

Advanced Management Course

PARTICIPANTS 13–17 MAY 2024

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PROFILE



James Thomas, Head of Finance, Capricorn Mutual, Australia

I am the Head of Finance Capricorn Risk Division. Capricorn is a non-profit mutual based in Australia and offers market leading protections tailored to the Motor Trades Industry. As Head of Finance, I am responsible for managing the division's finance activities to meet statutory obligations and maximise business performance. Another key part of my role is to ensure the financial performance of the business is well understood by all stakeholders including the Executive Leadership Team, Board of Directors, and Capricorn members.



Kristof Quintyn, Risk Manager, P&V, Belgium

Before joining the P&V Group eight years ago, I had been working as a financial consultant for 7 years focusing on international banking and insurance projects. P&V is a Belgian mutual insurer focusing its business on the domestic market. For the past eight years I have mainly been responsible for regulatory and in-house transversal risk projects from a technical and business point of view (e.g. ORSA, Stress Testing, regulatory reporting). Very recently, I joined the corporate finance team where I will work with the finance department and other departments on strategic projects.



Nathalie Withofs, Chief Product Owner, P&V, Belgium

P&V Group is a Belgian Life and Non-Life insurer, distributing via multiple channels, each having its own brand. As CPO, I am working in the Change and Run part of the organisation. More specifically, with my team of 6 business analysts and power users and in close collaboration with our IT-colleagues, I am responsible for the delivery of the Claims Non-Life projects and run initiatives as agreed in our roadmap. During my 25 years journey in the group, I rotated through different departments and functions: product-marketing, HR project management, DPMO Claims and since March 2023 in my current function. I enjoy exploring and travelling, sharing time and activities with my husband, two grown-up sons, friends and family. I also take pleasure in singing in a choir.



Sandra Budé, Manager Operations Life, P&V, Belgium

I am a purpose-driven manager, get energized from obtaining results with a team and love to try out and start up new things. With over 20 years of extensive experience in the domains of insurance and banking, I have proudly served in various managerial capacities in different companies and the last 5 years within the P&V Group, a leading Belgian insurer. Presently, I hold the role of managing operations in life insurance, steering a team of 60 professionals through a profound digital transformation. Beyond my professional obligations, I enjoy spending time in with my family and friends, wining and dining, playing tennis and travelling. I eagerly anticipate engaging in insightful discourse and inspiring exchange at our forthcoming training.



Bill Lagopoulos, Vice President - Strategic Sourcing, Vendor & Facilities Management, Wawanesa Mutual Insurance, Canada

Bill joined Wawanesa in 2017 and has approximately 20 years of insurance industry experience. As Vice President of Strategic Sourcing, Vendor & Facilities Management, Bill collaborates with executive stakeholders and vendors to mitigate risks, optimize costs, negotiate contracts, manage spend, develop policies and enhance the real estate portfolio. Bill is a financial and risk steward of Wawanesa, as well as a business partner that supports and enables enterprise strategic priorities. Outside of work, Bill and his wife enjoy spending time with family/friends, travelling and attending sports events/concerts/theaters.



Lauren Mazurkewich, Director, Group Insurance - Products & Pricing, Wawanesa Mutual Insurance, Canada

I am the Director for Group Insurance Product & Pricing at Wawanesa Life. Wawanesa Life is a Canadian Life and Health insurer that is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Wawanesa Mutual. I lead a team of highly driven and analytical individuals who are responsible for designing, implementing, pricing, and monitoring the performance of our products. As a leader I am passionate about empowering my team and building creative solutions. Outside of work I enjoy knitting, reading, and playing recreational soccer.



Asbjørn Christensen, VP, Head of Business Finance, LB Forsikring, Denmark

For the past 15 years, I have worked in various insurance companies across the Scandinavian Insurance market, where 10 of them as leader of various functions within Finance, Claims and Sales. At LB, my area of responsibility includes Financial Planning and Analysis, Business Partnering and BI. My vision is to bring Business and Finance closer together to create a better platform for decision making, working together on common goals. I focus my leaderships skill on building bridges, coaching, and creating a way forward. Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my family.

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Rikke Smidt Gellert, Head of Group Legal, LB Forsikring, Denmark

As Head of Group Legal in LB Forsikring I am responsible for the provision of legal advice across the organization on various legal issues. LB Forsikring is Danish non-life insurance company, which currently employs around 900 employees. Our purpose is to make insurance redundant. I am an attorney-at-law with commercial as well as regulatory experience. In my role, I have attention to stakeholder satisfaction through commercial insight and providing specific, solution-oriented advice as well as enhancing competencies and motivation within the legal department. On the private side, I enjoy spending time with my family consisting of my husband and our four children.



Benoît Ballivet de Regloix, Head of FOS International Insurance Programs, IMA, France

IMA (Inter Mutuelles Assistance) is one of the leading french assistance companies, our core business is the roadside assistance but we are also glad to help insureds with home, medical, travel and life assistance services. As a member of the international division of IMA, I am in charge of the insurance programs in Europe. I help our strategic partners to develop new insurance / assistance programs. I am also in charge of the FOS (freedom of service) insurance contracts for IMA Assurances, meaning that I have to make sure that the insurance contracts are profitable in a very high challenging compliancy / regulatory context.



