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Mission of IABA

The International Association of Black Actuaries is a professional and student member organization whose mission is to contribute to an increase in the number of black actuaries and to influence the successful career development, civic growth and achievement of black actuaries.

Vision of IABA

To be the world’s leading actuarial organization dedicated to influencing diversity by developing and recognizing the achievement of black actuaries.

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Newsletter Committee: Guillaume Moussa, Actuary DAV, CERA (Chair), Alicia Young, Efa Mantey, ACAS, Stacia Brown, FSA, Grace Kabwe, Louis-Landry Mwizero, Jailyn Clark
2019 IABA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President:  
Tenesia McGruder, FSA, MAAA

Vice President:  
Dwayne Husbands, FSA, CFA, MAAA

Treasurer:  
Kristin Johnson

Secretary:  
Gloria Gilliam, ACAS, MAAA

Student Liaison:  
Lavell Pryor

Directors:  
Stephen Abrokwha, Ph.D., ASA, CERA, MAAA
Nicassia Belton
Monique Hacker-Patterson, FSA, MAAA
Alan Newsome, FSA, MAAA
Ugo Okpewho, FSA, MAAA

IABA Leadership & Board of Directors

President/Director - Tenesia McGruder, FSA, MAAA  
Vice President/Director - Jamala Arland, FSA, MAAA  
Treasurer/Director - Kristin Johnson  
Secretary - Kwame Davis, FCAS, MAAA  
Student Liaison - Paulus Ackah  
Directors - Stephen Abrokwha, Ph.D., ASA, CERA, MAAA  
Eric Atwater, FSA, MAAA  
Nicassia Belton  
Monique Hacker-Patterson, FSA, MAAA  
Stafford L. Thompson, Jr.  FSA, MAAA

Executive Director - Kate Weaver

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Boot Camp Chair - James King, ACAS  
Data Management Chairs - James Laate & Loic Fonkoua  
Finance Chair - Kristin Johnson  
Membership Chair - Stephen Cameron, FSA, MAAA  
Mentoring Chairs - Jonas Brobbey, ASA & Fuad Ligali, FSA, CERA, MAAA  
Newsletter Chair - Guillaume Moussa, Actuary DAV, CERA  
Scholarship Chair - Adrian Cox, FSA  
Social Media Chairs - Nikaya Smith & Koyin Aladesuru  
Surveys Chair - Nathan Olander  
Technology Chair - Alida Rwabalinda  
Volunteer Chairs - Kendra Letang, ACAS, MAAA & Kamal Harris

Affiliate Leaders

Atlanta - Jessica Morse, ASA, MAAA & Imani Federick  
Bay Area, CA - Marquita Richardson  
Boston - Efua Mantey, ACAS & Michelle Muzulu  
Chicago - James King, ACAS  
DC - Abena Adusei & Turayo Tijani  
Hartford - Brandon Rosemond & Rodrigue Djikeuchi  
Houston - Brandon Wright, FSA, MAAA  
Montreal - Brice Simo & Christelle Guenaing  
Morgan State - Paulin Yannick Mbiakeu  
New York/New Jersey - Nkenge Blue, ASA, MAAA, & Lea Peters  
Ohio Region - Kwapana Acheampong-Boamah, ASA, MAAA  
Seattle - Veronica Fontama, FSA, MAAA
Nicassia Belton is the Associate Director of Precollege programs at the University of Maryland. She spearheaded the development and implementation of the first BSc program in Actuarial Science at a Historically Black Institution in 2008 and first IABA student-led affiliate in 2012. She has served on the Corporate Advisory Council and chaired the Education Committee for IABA since 2010. In 2012, she founded the IABA Boot Camp, now in its fourth year. Nicassia has been a Board member for IABA since 2013. Nicassia holds a MS in Mathematics with a specialization in Computational Finance from Purdue University, a BSc in Mathematics from Morgan State University and currently completing her doctoral degree in Mathematics Education.

Stephen Abrokwah, Ph.D., ASA, CERA, MAAA is an Assistant Vice President and Marketing Actuary at Swiss Re and has been with the company since 2013. Stephen serves as the primary point of contact for quoting, treaty and mortality consulting work for his clients, and has also been a part of the Swiss Re team focused on the middle market strategy, predictive analytics, and assisting clients with innovative ways of closing the mortality protection gap. Prior to Swiss Re, Stephen worked with PricewaterhouseCoopers within the Audit and Assurance line of business, specializing in the audit of companies within the financial services as well as the energy and mining industries across the West African sub region. Stephen holds a Doctorate degree in Economics with fields of specialization including International Economics, Development Economics, and Econometrics. He also holds the ASA and CERA actuarial credentials and is a member of the American Academy of Actuaries. His research publications range from issues pertaining to Social Health insurance to Accelerated Underwriting and Predictive Analytics in life insurance.

