

## **2013-2014 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.

### **Chong (Tommy) Cao writes:**

I am a second degree student studying Actuarial Science and I am enjoying my second term here at SFU in a family like study environment. Instructors in the department are so helpful in providing the information needed to achieve success in my field of study. I have never experienced such a helpful environment in my previous academic life. I graduated as a distinguished student in Mathematics as my first degree from where my high rankings in math competitions were recognized. I have at that time determined that Actuarial Science was the way to go because of the intense competition.

My aunt is currently suffering from extensive, multifocal bone metastases. Treatments at this time are of limited use, and my family is doing the best to let her enjoy her life. When I learned about the April Allen Scholarship, I thought it a great opportunity to do my part to help a family member who has been helping me by applying for the scholarship. I promised my auntie that upon reception of the scholarship, she can use all of it for her treatment related expenses. Now that I received the scholarship, I kept my promise and let my aunt have it all.

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.