

2004-2005 Statistics and Actuarial Science Endowment Award

These awards are presented to students in the major/honor program with high academic standing.

Xiao Lu Wang

More than three years ago, I came to Vancouver from Dalian, a small, but very beautiful city located on the northeast coast of China. My high school courses in China were focused on mathematics, physics, and chemistry. My favorite subject of the three is mathematics. Right before graduation, I was thinking over my career path. I heard about actuarial science from a friend of my parents. After some research about it, I decided to come to Canada to pursue my university study, instead of going to University in China.

I started in SFU in January 2002. At that time, actuarial science is still a very small program in our school, and most students are still wondering what is actuarial science. But as we all see now, three years later, the program has grown dramatically in both size and quality. At the same time, more and more people are getting to realize what an actuary is.

During my three year study in SFU, most of the courses I took were actuarial mathematics, statistics and finance. By the study, not only did I master the professional knowledge, but I also got to learn the way the whole financial market behaves. I enjoy my university study, especially finding out the financial world in depth using the tool of mathematics. I have finished SOA exam 1 to 4, and currently I am preparing for Course 6 in May, 2005.

I did my first co-op term at Pacific Blue Cross. Currently, I am doing my next eight month co-op term at Mercer Human Resource Consulting, Toronto. I feel the co-op working experience is very valuable for students before they start their career. From various experience in firms with different style, I have a better understanding of myself. I got to know what I need to improve now as a new graduate, and an international student working in a consulting firm, with English as the second language. Now I have a clear picture of how it is like to work as an actuary, and I found my interest in it. Also, I mastered the basic skills to work as an actuary. I expect to go back to school for my last academic semester in fall this year, and then start my professional job.

I was 19 years old when I came to Canada with all the dreams, and now I am 22 years old. I feel myself very fortunate to find out what I want to become by my university study. Of course, I will face a lot of difficulties in my future work. However, I believe that as long as I have a strong heart to face and overcome them, my dream will finally realize