A Conversation with ARIA President David Sommer

This year’s ARIA president is David Sommer, Professor and Charles E. Cheever Chair of Risk Management at St. Mary’s University (San Antonio, Texas). An active ARIA member since the beginning of his career, David has been honored with several awards, including the Robert I. Mehr Award for a research paper that has best stood the test of time.

ARIA NEWS had the chance to talk with David recently about his upcoming term and his thoughts on the association and the field of RMI.

ARIA NEWS: First of all, tell us a little bit about yourself. How did you get interested in teaching insurance and risk management?

David: Well, you can’t talk about who I am without talking about St. Mary’s University, because it has played such a significant part in my personal and professional development. It’s where I deepened my faith and met my future wife, but of more interest to your readers, St. Mary’s is singularly responsible for my choice of career path. The idea of teaching always had some appeal to me, but I never thought I could do it because I was painfully shy and the idea of speaking in front of a group of people day after day terrified me. St. Mary’s helped me overcome those fears and develop the confidence to become a teacher.

However, I had no idea what I wanted to teach or even at what level I wanted to teach. Then I took an insurance course with Jerry Todd which ended up changing my life. One day, out of the blue, Jerry asked me if I had ever considered getting a Ph.D. in insurance. Of course, my answer was “no,” but the more he told me about it, the more intrigued I became. He encouraged me to apply to the Wharton Ph.D. program, and before I knew it, I was moving into Graduate Towers at Penn.

ARIA NEWS: Who has been the most influential person in your career?

David: It is very difficult to narrow that down to a single person. I’ll narrow it down to three, all of whom are ARIA Past Presidents. First, as I mentioned, I would never have entered this career without Jerry Todd, so he is certainly on the list. Another would be David Cummins, who admitted me to the Wharton doctoral program and served as my dissertation chair. I can say with only very slight exaggeration that every thing I know about research, I learned from David Cummins. I always say that his influence on me has been so great, that he deserves to be listed as a co-author on everything I’ve ever published. Finally, there’s Rob Hoyt. Rob has served as my mentor for most of my career, whether he knew it or not. I can’t even begin to describe how much I have learned from Rob about how to be a well-rounded risk and insurance academic. Whenever I need professional advice, he’s the first one I turn to for help.
A Conversation with David Sommer, continued

ARIA NEWS: What will be your top priorities during your term as president of ARIA?

David: Without a doubt, the single most important thing we will do in the next year is search for a new Editor for The Journal of Risk and Insurance. Barring an exceptional circumstance, Board policy limits Editors of ARIA journals to two terms, and Georges Dionne will be completing his second term at the helm of The JRI in December 2012. Georges has been an absolutely outstanding Editor, and his successor will have very large shoes to fill. However, I am confident that our search will result in finding another excellent Editor who will continue to enhance the quality, stature and visibility of The JRI.

Beyond that, the top priority of the Board will be to continue our strategic planning process. At our January 2011 meeting, we worked hard to identify ARIA’s key areas of strength and the primary areas of concern for ARIA’s future. We then used the perspective gained from that exercise to develop some strategic priorities, which include: (1) continuing to improve the quality and status of The JRI; (2) promoting Risk Management and Insurance academic programs and the RMI discipline around the world; (3) cultivating partnerships with industry and public policymakers; (4) expanding ARIA’s influence outside of insurance; and (5) continuing to improve the quality of the annual meeting. Over the next year, we want to focus on developing specific action items to help move us toward achieving each of these strategic objectives.

ARIA NEWS: What are some of the major changes you’ve seen in ARIA over the years?

David: Comparing the 2011 ARIA annual meeting with the first one I attended in 1992, the changes are striking. First, we have dramatically higher international representation at our meetings today, which is wonderful. Another big change is that back in the “old days,” we didn’t use discussants. The introduction of discussants, with the associated requirement to submit a full paper prior to the meeting, has dramatically increased the quality of the concurrent sessions. Beyond that, the biggest changes are just the faces we see at the meetings. I miss many of the folks who were very active in ARIA when I first began attending but who have subsequently retired. The consolation, of course, is that we have so many new, young, enthusiastic members who are helping ARIA to remain a dynamic, friendly, high-quality organization.

ARIA NEWS: What are some of the challenges this organization faces?

David: As I mentioned earlier, the Board identified some of these challenges at our January 2011 Board meeting. One challenge is a slow but steady decline in membership over the years. Another challenge is competition from other disciplines entering the risk management space. In the aftermath of the financial crisis, interest in risk management has never been greater. As a result, disciplines such as accounting and finance have begun to focus on risk management. I actually think it’s great that other disciplines are finally giving risk management the attention it deserves, but we need to make sure that ARIA retains its leadership position in this area.

A final challenge that I’ll mention is losing touch with industry. It is a struggle to continuously increase the rigor of our journals and our annual meetings while at the same time maintaining relevance to industry practitioners, but it’s something we need to constantly work on achieving. ARIA’s relationship with industry has been a great strength over time, and I think it’s vital to continue to develop that relationship. I don’t believe in the “ivory tower” approach. Interaction with industry makes our teaching and research more relevant, and helps us to do a better job at what I think matters more than anything else, which is serving our students.

ARIA NEWS: ARIA has seen a declining membership over the years? To what do you attribute this, and do you have any thoughts on how ARIA can increase its membership?

David: A number of factors underlie our decline in membership, and I don’t pretend to understand all of them. I’ll focus on just one here, and to make it interesting, I’ll pick one that might generate some controversy. One thing that I’ve seen over the years is that we have lost a number of RMI academics who are at more teaching-oriented institutions. They have come to feel that there is no room in ARIA for those who don’t produce JRI-level research. I think this is a problem that should be addressed.

I would love for ARIA to again become welcoming to these folks. Many of them are great people who are outstanding teachers, have tremendous relationships with industry, and who do amazing work in growing and developing RMI programs at their universities. I consider them significant contributors to the RMI academic community, and I want them to be an active part of ARIA. One strategy for attracting them would be to have some concurrent sessions devoted to pedagogical and practice-oriented research, and specifically inviting proposals for such sessions. As someone who has lived in both worlds of research-oriented institutions and teaching-oriented institutions, I have
no doubt that faculty in both groups benefit greatly when they interact with each other. So I see this as not just a way to increase membership, but as a way to improve ARIA.

**ARIA NEWS:** How can ARIA increase its presence in the insurance and risk management fields, and among other professional groups?

**David:** I think partnerships are the best strategy. We need to continue to strengthen our relationships with organizations like the Griffith Insurance Education Foundation, the NAIC, RIMS, and the Casualty Actuarial Society. The events that ARIA has collaborated on with the Griffith Foundation and the NAIC have been outstanding, and we will continue to work with these and other organizations on additional initiatives that raise ARIA’s profile, allow interaction between ARIA members and practitioners and policymakers, and bring the expertise of ARIA members to bear on the important issues of the day.

**ARIA NEWS:** What do you see as major challenges facing universities with RMI programs? How can they continue to grow?

**David:** Obviously, the biggest challenge right now is the fiscal situation faced by universities. Tight university budgets hurt everyone, but they can be particularly dangerous for non-core disciplines like risk management and insurance. When budget cutters look to eliminate programs, let’s face it, they are not going to go after accounting or marketing or finance. The key to survival and growth for RMI programs is the same as it has always been—excellence.

RMI programs thrive when the RMI faculty attract students to their classes, help those students get internship and jobs, have excellent relationships with industry, raise funds for scholarships and program support, and maintain a level of scholarly output appropriate for their institution. Generally speaking, I think Deans know successful programs when they see them, and will support those programs. Having to do all these things makes being an RMI faculty member challenging, but it’s also what makes it so much fun. The really good news is that so many ARIA members are up to the challenge.

**ARIA NEWS:** What advice do you have for new ARIA members, especially our international members? How can they become more involved in the organization?

**David:** I would encourage new members to think of ARIA as more than just an organization that publishes journals and holds annual meetings where you can present your research and see others present theirs. Think of ARIA as a community where you can exchange ideas about teaching and research, find support for your RMI program, make friends, and contribute to something larger than yourself.

