

## **2005-2006 Statistics & Actuarial Science Endowment Award**

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

### **Yi Zhang**

Almost three years ago, I made a very important decision in my life and I left Beijing for Vancouver Canada with excitement, expecting to get a better education in a Canadian university.

I started my study at SFU in Jan. 2004. I surprisedly found that there are so many academic programs and courses at SFU for students to choose. However, at the very beginning, I was simply not sure which subject and program I should choose as my major. I liked Mathematics very much in both my junior and senior high school's studies and always got good grades. Therefore, having a rough idea that I should choose a program which is closely related to mathematics but also applicable in our daily life, I selected most of my courses in Math and Statistics.

The first time I heard about Actuarial Science was when a friend of mine showed me the web-site of "be an actuary.org" and the words "career without boundaries" aroused my interest immediately. So I could not help looking into it in more details. The more I searched, the more I felt interested in it. And I finally realized that Actuarial Science was just what I was looking for. However, at first, I felt a little bit hesitated to apply to go into the Actuarial Program, because I had heard that the Actuarial Science Program at SFU is quite good, but very competitive. Particularly its ACMA courses are very challenging and difficult to learn. But still, my great interest in the subject pushed me forward. So I started to fill out all the required courses of the Actuarial Science program. Even though some of the courses proved to be very difficult and tough, and sometimes even let me feel frustrated, I still strove for further progress and best result as possible.

In the spring semester 2006, luckily enough, I was accepted into Actuarial Major Program with an outstanding GPA. The actuarial science study has proved to be very challenging, fascinating and very fruitful to me. I really enjoy the academic discussions about material and difficult problems in Actuarial courses and Statistics, which I should say benefited me a great deal. Along with my studies, I am getting to have a clearer picture of how it is like to work as an actuary and I have found my interest in this profession increasing day by day.

Of course, I know Actuarial Science is by no means an easy major, it needs great diligence and devotion. And to become a qualified actuary, there is still a long way for me to go. I know I will have to face the increasing difficulty of the course materials and have to overcome a lot of difficulties in my future study and work. However, I firmly believe that as long as I continue to study and work hard, I shall finally reach my goal one day in future.