

2008-2009 Statistical Society of Canada Endowment Award

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.](#)

Jing Cai

Thank you for selecting me as the recipient of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science Award. I am very happy and honored to receive this award.

Ever since I was a child, I have always been fascinated by numbers. After I graduated with my first degree (which was not related to math at all) and worked for a couple of years, I realized I am more interested in working with data. Data always amazes me with its possibility to reveal so much information. After my immigration to Canada I was finally able to step into the world of statistics. I took all the statistics courses and advanced math courses offered at Langara College and obtained impressive grades. Because of this, I received the Ernest E. Livesey Memorial Mathematics Scholarship in 2007. Further, the knowledge I gained enhanced my decision in working in the field of statistics.

I transferred to SFU in 2007 to work on my big dream. Although not sure what exactly Actuarial Science was, I took STAT 330, 350 and ACMA 210. These courses opened my eyes. I never thought about applying what I had learned to real life cases could be so much fun. How much money I can borrow now for buying a house? How did ICBC calculate my insurance? I helped my parents to understand 'study' reports in newspapers could be misleading without revealing their assumptions. I helped my friends understand what the role of insurance in an investment is. I found it extremely fascinating to use my knowledge to help people around me.

I am taking STAT 402, 410 and ACMA 320, 315 this semester to gain deeper understanding in both Statistics and Actuarial Science. Starting from summer this year, I am planning to apply to be a TA or become a tutor. I would like to help more people understand data and enjoy using data to improve their work or life.