Reach out to the ARIA president or another ARIA Board member and let him or her know that you would be interested in serving on or chairing a committee. Attend every reception and social event at the annual meeting and be sure to meet as many members as you can. Make a personal commitment to make ARIA an important part of your professional life rather just a meeting you occasionally attend. The personal and professional pay-off will be large.

**ARIA NEWS:** What has ARIA meant to you, from a personal and professional standpoint?

**David:** ARIA has been an important part of both my personal and professional life for 20 years. I have learned so much from the people I have listened to and interacted with at ARIA meetings. I have published papers that would never have been written had I not had a particular conversation at an ARIA meeting, or developed a particular relationship. In my early ARIA years, I benefited tremendously from the encouragement (and pressure) I received from more senior ARIA members who would ask me at every meeting how I was doing, what I was working on, and where I was in the tenure process. I’ve been inspired by the many role models that ARIA has provided for me. Most importantly of all, I’ve made great friends at ARIA. I truly look forward to every ARIA meeting, and that’s an incredible blessing.

**ARIA NEWS:** Thanks for your time, David, and best wishes on your term as president. We know you’ll be an excellent leader.
Visit Minneapolis – “The City of Lakes” – at Next Year’s ARIA Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars! Next year’s ARIA annual meeting will be held on August 5-8, 2012 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. If you enjoyed the waters of San Diego this past summer, you’ll be equally amazed to learn that Minnesota has more shoreline than California, thanks to the state’s more than 11,000 lakes, 22 of which lie within Minneapolis’ boundaries.

As part of the twin cities of Minneapolis-St. Paul, the “City of Lakes” is a friendly and vibrant metropolis with an active nightlife and riverfront, a wide variety of museums, shops, and restaurants and excellent parks with walking/biking paths. Outdoor enthusiasts can rent bicycles and travel along the 50-mile Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway, including the Chain of Lakes district for a glimpse of life on the water.

The downtown Skyway is a series of public pedestrian spaces connected by enclosed bridges between buildings, making it possible to walk through most of downtown and never go outdoors. But you’ll want to go outdoors, especially to visit the Mall of the Americas (MOA) – located in Bloomington, Minn., only 15 minutes from downtown Minneapolis via the Light Rail. The MOA is the largest shopping mall and arguably the leading tourist destination in the U.S. With over 400 retail stores, the mall includes a Nickelodeon Universe* theme park, aquarium, miniature golf course, 14 movie theaters, and more!

Considered the breadbasket of the U.S. from 1880 to 1930, Minneapolis once produced more flour than any other city in the nation. A must for history buffs is the Mill City Museum at the Mississippi waterfront to learn about the birth of the city and the influence of the river on the flour industry.

But getting back to the ARIA meeting…. proposals to present research findings at the meeting are now being collected; submissions from doctoral students are encouraged. Provide either an executive summary (up to three pages) highlighting the purpose, expected results and importance of the risk- or insurance-related research topic or the completed paper (which is preferred). In addition, include telephone/fax numbers and the e-mail address of the designated contact person and co-author name(s)/affiliation(s) on a separate cover page.

Materials must be sent no later than Friday, February 17, 2012 to this year’s program chair: Laureen Regan, Fox School of Business and Management, Temple University; phone: (215) 204-7264; e-mail: lregan@temple.edu. Proposals must be submitted electronically as a file attachment in Acrobat (.pdf) or Word (.doc) format. Authors will be notified by e-mail of the program committee’s decision regarding their paper by mid-April 2012.

The 2012 ARIA annual meeting will be held at the Depot Renaissance Hotel, located in the heart of downtown Minneapolis. Named the 2008 Minnesota Lodging Association Hotel of the Year (www.thedepotminneapolis.com), the Depot was once a railroad station; today, it is a historic landmark with a Waterpark and indoor ice-skating rink. The hotel is an excellent choice for business travelers with comfortable bedding and state-of-the-art entertainment systems.

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2012 ARIA Annual Meeting
Visit Minneapolis – “The City of Lakes” – at Next Year’s ARIA Annual Meeting
Congratulations to the ARIA Award Winners of 2011
compiled by Anthony J. Biacchi, ARIA Executive Director

Casualty Actuarial Society Award
A paper published by ARIA (in either The JRI or RMIR) in the prior year that is most valuable to casualty actuarial science:


George Zanjani (Georgia State University)

Excellence in Teaching Award
In recognition of excellence in teaching in the risk management and insurance field:

Patrick Brockett
(University of Texas – Austin)

Robert I. Mehr Award
A literature contribution having a 10-year influence in the field of risk management and insurance:


David Blake (Cass Business School, City University London) and
William Burrows (Better Retirement Group Ltd. London)

Bob Hedges Undergraduate Scholarship Award
A travel stipend enabling an undergraduate student in risk management and insurance to attend the ARIA annual meeting:

Kyle Guestin (Utica College)

Kulp-Wright Book Award
An outstanding original contribution to the literature of risk management and insurance:

“At War with the Weather: Managing Large-Scale Risks in a New Era of Catastrophes,” MIT Press, 2009

Howard Kunreuther, Erwann Michel-Kerjan, and Neil Doherty (all with University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School),
Martin Grace and Robert Klein (both with Georgia State University), and
Mark Pauly (also with University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School)

RMIR Award for the Best Feature Article
Best feature article published in the Risk Management and Insurance Review:

“First-Party versus Third-Party Compensation for Automobile Accidents: Evidence from Canada”
RMIR, Spring 2010, 13(1), pp. 21-44

Mary Kelly (Wilfrid Laurier University),
Anne Kleffner (University of Calgary), and
Maureen Tomlinson (The Economic Insurance Group)

RMIR Award for the Best Perspectives Article
Best perspectives article published in the Risk Management and Insurance Review:

“The Secondary Market for Life Insurance in the United Kingdom,”
RMIR, Fall 2010, 13(2), pp. 279-301

Nadine Gatzert (University of Erlangen Nurnberg)
Congratulations to the ARIA Award Winners of 2011, continued

Les B. Strickler Innovation in Instruction Award
Recognition of innovative ideas that have been developed and used in risk and insurance education:

“Brown Dog Brewing Company: Case Study for Risk Management and Insurance”

James Hilliard (University of Georgia) and Ronald Licata (University of Connecticut School of Business)

Early Career Achievement Award
Distinguished achievement by a risk management and insurance scholar who earned a Ph.D. within the last 10 years:

Tong Yu (University of Rhode Island)

Robert C. Witt Award
Outstanding feature article published in The Journal of Risk and Insurance:


Alma Cohen (Tel Aviv University) and Peter Siegelman (University of Connecticut School of Law)

Hagen Family Foundation Travel Award
Travel stipend in support of an annual meeting presenter:

Yinjie (Winnie) Sun (University of Wisconsin – Madison)

A heart-felt thank you to the sponsors of the 2011 ARIA Annual Meeting!

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Gamma Iota Sigma
Georgia State University, Robinson College of Business
The Griffith Insurance Education Foundation
Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary
Illinois State University, Katie School of Insurance
Indiana State University, Scott College of Business, The Gongaware Center
Insurance Information Institute
The Insurance Institute of Canada
Katie School of Insurance, Illinois State University
Laval University
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC)
St. Mary’s University
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University of Alabama
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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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Robert Hedges Undergraduate Scholarship Fund
Les B. Strickler Education Fund
Robert C. Witt Award
Not too many professors are called a “human encyclopedia” by their students, but if you know William R. Feldhaus, it’s easy to understand why he was described as such. In this issue, ARIA NEWS is pleased to feature Bill Feldhaus, who officially retired from Georgia State University in Atlanta in June 2010 after nearly 30 years of service. After receiving his B.A. in government from Miami University (1965), he went to GSU to obtain an MBA in finance. Bill went on to earn a Ph.D. in business administration with a major in risk management and insurance from GSU in 1980.

