

2016

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/people/awards.html>

The Department has 5 major awards:

The April Allen Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship for students with high standing in Actuarial Science established by T.A. Townley & Associates to honor the spirit of April Allen.

The Towers Watson Scholarship for students with high standing in Actuarial Science established by the Towers Watson Company.

The Pacific Blue Cross Scholarship for students with high standing in Actuarial Science established by Pacific Blue Cross.

Aon R. Bruce Coles Memorial Scholarship in Actuarial Science.

The Statistics and Actuarial Science Endowment Awards funded by earnings on our departmental endowment fund.

April Allen Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Kelly Sutanto Mandeep Uppal

This scholarship is awarded annually to students within their first year of being admitted into one of the Actuarial Sciences programs who demonstrate excellence in academic performance and exhibit potential for success in the actuarial science field. Preference is given to students who have personally been affected by cancer and/or have demonstrated leadership and/or service to an organization involved in cancer research and care. It was established by D.A. Townley & Associates to honor the spirit of April Allen.

Kelly Sutanto writes:



Currently, I just finished my second term in the actuarial science program and I never felt more grateful than getting accepted into the program that I hoped for. I was honoured to receive the April Allen Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship for this academic year, provided by D.A. Townley & Associates.

I heard about actuarial science for the first time during high school. All I heard was that this major is mainly about math and calculation. Curious about the actuarial profession, I did some research and I found out that leadership is an important trait in actuaries. For instance, actuaries who become Chief Risk Officers will need to demonstrate

vision and mission. Besides my passion for math, I am also interested in managing people. Currently, I am

president of the SFU Indonesian Association and a cell group leader for the Indonesian Catholic Society. Being a leader, I learn to coordinate and cooperate with people that have different personalities, improve effective communication skills, solve problems within team, and improve networking skills.

My big brother was diagnosed with Chondroblastic Osteosarcoma in May 2015. He has been receiving cancer treatments extensively since last year and this has been a shocking turnaround in my very own family. Seeing my brother patiently fight the disease, I am encouraged to strive harder in the actuarial science program in order to maintain good grades so I will not disappoint my family.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to D.A. Townley & Associates for the scholarship. The April Allen Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship gives me opportunities to defray expenses as well as to drive me to improve my performance in the actuarial science program and in my leadership activities. I would also like to thank instructors in the Statistic and Actuarial Science Department for their guidance in assisting my achievement in the program.

Mandeep Uppal writes:



It is a tremendous honour to be the recipient of the April Allen Undergraduate Memorial Scholarship. I am a business administration student, concentrating in finance and double majoring in Actuarial Science, who aspires to be an Actuary. My academic performance and leadership initiatives, in relation to cancer awareness, have shaped the person I am today and provide a strong base to parlay into success in the future.

My grandmother, who had lung cancer, and my grandmother, who currently has breast cancer, I am continually motivated to raise awareness and money for cancer research. I raise awareness

I have posted on Facebook and Instagram to foster support for my Movember profile. This past year, I took an innovative approach and grew my beard for a full year leading up to November so that I could stimulate more people to join the cause. With exposure to over 1000 people on social media, I was successful in getting others to assume my role. My Movember profile consists of pictures, from throughout the years, and has provided an opportunity for people to donate to the cause.

Cancer can occur at any time and leave families with hardships, which I have witnessed, but I believe a cure is possible. I am excelling in my studies and pursuing a career as an Actuary. My academic successes include achieving a 4.0 GPA while balancing part-time work and athletic commitments, and maintaining an above 4.0 Upper Division GPA.

These successes have transferred over to professional experience through roles as a Teaching Assistant and Analyst. As a Teaching Assistant, I leverage my statistical knowledge to assist students, leading to better performance on assignments. To further supplement my choice of career path, I attained a position as an Analyst for the Beedie Endowment Asset Management (BEAM) fund. This undergraduate fund is one of the largest, \$5 million, strictly student-run funds and provides an excellent opportunity to improve my analytical skills as well as learn financial modelling and risk assessment.

I sincerely thank D.A. Townley & Associates for funding this scholarship. This award pushes me to further succeed in my studies and attain the FCIA designation. I have completed my VEE corporate finance and economics courses and have exemptions for exam FM. I plan to write exam P this summer and have a partial

Di Wu

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

Philippa Swartz

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.

Philippa Swartz writes:

Throughout my adolescence I was a competitive highland dancer, and my dad and I often bonded by

(mostly looking for patterns in the judging) my curiosity for statistics was sparked.

This carried on when I was in high school, at that point my dad and I would plot my racing times (when I competed in cross-country). Thus, when the time came to pick my major for applying to SFU it was no surprise I chose statistics.

During my past few years and applications within statistics. I completed NSERCs with Professor Derek Bingham as well as Professor Joan Hu. I was also able to get involved with a project with Professor William Sheel (UBC) through Dr.

Graduate Awards

Special Graduate Entrance Scholarship:

Trevor Thomson 1157

Matthew van Bommel 1157

Shijia Wang 1157

Steven Wu 1157

CD Nelson Memorial Graduate Entrance Scholarship:

Shijia Wang 1157-1194