

# 2005-2006 Statistical Society of Canada Endowment Award

## (Rina) Meng Jie Wang

The [Statistical Society of Canada](#) Award will be presented to an undergraduate student who is a declared major/honors in Statistics and/or Actuarial Science. [The criteria for selection for the award are academic merit and a commitment to the mission of the SSC.](#)

Rina Wang writes:

I immigrated to Canada about four years ago with my parents after finishing high school in China. I was majoring in Science at high school and Mathematics was my favourite subject. Because of my excellent grades in Mathematics, I was the only teaching assistant in my class for 3 years.

Before coming to SFU, I took the first year's university transfer courses at Langara College. I got straight A+'s in Mathematics, Statistics and Economics courses, and received the Ernest E. Livesey Memorial Mathematics Scholarship in 2003. My Mathematics teacher suggested that I study Mathematics at university. I felt that Statistics, Economics and Finance are all as interesting as Mathematics and I wanted to do something more than pure Math. At the same time, I met Natalia Lysenko, who was my TA and classmate in many courses, and learned about the Actuarial Science program at SFU from her. After some research on Actuarial Science, I believed it would be a good choice for my university study and future career path.

ACMA 310 was my first course in the Actuarial Science program at SFU. I had learnt about interest calculation before, but never thought there could be so many different types of questions about interest and present value calculations. I was amazed by the course and decided to continue studying in Actuarial Science. I have now completed most of the ACMA courses. The ACMA courses were very challenging at the beginning, but soon became very interesting once I understood the concepts behind the formulas. Also thanks to these ACMA courses, I have passed SOA Exams 1 – 4 already and I'm currently starting the Fundamentals of Actuarial Practice (FAP) modules.

I have been doing my 12-month co-op work term at DA Townley & Associates since May 2005. As the only actuarial student working in the pension department, I have been assisting the actuary on various projects. I got a chance to apply my academic knowledge and analytical skills into real life practice. And more important I have a better idea about what an actuary, especially a pension consultant actuary, does on a daily basis. I expect to come back to school in September for my last semester and then start my professional career as a consultant actuary.

Now in the final year of my undergraduate study, I feel very fortunate to soon graduate with an Actuarial Science degree. And thanks to all of the good professors and classmates I met in the Actuarial Science program, I enjoyed my academic journey at SFU very much. I will continue working in the actuarial industry after graduating and hope to achieve my ASA and FSA destinations within the next 2 years.