Concurrent with his studies during 1965 to 1970, Bill was in the U.S. Navy as a Flight Officer. While in the Navy in Vietnam, he flew in the RA-5C Vigilante and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (1967), four Air Medals (1967) and the Navy Commendation Medal (1967).

Bill’s service to academia and the insurance industry is equally distinguished. During his time at GSU, he participated on about 15 different committees in the Robinson College of Business and Department of RMI and served in various capacities in the University Senate over a 15-year period. Bill is a two-time recipient of the College of Business Administration Faculty Service Award.

A long-time member of ARIA, Bill has served on a number of different committees for our organization, and was president of both the Southern Risk and Insurance Association (1989) and Western Risk and Insurance Association (1995). Bill has had a long affiliation with other professional organizations, including the CPCU Society, where he served on the governing boards of both the national RMI section and Surplus Lines interest section and was president of the CPCU Georgia Chapter. Bill was also active on different committees with the Institutes and the Risk and Insurance Management Society (RIMS), for which he also conducted RIMS seminars on risk management techniques.

Perhaps one of Bill’s most significant and enduring contributions to the industry was his work in developing the Registered Professional Liability Underwriting (RPLU) program for the Professional Liability Underwriting Society (PLUS) in 1992. Since the inception of this program, Bill has served as educational consultant and a member of the PLUS university faculty. For his tireless efforts in coordinating the program and helping to create study guide materials and examinations, he received the Professional Liability Underwriting Society (PLUS) Founders Award in 2009.

Bill’s research activities are impressive as well. Much of his work, co-authored with others in the areas of professional liability, bad faith, excess and surplus lines, rate regulation, etc., has been published in The JRI, RMIR, Journal of Insurance Issues, CPCU Journal, Journal of Insurance Regulation, Journal of Legal Studies in Business, Journal of Accountancy, and other notable publications. He also was a contributing author to a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development research study on risk management in developing countries, and publications by the Institute of Management Accountants and International Risk Management Institute, among others.

Bill served as editor of The Hold Harmless Agreement, a widely used reference book published by the National Underwriter Company, coordinating editor of Surplus Lines Insurance Principles and Issues, published by the Insurance Institute of America (IIA), and associate editor of the Journal of Reinsurance. Bill was the investigator or principal investigator of a variety of externally funded research grants on a broad array of topics such as surplus lines, surety bonds, commercial lines deregulation and professional liability. He supervised many doctoral dissertations, including those of Michael Barth, Lisa Gardner, Jean Kwon and others.

Perhaps one of Bill’s most significant and enduring contributions to the industry was his work in developing the Registered Professional Liability Underwriting (RPLU) program for the Professional Liability Underwriting Society (PLUS) in 1992. Since the inception of this program, Bill has served as educational consultant and a member of the PLUS university faculty.

A well-known speaker at many academic, industry and corporate events, Bill last spoke on “expert testimony in insurance,” at the 2008 ARIA annual meeting in Portland, Ore. His service to the community includes participation on the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (1992-1996) and the board of the Robert D. Fowler Family YMCA (2003-2008).

Bill is still active at GSU, teaching several senior-level RMI courses. ARIA NEWS was fortunate to have gotten in touch with Bill before he “hangs it up” altogether, and had the following dialogue with him.

ARIA NEWS: Bill, tell us a little bit about your background. After your naval
career, what prompted you to study insurance and go into academia?

**Bill:** When I left the Navy, I sought employment in Atlanta while I entered the MBA program at Georgia State University. Atlanta was chosen because it had a growing economy, I could continue my relationship with the Navy as a Reservist and there was a great evening MBA program at Georgia State University. After interviewing with a number of companies in the Atlanta area, I accepted a personal lines underwriter position with Safeco Insurance Company in its regional office in Atlanta. That employment is what started my interest in risk and insurance.

Since I did some classroom instruction in the Navy, I became involved with some in-house training for Safeco. When I completed my MBA in Finance at GSU, I was offered a position in the Dean’s Office in the College of Business serving as a graduate counselor. I had an interest in an academic career, so this opportunity seemed to provide an avenue to become an academic in the risk and insurance field, a decision that afforded me a great career for me and my family.

**ARIA NEWS:** How did you get involved in doing expert witness work?

**Bill:** The expert witness work began with a call from a law firm asking if I would be interested in looking at a case and providing opinions on the dispute. To this day I do not advertise my services; it is simply word of mouth from lawyer to lawyer. For some reason, this keeps me busy and allows me to pick and choose the cases that seem to be interesting and relevant to my interests. I find this work very helpful to me as an enhancement to my teaching and research. I try to take every opportunity to translate my learning on cases into scenarios for class and inputs for articles.

**ARIA NEWS:** What do you consider to be your top professional and personal accomplishments?

**Bill:** My most significant accomplishment in my professional life has been my work with trade associations in developing educational materials for their membership. I worked with the National Association of Professional Surplus Lines Offices, Ltd. (NAPSLO) in developing the Associate in Surplus Lines Insurance (ASLI) professional designation program managed by the Insurance Institute of America. This involved the editing and writing of two texts on surplus lines insurance.

Another effort was with the Professional Liability Underwriting Society (PLUS) in developing the Registered Professional Liability Underwriter (RPLU) designation. I served as the PLUS educational consultant in creating the content and testing for this program. I continue to serve PLUS in that capacity today. In 2009 I was selected for the Founders Award for my contributions to PLUS.

With respect to my personal accomplishments, that one is easy. My three daughters are the crown jewels of my personal life. And to make it even more perfect, they and their families all live within a five-mile radius of our home in Roswell, Georgia! We now have seven delightful grandchildren who now occupy a lot of my time in retirement.

**ARIA NEWS:** Who was the most influential person in your career?

**Bill:** The most influential people in my career were Dr. Ken Black and Dr. John Hall. They were both exceptional role models for me from a both a professional and personal perspective. Both were exceptional academics and true gentlemen in every sense of the word. I greatly miss both of them.

**ARIA NEWS:** What do you see as major challenges facing schools with RMI programs?

**Bill:** The major challenges continue to be earning a place at the academic table. Our outputs must be viewed as adding value to the institution. This includes our graduates and our intellectual activities. Globally we have had some successes, but we need more to grow our base in the academic community.

**ARIA NEWS:** What have you learned in your career that you wish you knew when you were starting out?

**Bill:** I wish that I better understood the phases of academic life as a guide for my personal outputs. For example, for a young person in a tenure track position you are in the research productivity phase of your career. There are a number of institutional and industry distractions that can be very attractive to young academics, but these interests can detract from a focus on intellectual pursuits that lead to evidence of your research contributions and potential. I think we do a better job now of channeling young academics through their careers, but it is still a concern that may lead to disappointment. At the later stages of a career, I think we need to “pay it forward” with contributions to young faculty, students, alumni and the industry. We have some great examples of this, but all senior faculty do not appreciate this aspect of our role as academics.

**ARIA NEWS:** Do you have any advice for ARIA members, especially newer ones?

**Bill:** My advice would be to heed what was mentioned above. Keep your eye on the ball. As a young academic, your primary target is research productivity. Arrange your personal and professional life to give you a chance of success. Having institutional mentors can be a big plus, but all universities do not have this structure in place.

**ARIA NEWS:** What plans do you have for retirement?

**Bill:** My retirement plans call for continuing to teach part-time at GSU. What a wonderful life to teach and work with students and have no committee assignments! I also continue my work in providing litigation support for a number of law firms. I also plan to spend more time at our vacation home in the Florida panhandle.

**ARIA NEWS:** Thanks for your time, Bill. All the best to you and your family in your next chapter of life.
Memories from San Diego

Continued on next page
Memories from San Diego
Memories from San Diego

Continued on next page
Memories from San Diego
Risk Management and Actuarial Science at the University of New South Wales, Sydney Australia

by Michael Sherris, Professor of Actuarial Studies, Australian School of Business

The Actuarial Studies program was established at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in 1998 with the appointment of Professor Michael Sherris to a foundation chair in the Faculty Commerce and Economics. The original program offered was a Bachelor of Commerce actuarial major that offered high achieving students an opportunity to study a broader business program combined with the rigorous analytical courses of the professional actuarial program. The program was very strongly supported by industry and an active Coop scholarship program was introduced. Students needed to be in the top 5% of high school students and have a strong mathematical ability to enter the program. From the start the program attracted the best and brightest students in Australia and throughout Asia with almost 50% of enrolments coming from international students.

