
- Friend of the Council for Education and Research Section
- Member of the following sections: Actuary of the Future, Education and Research, Entrepreneurial and Innovation, Joint Risk Management, Leadership and Development, Reinsurance, Taxation

**Other Relevant Volunteer Experience**

- Treasurer and Board Member of McLean County Dance Association, a non-profit dance studio (2021-Present)
- Alumnae Chapter Treasurer, Alumnae Chapter President for Peoria Alumnae Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta (2017-2023)
- Chapter Advisor for Kappa Alpha Theta at University of Illinois (2016-2022)
- Scholarship Application Review Committee Member (2024)

**Why are you interested in leading this section?**

Education and research are at the heart of the actuarial profession. It is how we recruit the next generation of students, how we develop our professionals, and how we further the profession as a whole. As a graduate of a UCAP-IC, I believe it is important that we help actuarial students in both large and small programs to continue to ensure we are recruiting the best and most diverse pool of candidates. I also believe there should be a stronger connection between the industry and academia when it comes to research. Research is a necessity as we push to stay relevant in an ever changing technological and economical world, and I believe those of us in the industry could serve as better resources for those conducting actuarial research. I hope to use my experience as both a professional in the industry but also as someone who still has strong ties to my academic background as an alum to offer a unique perspective on this council.

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**Greg Fann, FSA, FCA, MAAA**  
**Consulting Actuary**  
**Axene Health Partners**  
**Temecula, CA**

**Professional Background**

Greg Fann is a Consulting Actuary with Axene Health Partners. With 30 years of actuarial experience in the health care space and 18 years as a client-facing consultant, Greg is recognized for his market insights and passion for articulating the importance of actuarial principles in policy considerations and other public forums. Greg has broad experience across all health lines of business and focused expertise in Affordable Care Act marketplaces. Much of his current work is acting as a strategic advisor and providing unique value through a focused understanding of insurance markets and policy implications. His clients include insurance companies, medical providers, benefits consultants, state agencies, attorneys, and public policy organizations. Greg is also actively involved in actuarial research and completed a SOA project examining “Uninsured Rate” Measurements and Health Policy Considerations.



**Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)**

- Leader of Health Section Individual/Small Group Markets subgroup (2019-current)
- Health Section Council Member (2022-2025)
- Actuarial Innovation & Technology Steering Committee (2021-2024)
- Chair of Social Insurance & Public Finance Section Council (2020-2021)
- Social Insurance & Public Finance Section Council Member (2018-2021)
- Health Section Council Member (2015-2018)
- Chair of Health Section Strategic Initiatives Committee (2016-2018)
- Education Curriculum Committee (2019-2022)
- Examination Committees (1998-2022), in various executive leadership roles
- Author of examination study notes and two chapters in Group Insurance textbook
- Active member on multiple SOA Health Section subgroups and in other Sections
- Author of articles in The Actuary, Health Watch, and other Section newsletters
- Frequent Speaker at SOA Health Meetings and Annual ImpACT Conferences

**Other Relevant Volunteer Experience**

- American Academy of Actuaries Premium Review Workgroup
- American Academy of Actuaries Risk Sharing Subcommittee
- Actuarial Standards of Practice No. 50 “Determining Minimum Value and Actuarial Value under the Affordable Care Act” Task Force
- Peer Review of journal articles for Health Affairs
- Speaker at Conference of Consulting Actuaries Spring Meeting
- Presentations to National Association of Insurance Commissioners
  - Health Actuarial Task Force
  - State Rate Review subgroup
- Recent Presentations to:
  - Actuarial Conference of the Southeast
  - Actuarial Conference of the Southwest
  - Middle Atlantic Actuarial Club
  - Philadelphia Actuarial Club
  - Health Insurance Company Team Meetings
- Community Ambassador for local Chamber of Commerce

**Why are you interested in leading this section?**

My primary interest in serving on the Education & Research Council is facilitating strong actuarial collaboration between academia and the business world. I have been an active volunteer on examination and curriculum committees for 26 years and have served on other SOA Section Councils since 2015. I also authored multiple articles and textbook chapters for the Fellowship Group and Health Track. I authored a SOA research paper on the

national uninsured rate and serve on the Actuarial Innovation & Technology Program Steering Committee. Serving on the Education & Research Section Council would synergize my prior volunteer experience and I believe I will offer unique contributions and perspectives to the Council.