Gloria Gilliam, ACAS, MAAA is a manager at Deloitte Consulting. Prior to joining Deloitte, she spent seven years at PricewaterhouseCoopers where she focused on reserving for large P&C commercial insurers. Gloria has a B.S. in Mathematics & Economics from University of Delaware, a M.A. in Mathematics from University of Pittsburgh and is an Associate of the Casualty Actuarial Society. Gloria became involved with IABA in 2010 after graduate school and has served as the leader of the Volunteer Coordination Committee since 2015. In addition to her work with IABA, Gloria is also the current vice president of the Casualty Actuaries of the Mid-Atlantic Region (CAMAR).

Monique Hacker-Patterson, FSA, MAAA is a Corporate Vice President & Actuary at New York Life Insurance Company in Tampa, FL. She continues to serve on the Board of IABA since being elected in January, 2013. Monique also served in the Vice President role and chaired the Annual Meeting Planning Committee from 2010 - 2012. Monique has been a member of IABA since 2009. After moving from Jamaica, Monique graduated from Binghamton University in 2000 with a Bachelors of Science in Mathematics and Economics.

Dwayne Husbands, FSA, CFA, MAAA is a Manager in the Insurance and Actuarial Advisory Services practice of Ernst & Young LLP’s Financial Services Office. He is based in the firm’s New York Office. Dwayne has over 10 years of experience with Ernst & Young serving insurance and financial services clients. His skill set includes risk management, forecasting/stress testing, financial reporting, ALM, Actuarial Transformation, merger & acquisitions. Dwayne is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries (FSA), Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and member of the American Academy of Actuaries (MAAA). Dwayne has also been involved in IABA since 2014, assisting in efforts to develop an Actuarial Ambassador Program (AAP) to promote the actuarial profession and foster the development of black actuarial students on college campuses. Dwayne has since established and instituted an AAP program at Florida State University, organizing case studies as well as sessions for students focused on career development and advice, personal branding, soft-skills, etc. Dwayne is a native of Toronto, ON and has earned a Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics, majoring in Actuarial Science from the University of Waterloo.
Alan Newsome, FSA, MAAA is an AVP & Senior Actuary in Corporate Financial Risk Management at Voya Financial in West Chester, PA. His specialties include ALM, hedging strategy and operations, and liquidity and credit analytics. Alan is a graduate and trustee of Lebanon Valley College, and he recently received the Young Alumni Award in recognition of his professional achievements and service to the college. He currently contributes to the actuarial community by serving on the Society of Actuaries Project Oversight Group on Reinvestment Strategies of Life Insurance Products. He has previously served as both a vice chair and senior consultant for the actuarial CFE I exam, as a member of the 2017 Lebanon Valley College Math Sciences curriculum review committee, and a presenter of actuarial topics to audiences ranging from high school students to credentialed actuaries. Outside of his profession, Newsome’s philanthropic work also includes serving as a Board of Advisors for Artists for Humanity Inc., member of the Board of Directors for World Unity Inc., and board member of his HOA in Bryn Mawr, PA.

Kristin Johnson is an Actuarial Associate at Brighthouse Financial. Prior to joining Brighthouse, she worked as an Analyst with Prudential and also worked in Risk Management for GE Capital. Kristin graduated from the South Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and continued her education at the North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University where she obtained a Master of Science in Applied Mathematics. Kristin has served as a Boot Camp Presenter and is on the Finance and Scholarship Committees for the International Association of Black Actuaries.

Tenesia McGruder, FSA, MAAA is an Actuary at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama. She has had several roles prior to joining Blue Cross including Actuarial Consultant at Optum, Actuarial Analyst at Anthem, and Pension Consultant at Towers Watson. Tenesia graduated from the Georgia State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Actuarial Science and she received her Fellowship designation in 2014. Tenesia has served as Foundation President, Atlanta Affiliate Leader, Student Liaison, Scholarship Chair, and on the Annual Meeting Planning Committee of the International Association of Black Actuaries. She is an avid traveler and has been to all seven continents.