The Australian School of Business (ASB) at UNSW was formed as a merger of the Faculty of Commerce and Economics and the Australian Graduate School of Management in 2007. It is one of Australia’s leading business schools and widely recognised in business education and research in the Asia Pacific region. The ASB has a range of programs for undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as research training across nine disciplines including accounting, actuarial studies, banking and finance, business law, economics, marketing, information systems, organisation and management, strategy and entrepreneurship and taxation. It also offers Australia’s number 1* ranked AGSM MBA and AGSM Executive Programs based on Financial Times, UK, Global MBA Rankings 2011 & Executive Education Rankings, Customised Programs, 2011.

Postgraduate courses in actuarial studies were originally introduced into the Master of Commerce which was then developed in 2006 to become a specialised Master of Actuarial Studies. The actuarial postgraduate program included a stream in Risk management with an emphasis on quantitative analysis and ERM. In 2011 a Master of Risk Management was offered through the School with an enrolment of 55 to commence the program.

Reflecting the growth and diversity of the School, The School of Risk and Actuarial Studies was established in the Australian School of Business in 2011. The School currently consists of 12 academics, made up of 1 professor, 5 associate professors, 2 senior lecturers, and 4 lecturers. In addition there are 4 senior research associates carrying out research with Professor Sherris engaged with an ARC Linkage Grant on Longevity Analysis and the Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing (CEPAR). The current Head of School is Associate Professor John Evans.

Further hires are being made to support developments in risk management and population ageing and retirement economics. Courses taught in the School include 11 undergraduate courses, 3 Industrial Training courses in the Coop program, an Honours program, 15 postgraduate courses in the Masters of Actuarial Studies, 3 postgraduate courses in the Masters of Risk Management, and a course on superannuation (pension economics) in the Masters of Economics. There is a small Ph.D. program in actuarial studies and risk management attracting excellent students both locally and internationally.

The School also has strong industry interaction particularly through its Coop industry scholarship program where the current sponsors are: Allianz, Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, Colonial First State Global Asset Management, Ernst & Young Partnership, Finity Consulting Pty Ltd, KPMG Actuaries Pty Limited, Macquarie Group Limited, MLC Limited, PWC Australia, Russell Investment Group, Suncorp Metway Insurance Limited, Taylor Fry Consulting Actuaries, The Westpac Group, Tower Australia Limited, WorkCover NSW, and Zurich Financial Services Australia Limited.

The School has a focus on teaching and research related to the application of actuarial techniques to the management of financial institutions, and its disciplinary interests cover actuarial science, insurance risk models, risk management, financial economics, retirement economics and population ageing issues.

The approach taken at the School to risk management has not been the traditional risk and insurance program structure. The emphasis has been on the management of risk with a broader disciplinary perspective. Risk management in both banks and insurers is considered and the emphasis is on the fundamentals of risk economics with an applied perspective figuring prominently. The actuarial undergraduate program takes advantage of the broad range of disciplines in the university and the ASB. Students gain a broader business background through completion of double majors and combined degrees.

Current enrolments in the actuarial undergraduate program are approximately 600 students, with 100 students in the Master of Actuarial Studies, and 55 students in the Master of Risk Management program. The actuarial Coop program has approximately 60 students. Plans are underway for a Risk Management disciplinary stream in the undergraduate program. A Masters of Population Ageing is also under consideration.

The School has a profile for excellence in both teaching and research.
The average student evaluation course satisfaction ranking was 96% in 2010. Research funding includes substantial grants by a number of academics in the School including an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant with ARC funding of $1.3 million, plus $0.4 million from Industry Partners (APRA and PWC) over 4 years to research longevity issues including modeling, management and policy issues around longevity risk. Associate Professor Hazel Bateman is Chief Investigator for an ARC Discovery Grant for $1.2 million related to the study of member choice in superannuation funds. Professor Sherris is a Chief Investigator in the $21 million Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research (CEPAR) grant from the ARC, which includes $7 million from government and universities and $1 million from industry partners.

The School also hosts the Centre for Pension and Superannuation Research, which holds a Colloquium each year attracting attendees from universities that is internationally recognised and which holds a Colloquium each year. The Centre will assist government, regulators and industry to meet emerging challenges and opportunities in the field of global finance. It will link and support international policy makers, regulators, industry and academia to anticipate, prevent or contain future financial disruptions. The $41 million centre is funded by the Federal Government who has committed $12.1 million over four years to establish the Centre, with the NSW Government providing an additional $6 million. A further $6 million has come from corporate sources and universities. The Centre will also receive $17.5 million of in-kind support from partner institutions.

The Australian School of Business at UNSW is 4.5 kilometres from the world famous Bondi Beach and 6 kilometres from Sydney’s Central Business District. In June, 2010 it received accreditation from the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD), under its accreditation brand the European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS), and is in the process of receiving accreditation from The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

Happy 20th, University of Calgary IRM Chair!

Congratulations to the University of Calgary, whose Insurance and Risk Management Chair at the Haskayne School of Business celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. The RMI program at the Haskayne School is the only program of its kind in western Canada.

In honor of this important occasion, the School introduced a special Distinguished Alumni Award in Risk Management and Insurance. The recipient of the award was Kevin Sigouin, general manager of the Insurance Division for First Credit Union on the Sunshine Coast and Vancouver Island, BC. The award recognizes individual success in the fields of risk management and/or insurance as well as excellence in the areas of school support and community involvement. In addition, the award winner must embrace the Haskayne School of Business values of ethics, leadership, commitment, excellence, integrity, and dedication.

To celebrate the Chair’s 20th anniversary and the first Distinguished Alumni Award, a special function was held at the University of Calgary’s new downtown campus location in May. In attendance were members of the university’s RMI Department – Norma Nielson, Anne Kleffner and Ryan Lee. Former RMI chair, Jerry Jorgenson (ARIA past president 1992-1993), also drove up for the occasion…all the way from Salt Lake City, Utah!

Jerry sends greetings to his ARIA friends and colleagues. He recently told ARIA NEWS that he is pleased the RMI program at the University of Calgary is continuing to prosper and meet the higher education needs of Canada. Jerry reports that he is enjoying marginally good health and is spending quality time with family and friends. While traveling a good deal, he and his wife are enjoying retirement in Utah.
Announcement from The Geneva Association Journals

The Geneva Association is pleased to announce its issue of *The Geneva Papers on Risk and Insurance - Issues and Practice* which was released in July 2011. The Papers include:

**Insurance and Regulation**
- Risk Management and the Global Banking Crisis: Lessons for Insurance Solvency Regulation by Simon Ashby
- The Interplay between Insurers’ Financial and Asset Risks during the Crisis of 2007-2009 by Etti Baranoff and Tom Sager
- Investigating Risk Disclosure Practices in the European Insurance Industry by Dirk Höring and Helmut Gründl

**Other Risk and Insurance Issues**
- Implementation of Enterprise Risk Management: Evidence from the German Property-Liability Insurance Industry by Mohammed Altuntas, Thomas R. Berry-Stölzle and Robert E. Hoyt
- Career Interruptions: How Do They Impact Pension Rights? by Najat El Mekkaoui de Freitas, Cindy Duc, Karine Briard, Sabine Mage and Bérangère Legendre
- Stochastic Mortality, Macroeconomic Risks and Life Insurer Solvency by Katja Hanevald, Thomas Post and Helmut Gründl

**Special Contribution**
- The Geneva Risk and Insurance Review 2010: We Have Learned Much Since Willet and Knight by J. François Outreville

In addition, *The Future of Insurance Regulation and Supervision: A Global Perspective*, is available now. This book, edited by Patrick Liedtke and Jan Monkiewicz of the Geneva Association, takes a thorough look at the fundamentals of future insurance regulation and supervision, analyzes problematic aspects and discusses the global perspectives for the insurance industry.