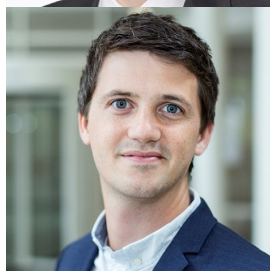
Christian Simon, Claims Manager, R+V, Germany

I have been working for R+V Re, a worldwide operating reinsurer which is part of R+V Versicherung AG, for more than 11 years. With a passion for geoscience and natural hazards, I started my professional career in the NatCat Modeling team in 2013. In 2017 I joined the Claims Department. Since then my responsibilities include the loss estimation of large catastrophes and review of claims from our North America based clients. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and love exploring the world, particularly its wildlife.



Johannes Speicher, Front Office, Manager MENA, R+V, Germany

I am working for R+V Re, which is the reinsurance arm of R+V Insurance. While R+V is a major player on the direct side in the German domestic market, R+V Re operates in the global reinsurance market. We have been growing dynamically in the recent years and are now among the 20 biggest P&C reinsurers worldwide. My function is a team leader for an underwriting unit, which is focusing on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). I started my career 15 years ago as a facultative underwriter and am now working on the obligatory side for P&C business.



Philipp Streibel, Head of Department, R+V, Germany

R+V Re is part of the German mutual insurance company R+V Versicherung - one of Germany's biggest insurers. As Head of Modelling & Applications at R+V Re, I am responsible for our natural catastrophe modelling. We focus on the analysis and modeling of reinsurance contracts with exposure to natural catastrophes. Furthermore, we optimize and support application and tool development for our modelers and actuaries.



Palanisamy Muthusamy, Chief Program Officer, DHAN Foundation, India

Since 1992, I've been deeply immersed in the development sector, focusing on devising and rolling out diverse insurance products. Notably, I've pioneered Mutual Deficit/Excess Rainfall Insurance for key crops like cotton, groundnut, and maize, along with Mutual Pest Insurance for integrated cropping systems. Moreover, I've championed Mutual Crop Income and Livestock Insurance, executed through Farmers Federations' mutual insurance committees. These initiatives serve to fortify farming communities against risks, bolstering their resilience and safeguarding agricultural livelihoods. Under my leadership and guidance, these efforts continue to make a profound impact on the sustainability and prosperity.



Ryosuke Kachi, Manager, Zenkyoren, Japan

Zenkyoren is the largest mutual insurance federation in Japan which focuses on the Agricultural sector. I have worked at Zenkyoren for 21 years and have primarily been managing fixed income investment in a number of Fund Management departments. I became a manager in 2021 and then led the fixed income investment and real estate investment teams in head office. I have now transferred to a subsidiary of Zenkyoren in the UK to work as a Director and I'm responsible for multiple tasks, such as Firm Administration, Asset Management.



Robert de Ruiter, Head of Commerce, Coöperatie Univé, The Netherlands

Univé is 230 year old national mutual insurance organization. It is structured as a franchise in which eight standalone regional Home Insurance Mutuals and general insurance Brokers (so called “regional Univé’s”) work as a group with the central organization. That central organization is host to the Non-Life Insurer, as well as general services such as IT, Commerce, Branding, HR and Compliance. I’m head of the Commerce department at our headquarters in Zwolle (online Marketing, Digital, online Service). I’ve been with Univé since 2006, first as Executive Board Member of one of the Regional Univé’s. I then started as Head of Commerce in 2019, my current position. From September 2023 until April 2024 I combined it with a temporary role as Executive Board member at another regional Univé. I love skiing and hiking in the Alps. During the weekend I will be at the field hockey pitch in Haarlem to coach one of our three daughters (aged 13, 15, 18). I’m now training to run my first half-marathon in June.



Rowena Casinillo, Assistant Compliance Officer (Life), CLIMBS, Philippines

I am Rowena P. Casinillo. Currently, I am the Assistant Compliance Officer for the Life Division. I am handling all compliance related work, checking all policies and guidelines of the company and ensuring that all are in accordance with the Articles and By Laws of the organization. I am also incharge of the preparation and submission of quarterly and annual reports for our regulatory government agency like the Insurance Commission and the Cooperative Development Authority and all other tasks which I am assigned to other than my daily work. I joined CLIMBS last May 14, 2014 and will be celebrating my 10th year this coming May 14, 2024. I am very blessed and grateful for all the opportunity the company has given me as of this day. During my spare time I enjoy watching movies and love mountain climbing.



Ruel Arsua, Assistant Vice President for Administration and Corporate Planning, CLIMBS, Philippines

I serve as the Assistant Vice President for Administration and Corporate Planning at CLIMBS Life and General Insurance Cooperative, a leading Cooperative insurance provider in the Philippines known for its innovative and community-focused insurance solutions. In addition to overseeing critical administrative functions and spearheading corporate strategic initiatives, I also lead the Weather Protect Insurance Project, a pioneering effort by CLIMBS to offer comprehensive parametric weather-related insurance coverage, addressing the unique needs of Cooperatives vulnerable to the Philippines’ dynamic weather conditions. With a keen eye for detail and a forward-thinking approach, I play a vital role in driving the company’s growth and ensuring its offerings are both relevant and impactful in today’s market.