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Ugo Okpewho, FSA, MAAA is a Health Consulting Actuary at Aon, based in New York City. He is responsible for all financial analyses for his clients – including but is not limited to, budget projections, contribution analyses, data surveys, data analysis, data manipulation, modelling and validation of client information. He is also responsible for the application of statistical and mathematical methodologies to evaluate the efficiency of healthcare programs as well as the management of budgeting and cost-cutting initiatives that directly influence client healthcare performance. Ugo has over 17 years of experience. He first began working in the healthcare industry in 2000, and joined Aon in 2016. Prior, he was employed at multiple Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance carriers in various actuarial health pricing, reserving, forecasting and financial roles. Most recently, he led the Individual market for a Blue Cross Blue Shield health plan through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) transition, pricing and rate filing process. He was also employed at a national Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) as the Chief Actuary performing Medicare bid pricing and forecasting. He also served as a consulting health actuary performing employer renewals, reserving and actuarial research and publications at a global actuarial and benefits consulting firm. Ugo moved to the USA from Nigeria and earned his bachelor’s degree in Financial Analysis/Math from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries (FSA) and a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries (MAAA).

Lavell Pryor is an Actuarial Analyst at Highmark Health. Prior to joining Highmark, he worked as an Actuarial Analyst for the State of Florida. He graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science in Statistics. He has been a member of the International Association of Black Actuaries since 2015.
IABA is pleased to announce the introduction of a new group within the organization for 2019 – IABA’s Friends of the Board. The group was founded to allow a bridge from the Board of Directors to the committee leaders. The overall goal of the group is to help the committees enact the initiatives and direction of the Board, while also allowing a sounding board and helping hand for the committees when issues and new ideas arise. They are meant to serve the interests of IABA’s mission to grow and support black actuaries, and help our volunteers do the same. As an extension of the Board, the Friends will report to the Vice President of IABA, and provide an additional layer of tactical leadership for the organization.

The Friends of the Board leverages a framework that has been successfully used by a few of the leadership teams of the SOA’s Sections. For IABA, the Friends will help to drive the execution of the strategic plan deeper into the organization, while also providing an additional leadership succession pipeline. It also serves to demystify the work of leading our organization so it is more accessible.

The inaugural members of the Friends of the Board are Jamala Arland, Kenge Blue, Adrian Cox, Maambo Mujala, Achille Sime, and Anthony Weatherspoon. Here are some words from a few of your volunteers regarding how they best want to serve the organization:

**Jamala:** After serving the organizing for several years as Vice President, I am excited about the work of establishing the Friends of IABA, continuing to support the Board and the mission, and developing the next generation of IABA leadership!

**Kenge:** IABA has and continues to be a pillar of support for me as a Black actuary. I am both thrilled and humbled by the opportunity to give back to the organization as a Friend of the Board. What excites me so much about the Friends is that this additional tactical leadership provides the organization with a heightened ability to drive strategic goals and initiatives forward. I am eager to work with all of IABA’s leaders to see all that we can accomplish in 2019!

**Adrian:** The Friends of the Board give me an opportunity to help drives IABA’s mission. It is a new initiative that will provide relief to the board members, and provide guidance to individuals undertaking leadership roles. I am looking forward to enjoying this organization from a more strategic perspective.

**Maambo:** I have been involved with IABA since I was a scholarship recipient and have always been fascinated by the enthusiasm and energy of the IABA leadership. This new role reignites my passion for the organization and provides a new opportunity to give back to the organization that has given me so much already. I look forward to working with the Friends, Board and other leaders in the organization as we execute the 2019 strategic goals!

**Achille:** I am grateful for the opportunity to impact the direction of IABA by providing support and relief to committee leaders and the Board. I look forward to a successful collaboration with team IABA over the next few years.

**Anthony:** I am excited for this role in this organization. IABA has always given us opportunities to give and aide in the mission and this role serves even more to drive the objectives of the group. I am looking forward to working with the other Friends, the Board, and the committee leaders and to helping them all achieve their goals within the organization.

Please welcome the Friends of the Board and feel free to reach out to them whenever you have questions, ideas, or just would like to talk. As the great Dionne Warwick would say, “That’s what Friends are for!”
A LOOK BACK AT THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ATTENDEE

Contributed by: Stacia Brown, FSA (Newsletter Committee)

The IABA Annual Meeting Website describes the event as the intersection of education and celebration. Both students and experienced actuaries come together in an environment designed to elevate both professional development and networking opportunities. Attendees come to make powerful connections while experiencing all that IABA has to offer.

