

2012-2013 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.

Charles (Jonathan) Royalty writes:

As I enter my second year in the Actuarial Science program at Simon Fraser University, I am honoured to be the recipient of the April Allen Scholarship for the 2012/2013 academic year. It will be a great help in allowing me to focus on my actuarial studies instead of having to seek unrelated employment to cover tuition.

My life has been touched by cancer since a young age, because my dad had lymphatic endothelioma when he was young and the surgery to clean up dead tissue after the radiation treatment had left a large scar under his arm. That scar was a constant reminder every time we went to the swimming pool, or similar activities, that cancer was real and something to be cautious about.

Besides those experiences while growing up, my grandmother also dealt with ovarian cancer, which was caught early before it spread and serious consequences were prevented because of that. Recently a family friend has been facing a long, terminal, bout with treatment-resistant breast cancer that has metastasized into most of her major organs. These two instances in people close to me have helped reinforce how important routine screenings are to ensure that a growing cancer doesn't slip past someone without a chance to respond, and how critical early response is. These reminders have also served to keep the reality of cancer close to the forefront of my mind, and to keeps me aware that cancer can, and often does, affect anyone.

As I complete my Actuarial Sciences degree and move into my career, I hope that the responsibilities I take on will give my voice added weight when I encourage people to ensure they are protected from financial collapse due to unexpected events, including cancer, and to seek appropriate health screenings to help prevent catastrophe whenever possible.