

## **2004-2005 Statistics and Actuarial Science Endowment Award**

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

### **Yew-Wei Lim**

I was originally a computing science major but made the switch to Statistics when I realize that is what I am passionate about. I did complete the Certificate in Computing Studies before making the switch, and this credential will complement very well with a Statistics degree and a certificate in actuarial science.

While working as a computer programmer fulltime, I started enrolling in SFU computing science courses in the evening. Through the years, I have tried philosophy, computing science, mathematics, statistics and actuarial mathematics courses – and I can say that Statistics is what I enjoy doing most, and actuarial science comes as a close second. It is a major decision for me to quit my fulltime job to be a fulltime student. I am hoping that will speed up my mid-career change from computing to the field of statistics.

My transition to Statistics is not exactly smooth. My father in Singapore fell seriously ill late last year and I had to make frequent trips to Singapore to visit and handle studies at the same time. My father passed away in March this year, and it felt as if the world has collapsed. I was surprised at how caring the SFU community is when instructors wrote to console me and to send their sympathy. It was then when I realize I am very fortunate to be a part of SFU.

Ten years ago, when I took my first actuarial science course at SFU, I was very keen on being an actuary and even wrote to the Canadian Institute of Actuaries for advice. I was disheartened then by the length of time it takes to attain fellowship with SOA. Although I have a promising career in computer science, my aspirations is in the field of Statistics and Actuarial Science. It takes me ten years to realize that and I don't wish to wait another ten years to regret not giving my best to pursue my ambition.

I should graduate in another 5 semesters. My dream is to pursue a Masters degree in Statistics after this and then teach. I think I will make a good Statistics or mathematics instructor. I hope to make learning Statistics fun and interesting.