As a Council member, I would want to continue fostering the section's excellent work of promoting research conferences and advancing the professional development of section members. I would also like to promote the contribution of actuaries to a broader landscape of public and private entities.

Through my professional and volunteer efforts, I maintain a strong pulse on current events and have a growing network of industry leaders. These cooperative partnerships have brought the profession excellent exposure and placed actuaries at the forefront of solving complex problems in expanding environments. I aim to bring unique and insightful perspectives to the Council and its membership, identifying opportunities through focused engagement with other Council members and tactically aligning Council goals with broader SOA initiatives reflective of building actuarial communities as highlighted in the SOA Long-Term Growth Strategy.

In keeping with the SOA's missional tradition, I aim to contribute toward keeping actuaries at the forefront of evolving methods. I intend to use my intellectual curiosity to explore new arenas where actuarial expertise is needed, identify emerging issues, and partner with Council leaders to explore ideal ways to serve section members and advance our profession.

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**Ramzi Abujamra, ASA**  
**Founder & Principal Consultant**  
**ActuariAI LLC**  
**Green Bay, WI**

#### **Professional Background**

I have 2 master's degrees and a PhD in Health Informatics, in addition to having the ASA. I have worked in health analytics roles in health insurance, provider organizations and research consulting. In my roles I typically combine my data analytics background with actuarial work to bring innovative ideas to our work.

#### **Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)**

I presented at an SOA Data Science webinar (2021) and SOA Virtual Health Meeting (2023).

#### **Other Relevant Volunteer Experience**

- I served on CASACT loss simulation models committee (2011)
- I served on Advisory Council Member, Data Analytics at Western Governors University (2020-21)
- Mentor in SOA MentorLink (2020)



#### **Why are you interested in leading this section?**

I would like to make an impact on the SOA from the background that I have. I believe I have a unique blend that I would like to share with my actuary colleagues. I believe the Education & Research Council is an ideal place for me with my extensive education and research experience. Ultimately, I would like to be able to leave a mark and push myself to lead in the actuarial community.

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**Vytaras Brazauskas, ASA**  
**Professor**  
**University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

**Professional Background**

Vytaras Brazauskas is a professor and Associate Chair for Actuarial Science in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in statistical and actuarial sciences. He is an Associate of the SOA, an Academic Correspondent of the CAS, an affiliate faculty member at the Northwestern Mutual Data Science Institute, and has served as President of the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Statistical Association. He holds a PhD in mathematical statistics from the University of Texas at Dallas, and has written numerous peer-reviewed papers on insurance and reinsurance problems, including credibility, robust estimation of risk measures, and modeling loss data. His research program has been recognized by many grants from various actuarial organizations and awards such as the Variance Prize ("for the Best Paper in 2013") from the CAS. In addition, he has over 20 years of experience in building, administering, and continuously improving the actuarial science program at UW- Milwaukee, which is recognized as a Center of Actuarial Excellence by the SOA.



**Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)**

- Member of the Society of Actuaries' committees:
  - Center of Actuarial Excellence Grant committee, 2019-2021;
  - Catastrophe & Climate Strategic Research Program steering committee, 2019-2020;
  - Hickman Scholar Awards committee, 2017-2020 (Chair from 2019-2020);
  - Project Oversight Group (Project on Cybersecurity Insurance), 2016-2017.

**Other Relevant Volunteer Experience**

- Member of the Scientific Program committee for:
  - 56th Actuarial Research Conference, 2020-2021;
  - 54th Actuarial Research Conference, 2018-2019.
- Member of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee committees:
  - Data Science Undergraduate Degree Task Force, 2020-present;
  - Enterprise Risk Management Initiative for UW-Milwaukee, 2012-2013.
- Referee for 36 scientific journals (over 150 article submissions), including leading actuarial journals: Annals of Actuarial Science; ASTIN Bulletin; European Actuarial Journal; Insurance: Mathematics & Economics; North American Actuarial Journal; Scandinavian Actuarial Journal; Variance.