2018 marked the 26th gathering of the annual meeting which was held in Atlanta Georgia. There were a record breaking 451 attendees at this year’s meeting! I took time to speak to one of the attendees Irmeya Ouedraogo to get his impressions about this year’s meeting. Irmeya started attending the conference in 2016 and credits the event for helping to jump start his actuarial career. He stopped by the career fair and was recruited by a top life insurance company and soon after joined their student program. This year he attended as a new ASA and also participated in recruiting efforts for his company.

Here’s what he had to say:

**What has coming to the annual meetings meant for you over the past few years?**

Coming to the annual meeting has always been the occasion to network with others involved in the actuarial profession, learn about their success and lessons. It is also the best time to celebrate with friends the accomplishments since the last time we met. Coming to the annual meeting also means the opportunity to learn about new leading practices in the insurance industry when I recall the wide array of topics and presentations offered to the attendees.

A continuous record-breaking attendance year after year is reflective of the energy and devotion of the leaders. We celebrate pioneers and hard workers like Kate who tirelessly reaches out to students, volunteers, boot-campers and career changers like me to help them in their journey of becoming an actuary.

This year’s meeting was also an opportunity to get a glimpse of the southern culture. The networking reception at the Center for civil and human rights was also quite interesting.

**What are your overall views of the sessions you attended? Were there any that stood out in particular?**

The annual meetings presentations were of high quality and I would like to thank the planning committee for the effort devoted to making that happen. This makes it hard to choose one that stood out. I will cite them all as I remember but it was a difficult choice to attend just one when you had two or three interesting topics running concurrently.

The changing role of the Actuary in the face of Robotics, Disruption in Healthcare, PBR’s first birthday, and Micro Insurance are presentations that highly captivated my attention. They were excellent learning opportunities.

**Networking is a big part of the annual meeting - People making new connections and reconnecting with old friends. Why is the IABA network important?**

At the annual meeting, I personally have the opportunity to share my story with people with similar backgrounds. The IABA network is important, it is where we meet like-minded people as we are committed to the same ideal; that is, the
promotion of the community of black actuaries and the development of the actuarial profession at large. Networking through the IABA goes far beyond a superficial acquaintance. People are likely to share their personal stories and the challenges they went through and in my opinion, this is because they feel that the person listening can identify with what is being shared.

Having been recruited from the IABA yourself you had a chance to participate in recruiting new talent this year. What are your views on the type of talent you saw at the Career Networking session this year?

Throughout the years, my personal view is that the average number of exams passed has increased among job seekers. We have a very diverse pool of talents when we consider country of origins, educational background, work experience and gender. My personal opinion stemming from the past 3 meetings that I attended is that the IABA is a great opportunity to enhance gender representation in the actuarial profession. I believe (this is to be verified) that we relatively have more and more female candidates and actuaries.

The closing banquet is always a much-anticipated event. What were your overall impressions of the night and was there anything that stuck out for you from the guest speaker?

The closing banquet was a great success with a record 22 associates and I believe 5 fellows celebrated. The keynote speaker kept the audience engaged with laughter. I feel sorry for those who missed it. I was very interested in his life journey which he shared and the many lessons we can learn from it. I will leave your readers to ponder the self-accountability questions that he invited us to think about:

- What have you done in the last six months that you can say it is outstanding?
- What will you do in the next six months to make it better?
- And most importantly, in the last 30 days, who have you helped to get better?

Irmeya Ouedraogo, ASA, CFA is an Actuarial Associate at MassMutual. He can be contacted at IOuedraogo@MassMutual.com.
WASHINGTON DC AFFILIATE

The DC Affiliate participated in high school outreach activities this past summer: one at Howard University’s Summer Actuarial Program and the other at Morgan State’s Summer Academy of Mathematics and Science. Both universities are members of the Historically Black Colleges and were considering universities with actuarial programs and others had their first experience Universities, and their summer programs heavily attract black high school students around the nation. At both events, affiliate members spoke with students from around the country about actuarial science. Some students with actuarial work on a summer case study. The DC Affiliate hopes to maintain these partnerships and strengthen previous collaborations in order to increase the awareness of actuarial science amongst black high school students.