For more information on the *Geneva Papers* or *The Future of Insurance Regulation and Supervision*, readers can contact:

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Invitation to Contribute to the Journal of Consumer Affairs

Sharon Tennyson was recently named the Editor of the *Journal of Consumer Affairs*. The peer-reviewed journal, founded in 1967 by the American Council on Consumer Interests, features research and analysis on the social, legal, economic and political influences on consumer interests. The *Journal*’s first editor, Gordon E. Bivens, provided the editorial mission statement still followed today: “to make available the research findings of a number of disciplines which have a major thrust toward understanding the consumer, his behavior and the implications of his economic, social, legal, and political environment.”

Sharon hopes to continue the *Journal*’s emphasis on applied, topically relevant research, and to increase its focus on public policy. She says, “We live in an era of heightened awareness and concern about consumer issues, making this an especially exciting time to take over as editor of the *Journal of Consumer Affairs*. I see a fantastic opportunity for the journal to publish research that increases policymakers’ understanding of consumer behaviors and the implications of the economic, political, and regulatory environment for consumers’ well-being.”

Sharon will also work to expand the *Journal*’s breadth in both subject matter and the empirical methodologies in research articles. Research examining the effects of consumer protection regulations, policies and laws, and the impact of regulation and deregulation of markets on consumers are particularly sought, as are research articles using large secondary survey datasets and datasets of administrative data.

Sharon invites ARIA members to contribute consumer-oriented research to the *Journal*. “I have always wanted to promote more insurance research written about consumers and from the consumer’s perspective. Editing a consumer-oriented journal provides me a tangible way to do that, and I will be reaching out to insurance researchers,” she says.

The *Journal* has a tradition of publishing topicalily-oriented Special Issues, with recent issues on financial literacy, aging consumers, public health, and product literacy. Sharon notes that insurance-related research contributes insights into each of these topic areas, and encourages insurance researchers to consider their work within these broader contexts. An upcoming Special Issue in the *Journal* will focus on consumers in financial markets, which will be announced to ARIA members.

The *Journal of Consumer Affairs* publishes three times per year in print and online. The *Journal* has become an increasingly influential research outlet in recent years. Its 2009 Institute for Scientific Information Impact Factor score, a key index of a journal’s reputation in its field of study, places it in the top quarter of business journals. More information on the *Journal* can be found online at www.consumerinterests.org/JCA.html.

Sharon Tennyson, with a Ph.D. in economics from Northwestern University, is an associate professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management at Cornell University. Her teaching and research focuses on the impact of government laws and regulation on consumers and financial institutions, particularly the workings of insurance markets. She also studies consumer insurance literacy and attitudes toward insurance, insurance fraud, and consumer information in insurance markets. In addition to editing the *Journal of Consumer Affairs*, Sharon serves on the editorial boards of The Journal of Risk and Insurance, the Journal of Insurance Regulation, Insurance Markets and Companies: Analyses and Actuarial Computations, and Public Policy and Marketing.
The Institutes Help ARIA Members and Their Students Succeed

by Anita Z. Bourke, CPCU, AINS, The Institutes

The Institutes assist ARIA members by helping to prepare their students for a successful career in risk management and insurance. Through The Institutes’ custom publishing capabilities, college and university professors can take advantage of our more than 100 years of risk management and property-casualty knowledge by customizing respected Institutes content to meet their specific course needs. Professors can select from The Institutes’ catalog of course materials that cover a wide range of functional areas.

Custom publishing offers professors the following benefits:

- Increases their ability to meet the specific knowledge needs of their students using customized material
- Provides a custom text for their courses with The Institutes’ unrivaled technical, practical content in an efficient and cost-effective manner
- Provides their students with technical knowledge recognized and esteemed by the risk management and property-casualty insurance industry, which gives students a positive start to a career

For example, Professor Lee Colquitt of Auburn University chose six assignments from the CPCU program for a commercial coverage class, while Professor Kathleen McNichol of La Salle University devised her own twelve-

chapter risk management textbook using content drawn from assignments from the Associate in Risk Management (ARM) program. St. Joseph’s University uses three custom texts from The Institutes on risk management, commercial coverages, and agency operations and sales management.

“I contacted The Institutes rather late in the fall semester to see whether they could create an affordable textbook for me to use during the upcoming spring semester,” said Kevin Eastman, Ph.D., professor at Georgia Southern University. “The Institutes provided me with immediate feedback and created a textbook that covered the material I specifically selected. Not only is the textbook ready for my spring classes, but also it is nicely designed and, more important, it is affordable for my students.”

Connor Harrison, CPCU, director of custom products at The Institutes, assists college and university professors in finding solutions that best meet their needs. “Our entire catalog is available for professors to select the specific content they need for a custom text,” he said. “Printing a custom textbook can be produced as easily as printing a traditional textbook. Our print-on-demand capabilities allow us to produce custom publishing in-house at minimal cost. As a result, the student gets a customized book that looks like it was created just for him or her.” A customized textbook can be created in about four hours. The Institutes’ most popular customized textbooks are CPCU 551 and 552 (a combination of the two textbooks into one custom textbook), and a customized risk management textbook (combines content from ARM 54, 55, and 56).

College and university professors make the majority of requests for custom publishing. Mr. Harrison works with professors to determine their needs, and then the school bookstore places the order through The Institutes’ Customer Service Department. Custom textbooks are not returnable but can be re-used by the college or university. In some cases, students can purchase custom textbooks directly from The Institutes, eliminating additional fees from the school bookstore. The Institutes can also provide custom course guides to accompany custom textbooks, as well as custom products for online delivery.

“We are providing more than just custom textbooks,” said Mr. Harrison. “What we really are providing is custom learning solutions.”

In addition to custom textbooks, The Institutes offer The President’s CPCU Scholarship. In 2009, The Institutes created the President’s CPCU Scholarship to help eligible college and university students gain a competitive advantage in a tight labor market. The Institutes award a maximum of 100 scholarships per year. The scholarship covers the costs of CPCU textbooks, course guides, SMART Study Aids (which include flash cards and Review Notes), and exams.

The President’s CPCU Scholarship will enhance students’ credentials to help them obtain their ideal position right out of college. Scholarship applicants must be full-time students majoring in insurance, risk management, or finance and have a cumulative grade point

Anita Z. Bourke

The Institutes Sample Custom Book
The Institutes Help ARIA Members and Their Students Succeed, continued

average of 3.3 or higher. A nomination by the college president or dean is required. Applicants must meet current Institutes matriculation requirements and complete the program within three years. No more than two recipients per college or university are eligible to receive the scholarship each year.

The CPCU designation is the industry’s premier credential; however, The Institutes also offer a variety of other certificate and designation programs to provide the best education for students. Our knowledge solutions allow students to work toward a respected industry credential while pursuing a college degree.

The combination of an undergraduate or a graduate degree with a certificate and designation from The Institutes helps set students apart in a highly competitive job market. Courses from The Institutes’ programs can be readily incorporated into existing college curricula. We also provide complementary instructor support materials to help professors prepare their students to take our exams, which can be delivered on college campuses.

ARIA members can be assured that our content meets rigorous standards for higher education. Most of our courses carry college credit recommendations from the American Council on Education (ACE). Some of our more popular ACE-reviewed programs include:

- Accredited Adviser in Insurance (AAI®)
- Associate in Claims (AIC)
- Associate in Commercial Underwriting (AU)
- Associate in General Insurance (AINS®)
- Associate in Reinsurance (ARe)
- Associate in Risk Management (ARM)
- Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU®)

The Institutes are proud to provide these additional services to ARIA members and to be a part of ARIA’s success.

Anita Z. Bourke, CPCU, AINS, is executive vice president for The Institutes in Malvern, Pennsylvania. The Institutes are the leader in delivering proven knowledge solutions that drive powerful business results for the risk management and property-casualty insurance industry. Ms. Bourke leads and contributes to the product development process while maintaining a visible presence within the insurance industry. She can be reached at bourke@TheInstitutes.org.

