



Actuarial
Alumni & Friends
Leuven

Newsletter - July 2024



Save the date - A&F meeting - 10 October 2024

We are delighted to invite all alumni, friends and guests to our upcoming annual meeting, an evening of learning, networking and celebrating!

The event will take place on Thursday 10 October 2024 in the city center of Leuven. We are still finalizing the details, but as usual, you can expect a delightful evening in the center of Leuven featuring an engaging talk and the opportunity to reconnect with fellow alumni and friends.

Registration will open in September and is, as always, free of charge. Stay tuned for more information!

Alumni & Friends News

Lookback on A&F annual meeting 2023

The Irish College served as the picturesque venue for our previous Actuarial Alumni & Friends gathering on October 10, 2023. The program echoed the spirit of previous events, fostering a sense of community among actuarial professionals.

The event kicked off with an insightful talk by Heidi Delobelle (CEO of AG Insurance), offering valuable perspectives on the evolving trends within the insurance sector. Attendees were captivated as she shared her view on the future.

The presentation served as a prelude to the highlight of the evening; Heidi's recognition as a Distinguished KU Leuven Actuary. 'Distinguished KU Leuven Actuary' is a title given by the Insurance research group of KU Leuven and A&F to KU Leuven actuaries within the professional or academic field who have shown an important contribution to our profession. The full list of Distinguished Actuaries is composed out of:

- Baron Valère Croes †
- Jacques Platteeuw †
- Walter Van Pottelberghe †
- Willy Duron
- Christian Defrancq
- Jozef Demey
- Marc Goovaerts †
- Bart De Smet
- Johan Thijs
- Heidi Delobelle

Looking back on this memorable evening at the Irish College, we can confidently say that it added another chapter to the ongoing narrative of the Actuarial Alumni & Friends community. The tradition of our annual meetings, where distinguished speakers and industry leaders come together to share their insights builds upon our commitment to recognizing excellence in the field, all while strengthening the bonds within the actuarial community.



From left to right: Cedric Goovaerts, Katrien Antonio, Heidi Delobelle, Bart De Smet, Jan Dhaene, Siska De Pril, Katrien Goovaerts

News from our Alma Mater

Patrick Brockett & Arnold Shapiro Actuarial Award 2023

The research paper titled "Boosting Insights in Insurance Tariff Plans with Tree-Based Machine Learning" by Roel Henckaerts, Marie-Pier Côté, Katrien Antonio, and Roel Verbelen has been honored with the prestigious [Patrick Brockett & Arnold Shapiro Actuarial Award](#). This paper seeks to clarify the use of machine learning techniques for actuaries and professionals in insurance pricing.

Those interested in delving deeper into the study can access the full paper through [open access in the North American Actuarial Journal](#).

MAFE Graduates Triumph at IA|BE Thesis Competition 2023

Congratulations to our graduates Yelle Hunninck, Bruno Deprez and Rebecca Baijer who were awarded with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize in IABE's annual master thesis competition. Yelle wrote his thesis with Katrien Antonio, Bruno with Tim Verdonck and Rebecca with Wim Schoutens. Nice to see that the work of the graduates of the Master in Actuarial and Financial Engineering (MAFE), aka fresh members of our A&F community, is recognized! Congrats!

[IA|BE Prize 2023 awarded - IA|BE \(iabe.be\)](#)



From left to right: Ludovic Theate, Yelle Hunninck, Bruno Deprez, Rebecca Baije

Celebration of 600 year KU Leuven

Feestkalender	
3 februari 2025	Patroonsfeest Feestelijk openingsconcert
15 en 16 februari 2025	Openingsweekend KU Leuven Inside Homecoming internationale alumni
23-24 april en 9 mei 2025	Verjaardagsconcert met universitaire ensembles
16 mei 2025	Opening Dwaaltuin Opening Kunst- en wetenschapsroute
Van 10 oktober 2025 tot 22 februari 2026	Tentoonstellingen in de Universiteitsbibliotheek en M – Museum Leuven
Doorlopend	Erfgoedwandelingen

2025 is going to be one big celebration. Our university is marking six centuries of groundbreaking research, inspiring education, and active global engagement. With a variety of events, they aim to spark your curiosity to celebrate this milestone. Prepare to be amazed!