BOSTON AFFILIATE

Three of our affiliate members, Bright Amudzi ACAS, Betty Cherif and Michelle Muzulu represented IABA at Wentworth Institute of Technology (WIT). WIT runs a year-long Students Loving Applied Math (SLAM) program designed to expose high school sophomores and juniors to applied mathematics in fun and innovative ways. The Boston affiliate members introduced the students to Actuarial Science and insurance concepts through an interactive discussion. Our members also shared their personal stories about how they came to study actuarial science, why they chose this field, resources available to students who pursue the field (e.g. IABA scholarships), opportunities available through being an IABA scholar (e.g. Networking events with big name employers) and encouraged the students to pursue the highly rewarding career.
NEW BEGINNINGS IN THE CANADIAN ACTUARIAL PROFESSION

by Gloria Asare, Kate Weaver and Ben Marshall

As we move toward a new year in 2019, it’s a great time to think about new beginnings. An exciting potential new start in the Canadian actuarial profession can trace its roots to a meeting that was held at First Canadian Place in Toronto on Nov. 8, 2018.

The meeting was an informal gathering to gauge interest in forming a Toronto affiliate—following closely on the heels of the Montreal formation of the first such affiliate in Canada—of the International Association of Black Actuaries (IABA). The Toronto meeting was organized and hosted by Gloria Asare, ACAS, who is a specialist in insurance pricing at AXA XL. Among the other attendees, two were students from McMaster University and the remainder were all working professionals, most of whom were from a fairly young age demographic.

The purpose of the meeting was to decide on whether there is a substantial enough base and sufficient interest to establish a Toronto affiliate of IABA. IABA, as an international association, is focused on activities and initiatives that relate to:

1. Raising awareness and consideration of the actuarial profession amongst diverse populations;
2. Converting interested black candidates into the actuarial pipeline;
3. Supporting these students as they pursue a career in actuarial science; and
4. Retaining black actuaries and supporting the evolution of the profession as a whole.

Currently, IABA has affiliates in 11 cities. These affiliates carry out IABA’s mission through outreach events and through industry and professional actuarial career development networking events. IABA has a strong U.S. presence and is now looking to expand the reach of its grassroots efforts in the greater Toronto area (GTA).

The Nov. 8 event was kicked off with a networking reception during the first 45 minutes, followed by a short IABA presentation by organizer Asare. The assembled group then held a roundtable discussion covering such topics as whether an affiliate should be formed, the types of events in which potential members would be interested, the frequency of events, and which attendees would be interested in serving on a planning and leadership team for the chapter if it is established. Most of the attendees then stayed behind and mingled on their own for nearly another hour to close out the event.
The next step for the potential formation of a Toronto chapter of IABA involves a discussion and planning process with the international organization. The attendees at the Toronto meeting expressed a strong interest in establishing such an affiliate. They see the value in being part of an encouraging and supportive community of people with similar backgrounds who are progressing in their careers, as well as encouraging university and high school students as they embark on journeys of their own.

The Toronto group wishes to thank AXA XL, a division of AXA, for its support in sponsoring this formative meeting, providing both the meeting space and the refreshments for the event. For more information about the Toronto chapter formation, please contact Asare at Gloria.Asare@axaxl.com.

The Montreal chapter is being led by Christelle Guenaing and Brice Simo and has several events planned in 2019 that will help to grow the number of student and professional members. These events fall into four different categories: high school outreach; university outreach; general social events for members; and professional networking/speaker series events. Several events are planned this winter, including university outreach events designed to share information about the IABA Scholarship, as well as a Black History speaker series event, to be held in February. The Montreal affiliate is currently seeking a company to host this event. For more information about the Montreal chapter, please contact Guenaing at christelleguenaing@gmail.com or Simo at mbouchebrice@gmail.com.

To new beginnings!

Gloria Asare, ACAS, is a Specialist in Insurance Pricing at AXA XL in Toronto. She can be reached at Gloria.Asare@axaxl.com.

Kate Weaver is the Executive Director at the International Association of Black Actuaries (IABA). She can be reached at iaba@blackactuaries.org.

Ben Marshall, FSA, FCIA, CERA, MAAA, is the SOA staff fellow for Canadian membership. He can be reached at bmarshall@soa.org.

Among other refreshments served at the event, attendees enjoyed a cake that fit the theme of new beginnings.
Asrielle Allen: “I am so grateful to be connected with the International Association of Black Actuaries (IABA)! The scholarship I received and the professional network established have enhanced my actuarial opportunities. I look forward to developing into a credentialed actuary and giving back to this organization who helped give me a start.”

