

2006

Statistics and Actuarial Science Awards

The Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science is pleased to honor its students, staff, and faculty every year during our Annual Awards Reception. A full copy of all of the award winners is available on our web site at

<http://www.stat.sfu.ca/programs/awards.html>

The Department has 6 major awards:

- The Watson Wyatt Scholarship for students with high standing in Actuarial Science established by the Watson Wyatt Company.
- The Pacific Blue Cross Scholarship for students with high standing in Actuarial Science established by Pacific Blue Cross.
- The Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) award
- The Statistics and Actuarial Science Endowment Awards (three awards) funded by earnings on our departmental endowment fund.

Watson Wyatt Scholarship

Feng Li

This scholarship is awarded annually to a student in an approved Actuarial Science program who has completed ACMA320. It is granted on the basis of academic performance.

Feng Li writes:

When I arrived at Vancouver International Airport as a new immigrant from China a few years ago, I knew nothing about actuary. I got my Bachelor Degree of Engineering in China and worked in computer industry for nearly 10 years, but the new life in Canada just gave me an opportunity to think about a new career. I was looking for a career which can use all of those skills I was very good at: mathematics, computer, and interest with finance a

-op term in retirement department of Mercer Human Resource Consulting. I come to realize the knowledge I studied from our actuarial program is very necessary and useful for me to work in this area. I passed two SOA exams and am going to write two more department and am very excited with further study and research in this fascinating area.

At the end, I must express my sincere gratitude to the professors and staffs in this department who provide me a lot of valuable advices and give me tremendous help. Without their support, I could not go so far. There is still a long way for me to achieve my future career goal as an excellent actuary, therefore I need to

Statistical Society of Canada

(Rina) Meng Jie Wang

The Statistical Society of Canada Award will be presented to an undergraduate student who is a declared major/honors in Statistics and/or Actuarial Science. The criteria for selection for the award are academic merit and a commitment to the mission of the SSC. The SSC is a national organization representing statisticians from across Canada. Its mission is to encourage the development and use of statistics and probability.

To achieve this, the Statistical Society of Canada:

- helps to develop a public awareness of the value of statistical thinking and the importance of statistics and statisticians in Canadian society;
- works to ensure that decisions affecting Canadian society are based on appropriate data and valid statistical interpretation;
- promotes the highest possible standards for statistical education and practice in Canada;
- promotes the development of statistical methodology;
- promotes a sense of community among all statisticians in Canada;
- provides a forum for the exchange of ideas between theoreticians and practitioners of statistics.

This award was generously endowed by the Statistical Society of Canada using proceeds of the net revenue from the SSC Annual Meeting held at Simon Fraser University in 2001.

The Statistical Society of Canada Award will be presented to an undergraduate student who is a declared major/honors in Statistics and/or Actuarial Science. The criteria for selection for the award are academic merit and a commitment to the mission of the SSC.

Rina Wang writes:

I immigrated to Canada about four years ago with my parents after finishing high school in China. I was majoring in Science at high school and Mathematics was my favourite subject. Because of my excellent grades in Mathematics, I was the only teaching assistant in my class for 3 years.

Befo

Ernest E. Livesey Memorial Mathematics Scholarship in 2003. My Mathematics teacher

suggested that I study Mathematics at university. I felt that Statistics, Economics and Finance are all as interesting as Mathematics and I wanted to do something more than pure Math. At the same time, I met Natalia Lysenko, who was my TA and classmate in many courses, and learned about the Actuarial Science program at SFU from her. After some research on Actuarial Science, I believed it would be a good choice for my university study and future career path.

ACMA 310 was my first course in the Actuarial Science program at SFU. I had learnt about interest calculation before, but never thought there could be so many different types of questions about interest and present value calculations. I was amazed by the course and decided to continue studying in Actuarial Science. I have now completed most of the ACMA courses. The ACMA courses were very challenging at the beginning, but soon became very interesting once I understood the concepts behind the formulas. Also thanks to these ACMA courses, I have passed SOA Exams 1 Practice (FAP) modules.

I have been doing my 12-month co-op work term at DA Townley & Associates since May 2005. As the only actuarial student working in the pension department, I have been assisting the actuary on various projects. I got a chance to apply my academic knowledge and analytical skills into real life practice. And more important I have a better idea about what an actuary, especially a pension consultant actuary, does on a daily basis. I expect to come back to school in September for my last semester and then start my professional career as a consultant actuary.

Now in the final year of my undergraduate study, I feel very fortunate to soon graduate with an Actuarial Science degree. And thanks to all of the good professors and classmates I met in the Actuarial Science program, I enjoyed my academic journey at SFU very much. I will continue working in the actuarial industry after graduating and hope to achieve my ASA and FSA destinations within the next 2 years.

Statistics and Actuarial Science Endowment Awards

These awards are presented to students in the major/honor program with high academic standing.

Raymond Chiang

When I first arrived at Port Moody Secondary, I sat at the back of classrooms, knew next to no one, and had serious doubts about the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program. But one day, my math teacher asked us a peculiar question, "Anyone here know what is an actuary?"

I admit the job description did not immediately captivate me. I took note of the title simply because my strength has always been in mathematics and I wanted to make it my career. Nevertheless, I knew the prospect was bleak; as Randy (Dr. Sitter) had bluntly put it, "Math

majors should consider statistics-if you want to eat." Being an actuary seemed like an acceptable compromise at the time.

Ironically, as IB bombarded me with essays, research papers, lab reports, and oral commentaries, I suddenly found myself enjoying the program. I became tight friends with my

**Department of Statistics & Actuarial Science Awards Reception
4:00 p.m., May 23, 2006, K9509**

Undergraduate Awards

Undergraduate Open Scholarships: