



Rade Musulin

Title... COO Aon Benfield Analytics Asia Pacific

Organisation... Aon Benfield

Summarise yourself in one sentence...

A guy who has been lucky enough to have lived in a fascinating era in history, found a great Australian wife, travelled the world, and had a most interesting career built on actuarial science

My interesting/quirky hobbies... History

My favourite energetic pursuit... Cycling

The sport I most like to watch... College Basketball, particularly when we were in the middle of 'March Madness' for the NCAA tournament

The last book I read (and when)... *Bones of the Hills* (about the life of Genghis Khan)

My favourite artist/film... *Grateful Dead*, *American Beauty*

The person I'd most like to cook for...
Not something I am keen to do...

I'm most passionate about... Are actuaries allowed to be passionate? I thought we are supposed to be analytical

What gets my goat... Politicians, who keep telling us that $2 + 2 = 8$. When I was a political lobbyist I had to try to reconcile actuarial science with political science, which was quite difficult

I'd like to be brave enough to... Quit working in an office and spend a year as a bartender on the beach

In my life I'm planning to change...
I'll be taking care of my spine after just having had a major spinal fusion operation

Not many people know this but I... had very long hair in high school in 1972 and marched on Washington against the Vietnam War

Four words that sum me up... Better ask my co-workers at Aon about that. I am not good at brevity

What I wanted to be when I grew up... An astronaut

Why and how I became an actuary...

I had no idea what an actuary was when I was in university. I wanted to be a diplomat and went to university to prepare for an International Studies graduate school. I ran out of money before graduate school, but fortunately I had a lot of math credits accumulated when I was trying to get my GPA up. I switched my major to math my senior year as the job prospects looked better. After working in a factory for six months after graduation, I saw an ad for 'mathematicians' and got an actuarial trainee position, even though I had to take a pay cut from my union factory wage. The rest is history...

Where I studied to become an actuary and qualifications obtained...

In the US - where I got an ACAS from the Casualty Actuarial Society. I passed nine exams and was one point from #10 and a FCAS, but since in the US you are qualified to practice with an ACAS I never bothered to finish the last exam. I will take it before I retire

My work history... I started in the Maryland State Government, then spent most of the next 25 years working in the Southern Farm Bureau system in the US, where I held a number of interesting positions, including political lobbyist. Then, because my wife is Australian, I moved to Sydney and took a job in reinsurance

What I find most interesting about my current role... I meet people from all over the global insurance industry

My role's greatest challenges... Working all over Asia, in many different cultures

Who has been the biggest influence on my career (and why)... My former CEO, Robert Jarratt, who I worked with for 17 years. He gave me a lot of responsibility, let me make (and learn from) mistakes, and taught me patience. He obviously had a great deal of patience as he had me as his COO for a long time



My proudest career

achievement to date is... Getting a seat on the American Academy of Actuaries Casualty Practice Council from 2004-2006, where I was Vice Chairman

10 years from now... Alive, I hope. Anything else is fine

When I retire, my legacy will be...

As a non-traditional actuary, working in all sorts of roles, such as media representative, political lobbyist, executive, author, and catastrophe expert

The most valuable skill an actuary can possess is... An ability to communicate; to transform gigabytes of data into sound bites of information

If I was President of the Institute, one thing I would improve is... Place more emphasis on communications and management training. All the technical skills in the world are of no value if you cannot apply them and communicate what you are doing to other people

At least once in their life, every actuary should... Go on TV and do a live interview

My best advice for younger actuaries...
Be well rounded, as you never know what opportunities will materialise in the future

If I could travel back in time I would...
Learn to speak languages other than English

If I win the lottery, I would... Put the money in a blind trust for 15 years and not touch it