Thebe Ramanna, Senior Actuarial Analyst, African Risk Capacity, South Africa

Thebe is quantitative modelling specialist, who enjoys transforming complex data into comprehensible information. In her professional journey, she has held roles such as Quantitative Analyst II at Wesbank, where she was responsible for producing month-end reporting parameters, guiding modelling data preparation, ensuring regulatory compliance, and fostering stakeholder relationships. Prior to this, as a Model Execution Analyst at ABSA, she performed similar tasks, demonstrating a commitment to excellence and regulatory adherence. She has also contributed significantly as an Actuarial Analyst at Nedbank and a Quantitative Risk Analyst at FEMA, showcasing her multifaceted expertise in risk analysis, reporting, stress testing, and capital surplus distribution. Thebe is a data analysis and visualization enthusiast, with skills in a few programming languages. She holds an Honours degree in Computational and Applied Mathematics from the University of the Witwatersrand.



Liyoni Muditha, Head of Finance, Sanasa Insurance Company, Sri Lanka

I am the Head of Finance at Sanasa Life Insurance Company PLC in Sri Lanka. I have over 9 years’ experience in the industry and more than 15 years of commercial experience. I am a fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka and a member of ACCA. I am married and a mother of a 4-year-old son. I love to spend my leisure time playing with my son, listening to music and travelling.



Åsa Björklund, Head of Administration KPA Pension, Folksam

I represent Folksam and I work in one of the subsidiaries, KPA Pension. We manage pensions for the majority of the local authorities and county councils in Sweden. Our mission is sustainable pension, and my responsibility is administration of pensions and payments on behalf of our customers, with focus on security and efficiency. I have been in this organization since 2015, and in the insurance industry for over 30 years in various positions. Outside of work, I spend time with my family with a lot of focus on sport activities, but also enjoying time in our cottage in the Swedish mountains.



Charlotta Carlberg, CEO Folksam tjänstepension, Folksam, Sweden

Folksam Life is on group level the largest life insurance and pensions company in Sweden. I am CEO of one of the subsidiaries, an occupational pensions company. I have worked in the financial sector for the last 24 years. I have had several different roles, at the Swedish FSA, at the Swedish intermediary association, as stakeholder at OPSG at EIOPA etc. In my present position I have multiple challenges, one of them is getting rid of all old IT-systems and digitalizing the customer experience. Outside of work I love to spend time with family and friends.

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Mats Davidson, Head of Finance, Folksam, Sweden

Folksam is the largest insurance company in Sweden, offering all categories of insurance. We have a long and proud history and have been serving our customers for more than 100 years. I am heading the Finance function at Folksam which encompasses group wide FP&A, Business strategic planning, procurement, and Internal Controls. I report to the CFO and have been with the company since 2018. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my wife and our two children. I am an avid skier and enjoy the outdoors.



Jamie Vooght, Technical Leader, Cornish Mutual, United Kingdom

Cornish Mutual is a rural insurer based in Cornwall, United Kingdom, offering insurance and related services to farmers and the rural community solely in the Southwest of England. I have been with Cornish Mutual for nearly 9 years now in a variety of different positions. In my current role as Technical Leader, I am responsible for ensuring we continue to deliver our enduring purpose of protecting the farming community by driving optimum quality in underwriting, product development and technical training.



Steve Firko, Senior Vice President of Business Development, Loss Control & Customer Service, Pennsylvania Lumbermens Mutual Insurance Company (PLM), United States

Established in 1895 and based in Philadelphia, PA., PLM is America's premier property & casualty insurance company dedicated to serving and protecting the lumber, woodworking and building material industries. Since joining PLM in 2003, Steve has held leadership positions in several areas within PLM including field operations, marketing, loss control, customer service, underwriting, accounting and claims. Prior to PLM, Steve held various management and professional level positions with major multinational insurance companies in marketing, sales, business development and finance. Steve has served on the Board of Directors for Pennsylvania Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (PAMIC) and the State Affairs Committee of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC). He holds a B.S. in Finance from Drexel University, an M.S. in Organizational Dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania and is currently working on a Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designation. Outside of work, Steve enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, skiing, traveling, and cheering on his hometown Philadelphia sports teams.



Steve Prentice, VP Client Insights & Strategy, Thrivent, United States

Thrivent is a Fortune 500 diversified financial services organization, providing advice, investments, insurance, banking, and generosity programs. As Vice President, Client Insights & Strategy, my team and I help re-imagine the potential of Thrivent's most important initiatives through powerful and differentiated client insights-led strategy and innovation. The areas I lead include Research & Insights, Customer Experience, Membership Innovation, and Client Centricity. Before Thrivent, I spent 16 years at Target Corp, and before that I spent a decade in the advertising business. I grew up in Ottawa, Canada and have lived in Minneapolis for the past 24 years with my wife and two children.