

# **2014**

# **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/Graduands

To me, this scholarship serves two purposes. First off, I used this scholarship directly onto matters related to cancer, which is exactly the purpose of the establishment of the scholarship. Second, I maintained a CGPA of 4.18 and I consider it a reward for my hard work. I intend to maintain a high standard on my academics in the future, where the scholarship provides me with great motivation.

I sincerely appreciate D.A. Townley & Associates' contribution to this scholarship. This fund has helped a person who is currently suffering from cancer and let me keep the promise to help my aunt. I shall also thank the instructors for their advice in the Statistical and Actuarial Science Department. Without their suggestions, I would not have such a clear vision of my future.

### **Yu (Wayne) Wang writes:**

I am a newly admitted Actuarial Science student, and this is my third year at Simon Fraser University. I chose a double major in Actuarial Science and Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. It is a great honor for me to be the recipient of the April Allen Scholarship for the 2013 – 2014 academic year. It will remarkably reduce the financial burden on me as an international student, and allow me to fully focus on my education.

My life has been affected by cancer since I was in high school, my grandfather had been diagnosed with liver cancer at the age of 86, and after one year of a series of radiation treatments and surgery, he passed away six years ago. I can't describe how much pain and burden I went through at that time. I was even more affected by the disease when my best friend's mother was touched by breast cancer three years ago; I heard the grievous news two days before I left my hometown for university. Besides those experiences with close friends 001540.2

In addition to achieving my targets at Mercer, my professional goals for the coming months are to obtain my ASA designation by completing the FAP FA and the APC. Concurrently, I will also begin the FSA retirement track modules.

---

## **Pacific Blue Cross Scholarship**

### **Shuai (Alex) Yang**

One Pacific Blue Cross Scholarship in Actuarial Science will be made available in any semester, based on academic merit, to a 3rd or 4th year student with a declared major in Actuarial Science.

### **Shuai (Alex) Yang writes:**

Firstly, I would like to give my appreciation to the PBC (Pacific Blue Cross) insurance company for funding this scholarship. In addition, I am so glad that for the second time my hard work is recognized. I am delighted to be the recipient of the PBC scholarship for the year 2014.

Three years ago, I came to SFU as an international student to start my undergraduate studies. At that time, I made my decision to pursue actuarial science, which is closely related to mathematics, both highly applicable. Two years ago I was admitted to the actuarial science program. Like others, I joined the actuarial science group full of ambition and curiosity. After two years of hard work I find actuarial science more and more fascinating and attractive. More importantly, I met many brilliant professors who gave me countless amounts of help, especially Dr. Cary Tsai and Dr. Gary Parker. I keep saying to myself, I made the right decision to study actuarial science at SFU.

With everything I have learnt I have successfully completed all of the preliminary exams offered by the SOA. This is a relief for me, but only in the short term; moreover, it indicates a new start. I am going to the University of Waterloo to do my graduate study in actuarial science this coming fall. Besides graduate school, my plans for the coming year are to start and finish the FAP (Fundamentals of Actuarial Practice) Modules, and then get the ASA (Associate of the Society of Actuaries) credential. With the PBC scholarship I will be able to pay for the FAP fees myself.

Last but not the least I would like to say thank you to the donor of this scholarship, PBC, that recognized my academic performance and provides me with this financial support. I will keep working hard and I believe my interest in actuarial science will keep growing!

---

## **R. Bruce Coles Memorial Scholarship**

### **Evan Thompson – Jing Wang**

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.

=====

# Statistics and Actuarial Science Endowment Awards

## Award to Recognize the Statistical Society of Canada

### Sonja Surjanovic

This award is offered to an undergraduate student who is a declared major/honors in Statistics and/or Actuarial Science and who is promoting Statistics and Probability. The criteria for selection for the award are academic merit and a commitment to the mission of the Statistical Society of Canada (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.

### **Sonja Surjanovic writes:**

Growing up in a mathematical family, I always valued the importance of quantitative reasoning. I counted everything, from the number of steps it took to get home from my elementary school, to the proportion of hours per week that were spent learning mathematics (it was never enough). Mathematics was always my favourite

words are synonyms of each other). The two terms provided me with the opportunity to experience graduate student life, and have motivated me to pursue graduate studies.

Although I no longer count the number of steps between home and school, I have the privilege of being surrounded by statistical thinking in my academic life. I look forward to expanding my knowledge and understanding of statistics in the future. The elegance and potential of this field are what keep me so keenly interested.

## **Academic Merit Award**

### **Hao Chu – Hongshi (Jenny) Li – Mengyi Li – Yufeng Qi – Lu Yi**

This award is offered to students who are registered honors or major students in Actuarial Science or Statistics. The primary criterion for selection is academic merit.

#### **Hongshi (Jenny) Li writes:**

My name is Hongshi Li, an international student from China. This is my first semester studying the Actuarial Science program in the Statistics and Actuarial Science department. I was determined to major in Actuarial Science since the day I entered SFU. After taking the course of Mathematics of Compound Interest, I discovered that I liked this field and set being an actuary as my career goal. So now, besides the coursework, I am also studying for the Society of Actuaries professional exams. I will write the Probability test in two months.

In my spare time, I often tutor high school and college students to help them with their math and statistics courses. I have a good academic standing and a natural ability to answer questions clearly, and I really enjoy helping others.

I know I still have a long way to go before becoming an actuary, but I will try my best to make my dream come true.

#### **Lu Yi writes:**

**Department of Statistics & Actuarial Science Awards/Graduands Reception  
June 11, 2014, 1:30pm, K9509**

**Undergraduate Awards**

**Undergraduate Open Scholarship:**

Bo Chen 1137  
Xuheng Chen 1137  
Mengting Ding 1134,1141  
Yee Wai Kwan 1141  
Jiarong Li 1134,1137,1141  
Mengyi Li 1137,1141  
Zachary Monteith 1137  
Braden Rustand 1137,1141  
William Ruth 1137,1141  
Evan Thompson 1137  
Jing Wang 1134,1141  
Yu Wang 1137,1141  
Yueren Wang 1134  
Di Wu 1141  
Xia Xie 1134  
Suai (Alex) Yang 1137,1141  
Yushu Ye 1137,1141  
Jason Yee 1137  
Lu Yi 1134,1137  
Di Yu 1141  
Weiran Yuchi 1134,1137,1141  
Yuwen Zhai 1141

**IB Entrance Excellence Scholarship:**

Yeon Kyung Park 1137,1141

**International Summit Transfer Scholarship:**

Hongshi Li 1134,1137  
Di Wu 1134

**International Academic Excellence Scholarship:**

Arthur Gichinga 1137

**International Co-operative Education Award:**

Jingjiao He 1134  
Dan Qing Li 1134

**Wes Sydor Memorial Co**

## **Graduate Awards**

### **Special Graduate Entrance Scholarship:**

Bingying (Doris) Li

### **Randy Sitter Annual Graduate Scholarship in Statistics & Actuarial Science:**

Jack Davis 1141

### **President's PhD Scholarship:**

Shirin Golchi 1141

Harsha Perera 1141

### **Travel Minor Research Award:**

Rajitha Silva 1144

### **SSC Travel Award 2014:**

Audrey Beliveau

Abdollah Safari

**Graduands 1134-1141**

***Undergraduate Graduands:***

**Actuarial Science Honours:**

Yongtao Chen

**Actuarial Science Major:**

Brendan Engle