**Why are you interested in leading this section?**

Serving at the helm of a CAE program for many years, gave me an opportunity to develop a solid understanding of what's working in the academic branch of the actuarial profession and what has to be improved. For example, we have to figure out how to collaborate with the data science (analytics) programs in a mutually beneficial way. We also need to find ways how to elevate the status of the CAE programs (which are relatively small) on college campuses, especially among other programs and university administrators. I believe these are important and timely problems, which can be most effectively addressed through the SOA sections such as Education and Research.

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**Alpha N Bada, ASA, MAAA**  
**Consultant, Actuarial Pricing, Executive Benefits**  
**Lincoln Financial Group**  
**Somerset, NJ**

**Professional Background**

Over the past decade, in the US I held various roles in the actuarial industry, including pricing, product development, financial reporting, and risk management. I also worked in Jakarta, where I had to adapt to a new environment for a pricing oversight role. During this experience, I gained important leadership skills in adapting to evolving and diverse external environment.



**Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)**

- Young Professional Advisory Council - YPAC-SOA (2021-2022)
- University Support Actuary – (2021-2023)
- Member of the following sections: Actuary of the Future, Education & Research, Entrepreneurial Actuaries, Financial Reporting, Forecasting & Futurism, International, Investment, Management & Personal Development, Modeling, Product Development, Reinsurance, Smaller Insurance Company, Technology

**Other Relevant Volunteer Experience**

Since 2021, I am serving as co-leader of the largest affiliate of the International Association of Black Actuaries, leading dozens of professionals to increase the number of black actuaries and positively influence their career development.

**Why are you interested in leading this section?**

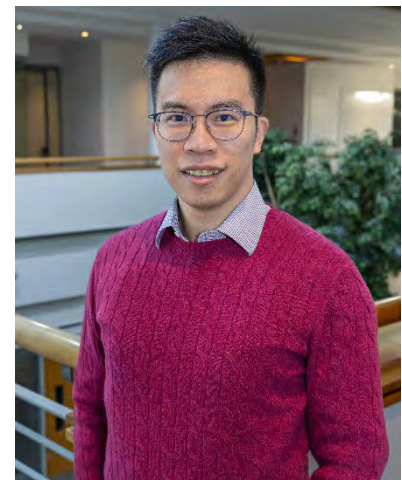
I am excited by the prospect of helping support and promote actuarial education and research. My interest in serving starts with a desire to give back to the profession that provided me with many good fortunes. I have a personal connection with the goal and mission of the Education and Research Section. As a millennial myself, being invited to the table will ensure that we bring our unique insight and perspective to help shape the future growth of actuarial education and research. Thus, I am eager to participate in developing the strategic plan that encourage and help drive actuarial education forward and I would be honored to serve on this council.

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**Wing Fung (Alfred) Chong, ASA**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Heriot-Watt University**  
**Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom**

**Professional Background**

Wing Fung (Alfred) Chong is an Associate Professor in the Department of Actuarial Mathematics and Statistics at the Heriot-Watt University. With more than 10 years' experience in actuarial education and research, Alfred is well-known for his scientific contribution and knowledge exchange on decision-making problems under uncertainty in Actuarial Science, Financial Mathematics, and Quantitative Risk Management, as well as his educational endeavor at all levels of bachelor, master's, and doctorate. Prior to Heriot-Watt University, Alfred was an Assistant Professor and a Doob Postdoc at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he co-founded the Illinois Risk Lab which serves as an industry-academic collaboration hub in all research areas of risk analysis and advanced analytics. Alfred graduated from The University of Hong Kong and King's College London with a Ph.D. in Actuarial Science. He is an Associate of the Society of Actuaries. In the UK, he serves as an advisory member in the EPSRC Mathematical Sciences Early Career Forum, and a knowledge exchange academic coordinator of the International Centre for Mathematical Sciences.