Interested? Follow up on the website www.kuleuven.be/600jaar

Throwback to the Solvency of Financial Institutions course

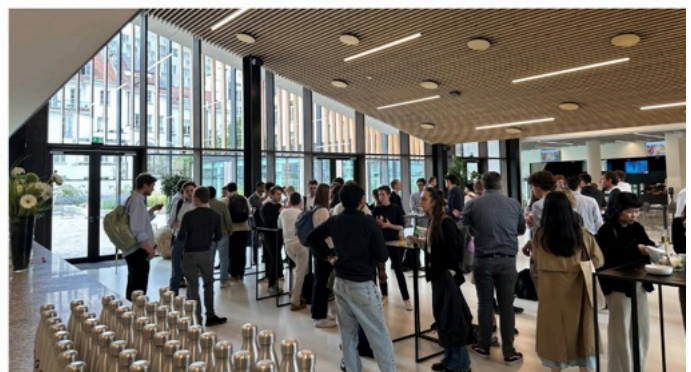
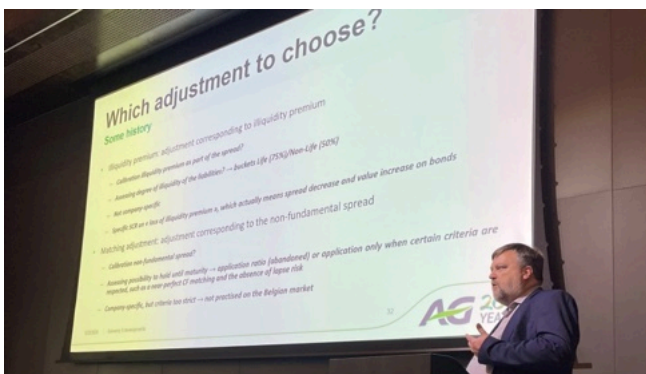
On Thursday May 23 the MAFE students closed the course on Solvency of Financial Institutions with a visit to the AG campus. We are proud of the knowledge and insights we have been able to share with the Leuven students, and the students from Louvain and ULB who took the course as an elective. Bridging the gap between academics and industry, this course has equipped future actuaries with a deeper understanding of the regulatory framework essential for their careers.

Special thanks to our distinguished speakers:

- Saidja Vervaeet and Erwin Van der Sande from KBC for their insightful sessions on capital requirements for banks and insurance companies, shedding light on critical regulatory frameworks.
- Katrien De Cauwer from EY for an in-depth exploration of IFRS and IFRS17, a relevant topic for all actuaries navigating the complexities of financial reporting standards.
- Guido De Pelsemaeker from the Belgian National Bank for providing deep insights into QRT and SFCR reports, essential components in the regulatory landscape.
- AG Insurance for hosting our wrap-up event, and speakers Elien Devolder, Erik Nelis and H el ene De Coninck for their deep dive into the Solvency II review, ensuring we stay at the forefront of industry developments, what matters to companies and how they build tailored solutions for problems they encounter.
- Professor Karel Van Hulle for his comprehensive explanations on the fundamentals of solvency, IFRS, and Basel, with a deep dive into the Solvency II directives.

Their expertise and generosity in sharing knowledge have greatly enriched the course and will undoubtedly benefit our students with their future endeavors in the insurance and financial sector.

The course is evaluated via a system of permanent evaluation, with dedicated tests and assignments after each block of lectures.



35th International Summer School of the Swiss Association of Actuaries

Katrien Antonio was one of the scientific directors of the 35th International Summer School of the Swiss Association of Actuaries. During the week from June 3-7, Katrien together with prof. Michel Vellekoop, prof. Torsten Kleinow, dr. Frank van Berkum (pwc and UvA) and PhD student Jens Robben gave approx. 23 hours of training on the topic of 'modelling and quantifying mortality and longevity risk'. 85 participants from industry and academia, and from different parts of the world came together in Lausanne to enjoy the 35th edition of this summer school with a long and rich tradition. Next year's edition is already announced, see [International Summer School of the Swiss Association of Actuaries | SAA Continuing Professional Education \(saa-iss.ch\)](https://www.saa-iss.ch/)



Actuarial Contact Program with prof. Arthur Charpentier (UQAM, Montreal)

"From contemplative to predictive modeling in actuarial science and risk management."

On Monday June 10 at the Faculty Club; members of the Insurance group, together with actuaries and risk managers from KBC and AG Insurance attended an inspiring lecture by prof. Charpentier who was spending a few weeks in Europe and took the time to visit a few research hubs in actuarial science in Europe (e.g., Leuven, Copenhagen and Stockholm).

Insurance Data Science conference

Katrien Antonio addressed one of the keynotes during the Insurance Data Science conference organized by Stockholm University. A successful event with around 180 participants, from both industry and academia, coming from over 20 countries spread over the different continents. Katrien gave a talk about 'Insights from fine-grained mortality data'. After this keynote the Belgian delegation (with delegates from Louvain and Leuven) supported the Red Devils in their game against Slovakia (without a successful outcome, unfortunately).



A word of our partners

AG Insurance

Inspiring workshops, challenges among colleagues, team-building activities, sports events... Who said a job in the insurance sector was boring? AG is a Top Employer for a reason. Being a market leader and having a warm, dynamic company culture can go hand in hand. Discover some of our opportunities and join us on this adventure!



- [Senior Risk Modeler](#)
- [Senior Non-Life Risk Officer](#)
- [Product Manager Aansprakelijkheid en Rechtsbijstand](#)



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