ARIA Members and Friends in the News

James Carson recently moved back to Athens, Ga., where he is now the Daniel P. Amos Distinguished Professor of Insurance in the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia. Jim is very happy to be returning to UGA, where he received his doctoral degree; he will be teaching in the undergraduate and MBA programs. The endowment for the Amos professorship was given by the Daniel P. Amos Family Foundation, and is named for Dan Amos of Columbus, Ga., chairman and CEO of Aflac Inc., who graduated from UGA with a bachelor’s degree in RMI in 1973.

Beginning in the Fall of 2011, Musheng Chang will be an assistant professor at California State University – Northridge, teaching retirement planning and employee benefits. Musheng had been with Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

After almost 30 years at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Stephen D’Arcy has joined California State University - Fullerton’s Mihaylo College of Business and Economics and Center for Insurance Studies (the largest risk management program on the west coast). He is the first to hold the Frank Robitaille Chair in Risk and Insurance, named after the past president of Armstrong/Robitaille/Riegle (an independent insurance agency) and the largest contributor to the center’s ongoing program. Steve will be teaching, conducting research and helping to develop cutting-edge courses at Fullerton.

James Garven (Baylor University) is proud to announce the marriage of his son Chad Garven, ARIA’s webmaster, to Casey Branson. The wedding ceremony took place on October 1, 2011, at Casey’s parent’s ranch in Burnet, TX (outside of Austin in the “Hill Country” of central Texas). Chad and Casey honeymooned in Hawaii and will settle down in Austin, where Chad works in healthcare architecture and Casey works in business development for a local industrial design company. Best wishes to Chad and Casey!

Deborah Gaunt recently retired from her position as instructor of risk management and insurance, after more than 26 years of service to Georgia State University. She is still involved in the GSU RMI Department’s Munich Re Visiting Fellows Program.

Robert Hartwig (Insurance Information Institute) was selected as the recipient of the 2011 Chairman’s Award given by the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies. This award was created to recognize leadership, accomplishment and outstanding service to NAMIC and the property/casualty insurance industry. Bob’s work is focused on improving the understanding of key insurance issues across all industry stakeholders, including media, consumers, regulators and legislators.

Congratulations to Mary Kelly (Wilfrid Laurier University), Anne Kleffner (University of Calgary) and Robert Klein (Georgia State University), whose papers received the 2011 Shin Research Award for Excellence. This award is sponsored by the International Insurance Society and The Geneva Association and endowed by Kyobo Life Insurance Company.

Andre and Ivonne Liebenberg (University of Mississippi) were blessed with the birth of twin girls, Sophie Isabella and Chloe Annabelle, on April 16, 2011. At birth, Chloe weighed 6 lbs. 5 oz. and was 18.5 inches; Sophie (born one minute later) weighed 7 lbs. and was 18.25 inches. All are all doing well. Andre begins his new role as Robertson Chair of Insurance at Ole Miss, while Ivonne returns to work, too, on the finance faculty of the university.

Weili Lu is the recipient of the 2011 Outstanding Faculty Award at the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics at California State University – Fullerton. She has demonstrated outstanding leadership in founding the Center for Insurance Studies partnering the university’s resources and academic excellence with the requirements of the fast-changing business environment exposing students to a real “business laboratory.”

J. François Outreville is pleased to announce his new book (in French), which supports a new course starting this fall term at HEC Montreal on Public and Private insurance in the domain of employee benefits. The book, entitled Protection sociale et assurances collectives: Concepts, théorie, et gestion financière, covers employee benefits from an international point of view, comparing social systems and the role of private insurance mainly in OECD countries.

In addition, François has been nominated Director of the Insurance and Risk Management Journal (“Assurances et Gestion des Risques”), the other insurance journal at HEC Montreal. He replaces Martin Boyer who will be in charge of other activities at HEC Montreal.

Management is an academic journal established in 1932 in Canada. This journal is published quarterly and its objective is to present studies on all types of insurance policies and markets as well as on financial and operational risk management analyses, from theoretical and practical angles. The journal welcomes future issues survey papers on these aspects of insurance as well as papers surveying the history of insurance in a country or in a specific line of business.

French or English manuscripts must be sent to the editorial board, preferably by e-mail at article.assurance@hec.ca. The web site is //neumann.hec.ca/assurances-revue/en/.

Andreas and Nadia Richter (Ludwig Maximilians University) recently became the proud parents of baby daughter, Alexandra Caroline. Alexandra was born on September 1, 2011 at 4:38 p.m.; she weighed 3,360 grams and was 54 cm. long (i.e., 7.4 lbs. and 21.3 inches).

Congratulations to Ellen Thrower who retired in December 2010 as executive director of St. John’s University School of Risk Management in New York City. Her leadership of the school began in 1988 as president of The College of Insurance. In January 2011 the SRM’s Board of Overseers honored her by naming its new student center the Ellen Thrower Center for Apprenticeship and Student Services. In March of this year, Ellen received the Bryan School of Business and Economics’ Distinguished Alumni Award from her alma mater, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She was also awarded an Honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degree by St. John’s University in June.

In March 2011, George Zanjani was named the inaugural holder of the American Association of Managing General Agents (AAMGA) Distinguished Chair in Risk Management and Insurance at Georgia State University. The chair is funded by a $1 million gift by the association’s membership. According to AAMGA past president, Wesley C. Diesenberg, Jr., “George possesses a rare understanding of insurance markets in the context of the broader financial system as well as the role of academic research in guiding policy and practice in the insurance industry. We look forward to the scholarly attention that George will bring to the wholesale and surplus lines industry segments.”
ARIA News ■ Fall 2011

2011 Summer Board Meeting Highlights
by Tony Biacchi, ARIA Executive Director

ARIA held its summer Board of Directors meeting on August 7, 2011 in conjunction with the annual meeting in San Diego. For complete minutes of this meeting, go to the ARIA website. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

Corporate Finances

Budget and Financial Reports

At the end of June 2011, net earnings show a positive $73,654. Although anticipated payments for the annual meeting, rent, and insurance will total more than $125,000 (due in part to higher AV expenses), anticipated royalties approximating $77,000 – a receivable paid to ARIA in April 2012 – should result in a positive year-end.

Investment Policy

The value of ARIA’s portfolio at the end of December 2010 amounted to $422,550.42 (unrestricted funds of $355,409.26 and restricted funds of $67,141.16). At the close of business on Friday, August 5, 2011, the value of ARIA’s investment portfolio, minus WRIEC money held on behalf of the 2015 meeting, totaled $426,651.75. Rather than allocating the new funds to a particular purpose, the next step should be the development of a comprehensive investment and financial plan that supports ARIA strategic initiatives. George Zanjani proposed a motion, with Patty Born seconding, to implement a comprehensive investment and finance plan. This was approved unanimously by the Board. Members of the investment and finance committee are George, Jeff Brown, and Bill Panning; Tony Biacchi will participate as an ex officio member.

Governance

Executive Office Review

Five year contracts to continue housing the executive office at The Institutes and to retain Wiley-Blackwell (W-B) as publisher for ARIA’s two journals were approved by the Board after the January meeting. Tony Biacchi will continue to serve as executive director. The negotiated fee holds the rental charge at the current $40,000 for 2011, increases to $42,000 in 2012, and then increases by a factor equal to the CPI in the three subsequent years.

The contract with W-B will increase ARIA’s royalties from 25 percent to 35 percent for all revenues earned after the current sales threshold is achieved.

Membership figures below show 36 more international members compared to the same time last year, and an even greater number than all of 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Total ARIA Members</th>
<th>International ARIA Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2011</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2010</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elections

See p. 3 of this newsletter for the 2011-2012 Board of Directors. With respect to international board tenure, the need for Board members who specifically represent the international membership is no longer needed. Rather than reducing the Board as a result of eliminating the international Board positions, the spring 2012 election will ask members to vote for three rather than two Board openings. International members could be placed on any of the three ballots for a Board position.

