

EDITORIAL

The First ASTIN Competition for Young Researchers

In the Spring of 1984 the ASTIN Committee decided to initiate a scientific competition for young researchers, in which prizes were to be awarded for the three best papers in actuarial science submitted to the ASTIN Bulletin before May 1st, 1985. The competition was open to anyone of any nationality, whether or not employed in the insurance industry, whether or not holding a degree in actuarial science; the only condition was that participants had to be born after April 30th, 1952. The entries had to be submitted under a pseudonym; so the participants were granted full anonymity.

The competition proved to be a tremendous success since our Editor received many contributions from all over the world, most of them outstanding. The international jury, consisting of Harald BOHMAN (Sweden), William JEWELL (U.S.A.), Patrick PICARD (France) and Jacob van EEGHEN (the Netherlands) faced the arduous task of selecting the three best papers. They had to devote a lot of time to this evaluation, and they surely deserve our most sincere thanks for their excellent job.

The authors of the selected papers were then invited to attend the 18th ASTIN Colloquium in Biarritz, where a special session was devoted to the presentation and discussion of their work. A final deliberation of the jury, taking into account both the quality of the paper and of the oral presentation, led to the following awards.

- First Prize: Mr. Pierre DEVOLDER
Researcher at the Free University of Brussels
Actuary at "La Royale Belge", for his paper
"Opérations stochastiques de capitalisation"
- Second Prize: Dr. Scott HARRINGTON
Assistant Professor of Insurance
Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, for his paper
"Estimation and testing for functional form in pure premium
regression models"
- Third Prize: Dr. Danny SAMSON
Assistant Professor of Business Administration
University of Illinois for his paper
"Expected utility strategic decision models for general
insurers"

The three prize-winning papers, along with four other entries that meet the requirements of the Editorial Board of the ASTIN Bulletin, form the contents of this special issue.

I am extremely pleased to report that, given the success of this experience, the ASTIN Committee has resolved to organize a second competition for young researchers, to be held in September 1987, during the 20th ASTIN Colloquium,

in the Netherlands. The rules of this competition are to be found in the following pages.

Jean LEMAIRE
Chairman