

2011-2012 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.](#)

Jeffrey Ting writes:

I wanted to first and foremost, thank the Statistical Society of Canada for selecting me as the 2011-2012 recipient of their award.

Four years ago, upon graduating from the University of Toronto, I returned to Vancouver where I ended up on the coaching staff of the eventual 2009 BC Boys High School Basketball Champion, St. George's Saints' Varsity Basketball Team. As the head coach, Brian Lee, was an old friend, I agreed to join his staff for the season to conduct statistical analysis for his team. Over the course of the season, it became increasingly apparent just how much I enjoyed working with raw data and turning it into actionable information for the rest of the coaches. Not long after the season ended, I found myself admitted to SFU to pursue my second degree, this time, in Statistics.

Now, three years later, I graduate from Simon Fraser University and set to begin the next chapter of my life as a Master's student in Statistics at Purdue University. With this in mind, I treat this award as recognition of all those around me who helped me get to where I am.

Over the last three years, the Statistics department at SFU has naturally made a significant impact as each professor I have had has prepared me for what lies ahead. As the SSC Award seeks to, among other things, promote high standards of statistical education and practice, my ability to satisfy this requirement is thanks to the wonderful people in the department. In particular, I wanted to thank Robin Insley for his help as the undergraduate advisor as well as, most recently, the supervisor of the Statistics Workshop where I had the opportunity to be a Teaching Assistant during my last semester.

Of course, my education would not be complete without the fellow students that I spent many hours studying with. In particular, I wanted to recognize Best Guo and Simon Mak, both Actuarial Science majors, for their collaboration (but mostly, patience) with me over the past several years. I am confident that they both have bright futures ahead of them in their fields. Without a doubt, my academic merit to justify receiving this award would not exist without their help.

I would also like to thank the Athletics Department at SFU for employing me as the statistician for the majority of NCAA teams located on campus which allowed me to maintain a connection to sports statistics during my time at SFU. Lastly, the biggest thanks again, goes to Brian Lee for his unwavering support and encouragement over the years to pursue my dream and for his acting skills in pretending to understand what I was talking about when I tried to explain statistical methods to him.