Web Strategy Committee Report

Chairman Randy Dumm reported on the recent survey to assess membership satisfaction with ARIA’s website. The response rate was very low and as such, the results do not warrant making any strong conclusions. Some insights can be gleaned from the responses, however. Members who completed the questionnaire reported using the website on an occasional basis, primarily for annual meeting and journal information. They would support a proposal to upgrade the look of the website, add database access for ARIA members and improve the informational content of the website.

A majority of respondents also believed that the website should provide the ability to complete financial transactions related to dues and annual meeting registration. The website should play an important role in promoting ARIA, but not as a reason for joining ARIA. The link to related industry organizations should be expanded.

Furthermore, respondents felt the website does not provide perceived “member only” benefits. There was support for providing open access to member contact information, but there was stronger support for providing an exclusive member benefit via password access for member/contact information. Note: Reaction at Monday’s (August 15) general membership meeting did not favor posting any type of membership list.

Continued on next page
The website should be the repository of historical information. Past programs along with links to papers should be retained. The Board expressed support for periodic update of the website beyond normal maintenance.

With respect to ARIA’s newsletter, survey participants recognized it as a valuable part of being a member as it builds a sense of community. Respondents thought it could not function as effectively if delivered only digitally and should be available in both hardcopy and electronic format.

Webmaster Report

Webmaster, Chad Garven, reported that basic maintenance and housekeeping are provided on an ongoing basis. He suggested some improvements to the site including the elimination of circular links.

Job Placement Committee Report

Ping Wang, coordinator of ARIA’s job placement information, announced 23 RMI-related academic and research positions plus four actuarial science openings on the job placement page, and reminded the Board of the importance of the date stamp when posting position announcements.

Membership Committee Report

Membership chairman Cassandra Cole reported on the collection of information from a variety of sources (SRIA, WRJA, and Risk Theory Society) in preparation for the detailed analysis of the membership to be provided in the Final Report of 2013. Outstanding committee items include conducting a survey of non-renewing members and revisiting the means to enhance value through added teaching resources with the objective of increasing membership and/or retaining current members.

Teaching Resources Committee Report

The goal of the committee, chaired by Kathleen McCullough, is to promote teaching by sharing resources among ARIA members. The committee continues to solicit teaching resources through multiple media and sources and will also look at restructuring the current website to ensure accuracy and user-friendly access. Other tasks include updating and adding links to the National Alliance program and discussing with the Griffith Insurance Education Foundation the ability to access their ERM cases once they are printed in RMIR.

A listing of RMI textbooks has been prepared and is in the process of being added to the site. Committee members will plan to add RMIR Educational Insights and Strickler Award winners to the site. The committee would also like ARIA to explore a Teaching Forum on LinkedIn or a similar site. Providing a list of subject matter experts would be helpful to individuals looking for more information as well, with the understanding that there may be privacy and security considerations.

As a reminder, information about teaching materials can be e-mailed to ARIATeaching@gmail.com. The message should contain the following information: course/topic; type of material (syllabus, assignment, lecture notes, background information, etc.); author(s); university/organization; brief description; and the appropriate category(ies) within the Teaching Resources website to identify the material.

Journal and Scholarship Activities

The JRI Editor’s Report

Georges Dionne, editor of The JRI, reported that the number of submissions increased significantly to 253 in 2010, but the acceptance rate has been significantly below 20% since 2006. The average processing time decreased to 101 days in 2010. As of July 18, 2011, The JRI received 72 unique submissions. The average processing time YTD is 73 days and the acceptance rate for the 72 unique article submissions is 2.78%. The decision timeline is much improved from the 5.8 months waiting period of 2007.

The primary reasons for a returned paper are a low probability that it will measure up to the standards, and lack of a link between the content of the paper and the mission of The JRI. Thirty-six articles accepted before 2011 have not been published. The backlog of articles accepted in 2011 is 23. Ten backlogged articles will be published in the September issue and an additional 12 will be published in the December issue for a total of 42 published articles in 2011. During the last 12 months, The JRI had 5,429 abstract views and 1,794 file downloads at IDEAS, an increase of about 10.6%.

JRI articles from March still have not been placed on RePEc; this delay is detrimental to the impact factor. The impact factor for 2010 improved to 1.092, the highest in JRI history. The JRI is now ranked 24/74 in business and finance journals and 97/304 in economics journals.

The JRI publishes special issues in order to increase the quality of submissions. One example was the issue on Microinsurance, published in March 2011. Two other special issues (Corporate Governance in Insurance, managed by Georges Dionne and Behavioral Insurance and Behavioral Risk Management, managed by Andreas Richter and Glen Harrison) are forthcoming. Other specials will be based on two conferences now in preparation: Longevity Risk and Capital Markets (managed by David Blake) and Convergence, Interconnectedness, and Crises: Insurance and Banking (managed by David Cummins and Elyas Elyasiani).

A note of thanks was expressed to members of the JRI editorial board, Claire Boisvert, and the staff members at Wiley-Blackwell and the Executive Office.

RMIR Editor’s Report

Editor Mary Weiss reported that the fall 2011 issue of RMIR will contain 12 articles: 7 features; 1 perspectives; and 2 educational insights. The ERM case studies originally planned for publication in the
fall edition are delayed, awaiting permission from Nationwide insurance.

Between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011, RMIR received 20 new submissions and 14 resubmissions. To date, seven of the 20 articles have been accepted and nine have been rejected. The median turnaround time is 53 days. Mary again mentioned the desirability of a reviewer database, but stated “given the relatively low number of submissions, this should probably not be a considered a high priority.”

Reports from Wiley-Blackwell (W-B) 2010 and Interim 2011

Margot Morse serves as Wiley-Blackwell’s representative to ARIA. She reported that the 2010 JRI/RMIR subscription bundle had 532 full-rate subscriptions, down from 570 during the previous year. Subscriptions under license have been stable, but subscriptions not protected by license have seen higher attrition rates in 2010 than in previous years. On the other hand, more than 3,400 libraries have access to the current content of The JRI and RMIR through the W-B licensed sales program, up from 2,600 in 2009.

Full text JRI articles were downloaded 174,942 times in 2010 compared to 126,601 downloads in 2009. RMIR downloads increased to 23,800 compared to 17,034 in 2009, an increase of 40 percent. Also noteworthy, more than 1,000 readers receive e-mail Content Alerts announcing recently accepted articles.

The impact factor for 2009 was 0.612, but W-B was happy to report that it improved to 1.092 in 2010.

A full page ad for The JRI was placed in the Journal of Economics. Ads for The JRI and RMIR were placed in Decision Sciences and Economic Inquiry.

In the spring, ARIA’s Board approved a new schedule reflecting a membership fee increase (see chart below).

The new production editor for ARIA’s journals is Charlotte Ching, who works in W-B’s Singapore office.

ARIA Awards Reports

See pp. 5-6 for the 2011 award winners. A point of discussion at the board meeting was the poor participation and lack of multiple applications for awards outside of those selecting journal award winners. A motion was made to revise the criteria for the Early Career Scholarly Achievement Award. The proposal states that a committee will nominate, evaluate, and vote on a recipient of the award, in which case self-nomination will no longer be allowed.

Patrick Brockett, who heads the initiative to establish the ARIA Actuarial Journal award, announced that the fund to date has received $8,500 in contributions. The first award will be made at the 2012 meeting.

Collaboration

ASSA Meeting

Martin Grace, ARIA’s session coordinator at ASSA meetings, reported that ARIA will present five papers at the next conference (January 6-8, 2012, Hyatt Regency-Chicago).

