

# **2015-2016 Statistics & Actuarial Science Endowment Award**

## **Academic Merit Award**

This award is offered to students who are registered honors or major students in Actuarial Science or Statistics. The primary criterion for selection is academic merit.

### **Yu (Wayne) Wang writes:**

My interest in statistics started with a short trip and a rental car. The summer before I enrolled in university, I rented a vehicle from a car-sharing company and was surprised that the company offered car pick-up near my neighborhood and drop-off at my trip's destination. Although this may sound strange, it made me wonder how such companies were able to allocate cars, satisfy customers' needs, and keep the business profitable. I wanted to know more.

So it was no surprise that I chose business as my major when I began my undergraduate studies at Simon Fraser University. During my first year, I took a two-course sequence in Data and Decision, which covered the techniques most car-sharing companies use for resource allocation – statistical estimations and optimizations. I realized, after I completed the two-course sequence, that transferring to the statistics department would be the best way for me to pursue my passion in statistical analysis. The change enabled me to take advanced courses in Mathematical Statistics, Actuarial Mathematics, and Bayesian Statistics, which were of great interest to me.

Now I will be completing my final year at SFU with an expected degree in Actuarial Science. Throughout my four years at SFU, my passion for statistics has grown exponentially. I am now equipped with a strong foundation and the ability to utilize my analytical skills to solve real world problems. Last summer, I completed a USRA research term, working with Dr. Jinko Graham on statistical genetics, and I found the research to be extremely interesting. This invaluable experience not only gave me the opportunity to work on a real life statistical project that helps society, but it also motivated me to pursue graduate studies in the field.

I have come a long way from the time when a short trip and rental car inspired my interest in this field of study, and the depth of my interest has only grown throughout my undergraduate career. I am more than ready to take this next step in my educational journey.