Ropafadzo Mugashu: “Financial assistance is needed to help me pay for my Actuarial Science degree. I am currently struggling to pay for the degree and the IABA Scholarship could be quite beneficial. It will allow me to get into the workforce and become a contributing member of the society.”

Thierry Minani: “IABA scholarship really made a difference on my life. It helped ease the financial pressures and motivated me to work even harder towards my goals. IABA showed me that I am not alone on my career journey.”

Shelley Zebb: “The scholarship from IABA has been a blessing in so many ways. The scholarship allows me to focus on my studies and not worry as much about paying for school. The IABA scholarship is different from other scholarships because it offers not only a monetary gift, but the additional gifts of mentorship, and the unique opportunity to meet others in your field who are already employed in my chosen field. Thank you, IABA!”
**Bright Ngumo:** “The NYL IABA Scholarship has reduced pressure of out-of-pocket costs as I enter my senior year at RMU. I now have more time to do other things such as participating in the SOA Data Contest to sharpen my Data Analytics skills; learning a new programming Language; and studying for my upcoming IFM exam. The scholarship also helped me meet many professionals who had valuable insights into the industry both as a professional and as an African (Zimbabwean).”

**Jahbari Wallace:** “My name is Jahbari Wallace, and I have had many doors opened to me due to the IABA scholarship. I was one of the few who received the highest scholarship amount, and this has tremendously aided my ability to pay for college. I also had an internship offer extended through Prudential because of this scholarship. Now I do not have to worry about securing an internship while I am here at school and I can focus on my studies and look forward to spending my summer in Newark, NJ.”

**Tobie-Éloi Hinse-Paré:** “The IABA scholarship has allowed me to concentrate on my studies by reducing the burden for tuition and for my living expenses in Montreal. I would have never been able to be so successful in school and in my actuarial exams without the help of the IABA. Also, I strongly support the mission of the IABA and I am honored to be a part of the organization each year.”
SUMMARY
Daisy McFarlane Coke was first in many things. She was the first Jamaican and the first black woman to qualify as a Fellow of the UK Institute of Actuaries and the first Caribbean actuary to practice in Jamaica. She has been a role model for young women, persons of color and actuaries in the developing world for many years. Having refused to back down in the face of opposition because of her ethnicity, gender and nationality, she is an icon for breaking though resistances to the recognition of excellence, wherever it comes from. Her many achievements would be stellar in any generation, but need to be especially valued given the mindsets of the time. Her pioneering work opened the way for a generation of actuaries to follow. She applied her actuarial and leadership skills in diverse areas, including supporting her clients, the Jamaican government, Caribbean institutions, retirement and healthcare systems and the insurance, banking, agriculture and housing industries. As such, she represents what is the best of the actuarial profession. Daisy was a founding member and initial president of the Caribbean Actuarial Association and was instrumental in the establishment of the International Association of Black Actuaries and the actuarial program at the University of the West Indies. Her contribution to the development of the actuarial profession in the Caribbean and beyond cannot be overstated.

EXPERIENCE
Originally from rural Jamaica, Daisy McFarlane-Coke’s first job was as a high school maths teacher, and she has been teaching and applying mathematics ever since. She won an open scholarship and obtained a First Class Honours Degree in Pure and Applied Mathematics from the University of the West Indies, where she was an assistant lecturer. She later received a Master’s Degree in Applied Mathematics from the University of Toronto. Daisy was then awarded a scholarship by the Government of Jamaica to study actuarial science in the United Kingdom. In the UK, she read for Statistics at Oxford University and started her actuarial career with a six-year secondment to the UK Government Actuary’s Department. She was also seconded to Norwich Union for a year to obtain life office experience.

In 1970, she became a Fellow of the UK Institute of Actuaries and returned to Jamaica to become the Government Actuary. The Institute’s records are a little hazy, but she was only the 16th (+/-3) female Fellow. In 1972, she started her consulting career as a partner with Bacon Woodrow and De Souza, establishing her own firm, Coke & Associates in 1977. In 2000, she merged Coke & Associates with the Canadian firm of consulting actuaries, Eckler Partners, where she remained as a partner until she retired. Her business career included several board and executive positions with insurers, merchant banks and other financial service entities.

