

## **2008-2009 R. Bruce Coles Memorial Scholarship**

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.

### **Christine Lee**

Whenever I mentioned that my two older sisters also studied in Actuarial Science in SFU, almost everyone would think that mathematics was my family's genetic strength. However, my interest in the actuarial science field was dramatically enhanced when I took my first fundamental Actuarial Science course, ACMA 210. After a solid start from ACMA 210, what followed was the most challenging course I have ever taken, ACMA 320. Frankly, I was panicked during the first midterm, but I knew it could happen from the moment I decided to be an actuary. I must commit to this field and face the challenges. At the end, it turned out to be an impressive and promising result.

Education has always been an important aspect of my life. With my keen enthusiasm in this field, I have passed the SOA Exam P, FM, MLC and MFE. My pursuit for educational excellence has also helped me achieve the high grade in various actuarial and statistics classes.

Although education plays a significant role in my life, I considered practical experiences to be just as important. In the past two years, I have been working as a co-op student at four prominent Actuarial companies in Toronto. My employment experience includes working at Mercer and Towers Perrin, where I worked in the Health and Benefits department and Retirement department, respectively. I also worked in the Affinity Markets Valuation team at Manulife Financial and the Actuarial Consulting Group at Sun Life Financial. Finally, I was employed as a statistics workshop teaching assistant and marker in summer 2007. During the fall 2008, I worked as a teaching assistant and marker for ACMA 210. Although it was a busy semester, because I was taking five core courses at the same time, I enjoyed helping and assisting students who faced the same challenges as I did two years ago.

The main goal throughout my educational endeavours is to keep learning to learn well. Upon the completion of my Actuarial Science undergraduate degree, I would like to pursue a Masters degree in this area. It is my pleasure to be selected as a recipient of the R. Bruce Coles Memorial Scholarship. This award gives me a strength to face future challenges. I am confident that my actuarial knowledge, extensive job experience, strong academic background and commitment to this career will lead me to a successful future as an actuary.