(1) “A marginal cost model of reinsurance attachment points, catastrophe risk and government intervention,” by Martin Boyer and Charles Nyce

(2) “Rating standards for catastrophic risks and the insurers’ capital structure,” by Anastasia V. Kartasheva and Sojung Park

(3) “Asymmetric information in automobile insurance: new evidence from telematics data,” by Alexander Muermann and Daniela Straka

(4) “The marginal cost of risk, risk measures, and capital allocation,” by Daniel Baurer and George M. Zanjani

(5) “Financial sector integration and information spillovers: effects of operational risk events on U.S. banks and insurers” by J. David Cummins, Ran Wei, and Xiaoying Xie

The Griffith Insurance Education Foundation

Several action items by the Griffith Foundation include:

- preparing three case studies on ERM for publication in a special edition of the RMIR.
- collaborating with ARIA to conduct a symposium “The 3Ms of Catastrophe Risk Management: Mitigation, Money, and (Residual) Markets.”
- conducting three seminars on RMI for U.S. House Financial Services staff, and three current topic workshops for National Conference of Insurance Legislators members.
- collaborating with the Institutes on an online initiative to extend the geographic reach of the Teacher Institutes, piloted by Ball State University.
- awarding 28 scholarships totaling $36,850 to college students to study RMI or actuarial science.
- awarding program grants and curriculum planning assistance to the University of Central Oklahoma, the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and Madison Technical College for the expansion or development of RMI programs.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2011 and 2012 Wiley-Blackwell Membership Fees</th>
<th>Print &amp; Online</th>
<th>Students/Retired Online</th>
<th>Students/Retired Print &amp; Online</th>
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<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>$ 135.00</td>
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<td>£ 100.00</td>
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<td>EUR</td>
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<td>Rest of World</td>
<td>£ 100.00</td>
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ARIA Sponsors Two Institutes Awards

Each year, The Institutes recognize the outstanding academic achievements of insurance professionals completing various educational programs. ARIA is pleased to sponsor two of these awards: (1) Associate in Risk Management (ARM) Program Award for Academic Excellence; and (2) Associate in Risk Management – Enterprise-Wide Risk Management (ARM-E) Distinguished Graduate Award.

The 2011 recipients are, respectively, John F. Murphy, ARM, property claims manager, Quincy Mutual Fire Insurance Company (Ashland, Mass.) and Randall Davis, ARM-E, area vice president, Risk International Services (Fairlawn, Ohio). Cash awards are $250 (ARM) and $500 (ARM-E).

Risk Management and Insurance Positions

Below is a list of organizations offering academic, government, and industry jobs that ARIA has received since April 2011. Note that some of these positions may have already been filled at the time of this newsletter publication. Please visit the ARIA website (http://www.aria.org) or contact these organizations for additional information.

April

University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)
Wharton School Center for Risk Management and Decision Processes
• Post-doctoral research positions in insurance, decision making and disaster risk financing

May

Georgia State University (Atlanta)
Robinson College of Business, Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk (CEAR)
• Associate director

Kent State University (Salem, Ohio)
• Program director of insurance studies

Risk Management and Insurance Review (RMIR)
• Editor

St. John’s University (New York, NY)
College of Business School of Risk Management, Insurance & Actuarial Science
• Full-time tenured track Associate or Assistant Professor positions

University of Houston Downtown (Texas)
College of Business Insurance and Risk Management Center
• Program manager

June

Technical University of Lisbon (Portugal)
ISEG School of Economics and Management
• Assistant professor of statistics and actuarial science

University of New South Wales (UNSW, Australia)
Australian School of Business
• Lecturer in risk management studies
• Research fellow (postdoctoral) in actuarial studies

July

Fudan University (Shanghai, China)
School of Economics, Department of Insurance and Risk Management
• Tenure-track position in insurance/finance/risk management

August

Concordia University (Montreal, Canada)
Department of Mathematics & Statistics
• Position in actuarial mathematics

Temple University (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Fox School of Business Department of Risk, Insurance and Healthcare Management
• Associate or full professor in actuarial science
• Assistant, associate or full professor in risk management and insurance

The Institutes (Malvern, Pa.)
• Senior director of knowledge resources

University of Colorado Denver
The Business School
• Assistant/associate professor in finance, risk management and insurance

University of Ulm (Germany)
Faculty of Mathematics and Economics
• Full professor in risk management
• Professorship in insurance

September

Georgia State University (Atlanta)
J. Mack Robinson College of Business
• Director for Willis Economic Capital Forum

Illinois State University (Normal)
Mathematics Department
• Assistant professor in actuarial science

Laval University (Québec, Canada)
Department of Finance, Insurance and Real Estate
• Appointments in finance

University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Canada)
• Assistant/associate professor in actuarial science

University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)
Wharton School Business and Public Policy Department
• Full-time, tenure-track assistant, associate or full professor

University of Waterloo (Canada)
Department of Statistics & Actuarial Science
• Open positions in actuarial science, biostatistics and statistics
In Memoriam

**Mars Pertl**
Mars Pertl, former ARIA member and long-time professor at the University of Memphis, passed away on April 25, 2011, at the age of 74. Mars was born in West Bend, Iowa. He served abroad in the U.S. Army before earning his undergraduate degree (1961) and Ph.D. (1974) from the University of Iowa. Mars was a member of the faculty at Western Illinois University and Southern Illinois University before joining Memphis State University (later renamed the University of Memphis) in 1982.

Mars taught finance and insurance courses at the University of Memphis, and served as the chairman of the Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate Department for over ten years. Mars led the development of the insurance program at the University of Memphis. He was a member of the Memphis CPCU Chapter and the Memphis RIMS Chapter.

In addition to his long-term service and numerous contributions to his school and the discipline, Mars will be remembered for his great sense of humor. He enjoyed fishing, following University of Iowa sports teams, and spending time with his grandchildren.

Mars is survived by his wife, Suzanne, three sons, one daughter, and his grandchildren. Memorials may be made to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis.

**Naomi Denenberg**
Naomi (Glushakow) Denenberg passed away on September 2, 2011, at the age of 83 in Wayne, Penn. She was the widow of Herb Denenberg, ARIA past president (1969-1970), who died in early 2010 (see his obituary in *ARIA NEWS*, Spring 2010). Naomi will be remembered as a gentle woman; an article in *Philadelphia Weekly* (2002) described the immediate calming effect she had on her consumer activist husband, with whom she had been married for 52 years. She will be greatly missed by those who knew her.

Activities of Related Associations and Affiliates

**Southern Risk and Insurance Association**
2011 Annual Meeting (43rd annual)
November 20-22
Hotel Monteleone
New Orleans, Louisiana
http://www.southernrisk.org

**Western Risk and Insurance Association**
2012 Annual Meeting (46th annual)
January 4-7
Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort & Spa
Kona, Hawaii
http://www.wria.org

**Allied Social Science Association (ASSA)**
2012 Annual Meeting
January 6-8
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
http://www.aeaweb.org/Annual_Meeting

**Midwest Finance Association**
2012 Conference (61st annual)
February 22-25
Sheraton Hotel
New Orleans, Louisiana
Program chair: chair@mfa-2011.com
http://www.midwestfinance.org

**Risk Theory Seminar**
2012 Annual Meeting (50th annual)
March 30 - April 1
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida

Send a five-page abstract, rough draft or completed form as an attachment in the Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf) by Thursday, December 15, 2011, to Mary Weiss, secretary of the Risk Theory Society (RTS), Temple University; e-mail: mweiss@temple.edu. Authors will be notified of accepted papers by January 18, 2012, or soon thereafter. Accepted papers must be completed and sent for posting on the RTS webpage by March 1, 2012. Financial support for North American travel only, one author per paper, may be available. For local arrangements, contact Patricia Born at pborn@cob.fsu.edu.
http://www.aria.org/rts

**International Insurance Society**
2012 Annual Meeting (48th annual)
June 17-20
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
http://www.iisonline.org

**Asia Pacific Risk and Insurance Association**
2012 Conference (16th annual)
July 22-25
Hosted by Sungkyunkwan University
Seoul, Korea
http://www.apria.org
**ARIA NEWS Contributors – One and All**

Thanks to all of the following ARIA members and friends who have written an article or regularly provided material for ARIA NEWS over the last six years. We are always looking for additional items, so send us an article about your school, organization or research, or any personal news that you would like to share with the members.

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<th>Saul Adelman</th>
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<th>Norma Nielson</th>
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