PUBLIC SERVICE
Daisy’s credits her secondment to the UK Government Actuary’s Department with showing her the contribution actuaries can make to public policy. She demonstrated her commitment to public service by using her actuarial skills extensively in traditional and non-traditional
areas. She chaired the Jamaican Public Service Commission for 19 years and chaired or served on numerous boards and committees dealing with a wide variety of issues, including the operations and independence of the Jamaican Central Bank, Consumer Protection, Development Banking, Media, Pension Reform, Public Health Reform, the National Insurance Fund (social security), the Judicial Service Commission, the Overseas Examination Council, the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, the Council of the University of the West Indies, as well as the Boards of the schools she attended.

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROFESSION**

Daisy took an active part in international actuarial development, and contributed to the deliberations of the International Actuarial Association. In 1988, whilst attending the International Congress of Actuaries in Helsinki, Daisy and three other delegates from the Caribbean discussed the idea of forming a regional actuarial association. With her usual drive and determination, Daisy presided over the birth of the Caribbean Actuarial Association (CAA) three years later in 1991. She then served as President of the CAA for the first six years.

Daisy was a charter member of the International Association of Black Actuaries in 1992 and contributed towards its formation and development.

Being a pioneer of actuarial science in Jamaica and the Caribbean, Daisy mentored a generation of actuarial students and was instrumental in establishing the actuarial programme at the University of the West Indies. Her mentorship directly impacted many current senior members of the actuarial profession in the Caribbean and the Caribbean diaspora. Even more significantly, her commitment and personal sacrifice to the cause of development has been passed on to subsequent generations of actuaries.

Daisy has officially retired from active service, but at age 80 she continues to attend meetings of local and regional actuaries to discuss matters of actuarial and public interest. Her knowledge and experience at these meetings is invaluable.

**AWARDS**

The US Society of Actuaries recognized her lifetime contribution to the profession in 1997, when she received the SOA President’s Award. Daisy was an Associate of the SOA since 1974.

For her distinguished work as an actuary and for public service she was awarded the Order of Distinction, Commander Class (CD) by the Government of Jamaica in 1994 and the Order of Jamaica (OJ) in 2002.

In appreciation of her outstanding service to the actuarial profession, her tireless efforts to raise awareness of actuarial skills and the use of her actuarial knowledge to serve the public interest, the Executive Council and members of the Caribbean Actuarial Association submit the Hon. Daisy McFarlane-Coke for IACA’s Max Lander Award. So she has won the 2018 Max Lander Award against strong competition from several candidates in the international space. This prestigious award, granted only every two years by the International Association of Consulting Actuaries (IACA), is a “Consulting Actuary Lifetime Achievement Award” given to a member of the actuarial profession who has contributed to the public awareness of the work of the actuarial profession and the promotion of the business of consulting actuaries. This award is named in honour of the late Max Lander who was a founding member of IACA.

Daisy is the seventh winner of this award, first time to a woman and the first time the recipient is outside of North America and Western Europe. The announcement was made during IACA’s Jubilee celebrations launched at the recent International Congress of Actuaries in Berlin, Germany. In 1997 Daisy received the President’s Award from North America’s Society of Actuaries for her many years of contribution to the profession.

Since Daisy was unable to travel to Berlin to accept the Award it has been presented to her at the CAA’s Annual Conference in Kingston, Jamaica 28-30 November, 2018. IACA’s 50th Anniversary celebrations will make a Kingston stop on its worldwide tour.

Cheers, Daisy!
IAA ADMITS ITS 74TH FULL MEMBER ASSOCIATION - THE NIGERIAN ACTUARIAL SOCIETY

By Guillaume Moussa, APSA/ESA President, MSc Math, Actuary DAV, CERA, Chair IABA newsletter committee

The International Actuarial Association (IAA) is pleased to announce that it has admitted the Nigerian Actuarial Society (NAS) as its 74th Full Member association. The NAS, established in December 1986, has a membership comprising 71 members, including 9 fully qualified actuaries and is currently led by President Yeside Kazeem.

The NAS objectives include: regulating the practice of the actuarial profession in Nigeria, promoting the actuarial profession and bring actuaries to key stakeholder positions while fostering relationships amongst actuaries within Nigeria and internationally.

The IAA Council has approved the motion to accept the Nigerian Actuarial Society as FMA through its October 2018 electronic Voting Ballot. This was announced during the Council Meeting on December 01, 2018 in Mexico City. Mrs. Yeside Kazeem was in attendance and thanked Council for its vote of confidence.
Need another reason to save the date?
How about a Texas-shaped lazy river!