### **Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)**

- Active member in the Education and Research Section, with presenting and participating in webcasts, and also disseminating actuarial education and research information and news regarding opportunities and events via the mailing lists.
- Being funded by the Society of Actuaries for two research projects, “Building an NLP-Powered Repository and Search Tool for Cyber Risk Literature” and “Actuarial Innovation and Technology on Cyber Risk”, as well as volunteering as a member of a project oversight group.
- Presented and organized Actuarial Research Conference, the flagship annual research conference of the Society of Actuaries.
- Supervising Student Research Case Study Challenge by the Society of Actuaries.

### **Other Relevant Volunteer Experience**

- Knowledge Exchange Academic Coordinator, International Centre for Mathematical Sciences.
- Peer Review College Member, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, UK Research and Innovation.
- Advisory Member in Mathematical Sciences Early Career Forum, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, UK Research and Innovation.
- Scientific Committee Chair and Organizing Committee Member of 26th International Congress on Insurance: Mathematics and Economics.
- Scientific Committee and Organizing Committee Members of Actuarial Research Conference 2022.
- Organizing Committee Member of United As One: 24th International Congress on Insurance: Mathematics and Economics.
- Organizing Committee Co-Chair of Risk Analytics Symposium 2021: Actuarial Innovations to Emerging Risks, Illinois Risk Lab.
- Organizing Committee Co-Chair of Risk Analytics Symposium 2020, Illinois Risk Lab.
- Organizing Committee Member of Risk Analytics Symposium 2019: Building Innovative Partnership, Illinois Risk Lab.

Co-Founder of Illinois Risk Lab.

### **Why are you interested in leading this section?**

I am running for a seat in the Education and Research Section Council to contribute to the promotion of actuarial education and research for section members. Growing up in Asia, being educated in both Asia and Europe, as well as working in both North America and Europe, my unique global experiences bring a fresh perspective to strengthen the global status for actuarial education and research of the Section. As a European-based member, I am eager to champion the importance of the actuarial education and research being done by the Society of Actuaries here. I am committed to fostering a strong actuarial education and research environment for all Society of Actuaries members.

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### **Zachary Tirrell, FSA**

**PhD candidate, Economics, Macquarie University**  
**Actuarial Educator (Enterprise Risk Management), Actuaries Institute of Australia, Part Time**  
**Sydney, New South Wales, Australia**

### **Professional Background**

Zachary Tirrell is a qualified actuary (FSA, FIAA) with diverse experience in actuarial practice, education, and research. As Chief Examiner for the Enterprise Risk Management subject at the Actuaries Institute of Australia, he spearheaded the development and implementation of a comprehensive ERM curriculum and led the initiative to have this subject recognized for the CERA credential. Since 2022, Zachary has delivered this subject to nearly 200 actuarial students. Previously, he held roles in data science consulting, as an Actuary at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and in financial services.



### **Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)**



- Member of Education Research, International, Joint Risk Management sections
- Grader for Fundamentals of Actuarial Practice (2017-2018)

**Other Relevant Volunteer Experience**

- Member of CERA Global panel reviewing the CERA Global Syllabus (2022-2023), resulting in an updated and modernized syllabus adopted on January 1, 2024.
- Member of Health Practice Committee (2019-present), contributing to the strategic direction of the Actuaries Institute of Australia, the development of actuarial practice, and actively identifying and promoting opportunities for members working in health in Australia.
- Health Editor, Actuaries Digital (2019-present).
- Independent Examiner, Communications and Modelling subject, Actuaries Institute of Australia (2020).
- Recipient of Young Volunteer Achievement Award, Institute of Actuaries of Australia (2020)
- Assignment Scrutineer, Health, Actuaries Institute of Australia (2019-2020).

**Why are you interested in leading this section?**

I am passionate about modernizing actuarial education to meet the evolving needs of our profession. My experience with both the US and Australian actuarial education systems, coupled with my academic background, uniquely positions me to help lead the Education Section.

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**Ben (Mingbin) Feng, ASA**  
University of Waterloo  
Waterloo, ON

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**Lucretia Hydell, ASA, MAAA**  
Wakely  
Washington, DC

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