

2009-2010 Watson Wyatt Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded annually to a student in an approved Actuarial Science program who has completed ACMA320. It is granted on the basis of academic performance.

Phillip Jang

I am currently in my fourth year at Simon Fraser University in both the Actuarial Science Honors and Statistics Honors programs. I have so far completed four of the preliminary exams from the Society of Actuaries (P, FM, MLC, and MFE) and plan to take Exam C this May. I am also currently working as a teaching assistant in the Simon Fraser Statistics Workshop.

I came across the actuarial career late in high school when my counselor introduced me to the field. Thinking the career was a good fit for my skills, I decided to go to Simon Fraser University, and the deeper I went into the Actuarial Science program, the more I was intrigued to become an actuary. I would like to thank the people of Towers Watson for their generous sponsorship of my education. I am able to better progress with my education without worrying about my current financial situation.

The year 2009 was a very busy year which began with a COOP placement at Westcoast Actuaries Inc., which is a consulting company specializing in Individual Pension Plans, a type of defined benefit plan. It was very interesting to see the applications and implementations of what I studied and to get a glimpse at the role of the actuary. Seeing pension plans live, rather than through a book has made me better appreciate what I have learned in my studies.

The fall semester I had to manage my time well between six upper division courses and two SOA exams. I simultaneously passed Exam MLC and Exam MFE in November with scores of 9 and 10 respectively. I have also taken several advanced math courses in the past year to push the limits of my intellect, and participated in the Putnam Mathematics Competition (A 12-question 6-hour undergraduate math exam with a usual median score of 0 or 1 out of 120) in December. I managed to solve one question on the exam, scoring 10 points.

I would like to thank my friends, my family, and the people of Simon Fraser University for all of their support, and my professors for sharing their knowledge and fascinating experiences. It is an honor to be considered for the Watson Wyatt Scholarship, and I give my fullest gratitude to my sponsors at Towers Watson. I look forward to all the challenges that lie ahead, and I am ready to continue giving it my all. Bring it on!