

2007-2008 April Allen Undergraduate Memorial Scholarship

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.

Kuan Chiao Wang (Joe)

I am very honoured to be the recipient of the April Allen Memorial Scholarship this year. Two years ago, as I was on highway 97 toward Fort Nelson with my partner, I could not imagine that I would be the actuarial science student I am today.

I used to work as an insurance associate in American Income Life Canada, which promotes the insurance coverage designed specifically for union members and their families. In order to serve all the union members across the province of B.C., I often needed to travel with my colleagues to different cities that I have never heard of.

During those trips, I had experience struggling with the heavy blizzards on the highway. Furthermore, I had met people with all kinds of jobs: doctors, plumbers, lumber camp loggers, truck drivers, etc. More importantly, they all faced different situations in their daily lives: single, married, single parent, or big family. For me, it especially opened my eyes, when our family immigrated to Canada for only a few years, the circle of people we interacted with was relatively limited. I have met families interested in health coverage for their children but could not afford the premium. I have also met families that lost their provider who had no insurance, and the family had to face serious financial burdens immediately. I realized the mortality tables were not just numbers, but they can impact people's lives. Insurance is more than calculating the premiums and possible net present values for an annuity; more importantly it offers peace of mind. I feel fortunate that I am able to study actuarial science now. Not only because I like problem solving, but also I know I can help many people who I might not have a chance to meet.

Furthermore, I was a volunteer nurse assistant in the emergency registration department of Jen-Ai municipal Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan, and my main duty was to measure and record the blood pressure, ear temperature and pulse rate when the patients visited the ER. In case that where the nurses were too busy, I was responsible to provide help with miscellaneous tasks, such as transferring patients from ER to the other departments.

While I have completed several classes in actuarial science and statistics, I have also passed Society of Actuary (SOA) exams P, and completed the economics courses that satisfy the SOA's Validation of Education Experience (VEE) course requirements. Now during my spare time, I have been tutoring students for first and second year mathematics, chemistry and physics as my part-time job. I am planning to take exam FM and MLC this year. In addition, I hope that in the future I will be able to excel at the knowledge Ms. Sanders, Dr. Tsai and Dr. Parker passed on to me and enjoy my journey as an actuary.