

2016

Statistics and Actuarial Science Awards

The Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science is pleased to honor its students, staff, and faculty every year during our Annual Awards Reception. A full copy of all of the award winners is available on our web site at

<http://www.stat.sfu.ca/people/awards.html>

The Department has 5 major awards:

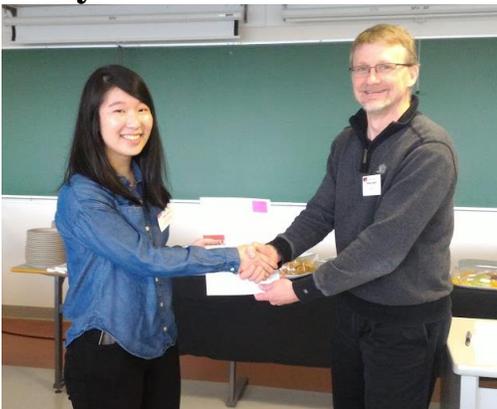
- The April Allen Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship for students with high standing in Actuarial Science established by T.A. Townley & Associates to honor the spirit of April Allen.
- The Towers Watson Scholarship for students with high standing in Actuarial Science established by the Towers Watson Company.
- The Pacific Blue Cross Scholarship for students with high standing in Actuarial Science established by Pacific Blue Cross.
- Aon R. Bruce Coles Memorial Scholarship in Actuarial Science.
- The Statistics and Actuarial Science Endowment Awards funded by earnings on our departmental endowment fund.

April Allen Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Kelly Sutanto – Mandeep Uppal

This scholarship is awarded annually to students within their first year of being admitted into one of the Actuarial Sciences programs who demonstrate excellence in academic performance and exhibit potential for success in the actuarial science field. Preference is given to students who have personally been affected by cancer and/or have demonstrated leadership and/or service to an organization involved in cancer research and care. It was established by D.A. Townley & Associates to honor the spirit of April Allen.

Kelly Sutanto writes:



Currently, I just finished my second term in the actuarial science program and I never felt more grateful than getting accepted into the program that I hoped for. I was honoured to receive the April Allen Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship for this academic year, provided by D.A. Townley & Associates.

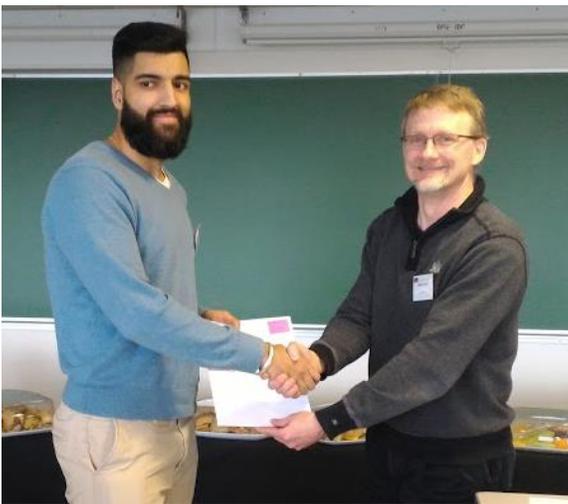
I heard about actuarial science for the first time during high school. All I heard was that this major is mainly about math and calculation. Curious about the actuarial profession, I did some research and I found out that leadership is an important trait in actuaries. For instance, actuaries who become Chief Risk Officers will need to demonstrate skills and behaviours to organize the team according to the company's vision and mission. Besides my passion for math, I am also interested in managing people. Currently, I am

president of the SFU Indonesian Association and a cell group leader for the Indonesian Catholic Society. Being a leader, I learn to coordinate and cooperate with people that have different personalities, improve effective communication skills, solve problems within team, and improve networking skills.

My big brother was diagnosed with Chondroblastic Osteosarcoma in May 2015. He has been receiving cancer treatments extensively since last year and this has been a shocking turnaround in my very own family. Seeing my brother patiently fight the disease, I am encouraged to strive harder in the actuarial science program in order to maintain good grades so I will not disappoint my family.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to D.A. Townley & Associates for the scholarship. The April Allen Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship gives me opportunities to defray my brother's treatment expenses as well as to drive me to improve my performance in the actuarial science program and in my leadership activities. I would also like to thank instructors in the Statistic and Actuarial Science Department for their guidance in assisting my achievement in the program.

Mandeep Uppal writes:



It is a tremendous honour to be the recipient of the April Allen Undergraduate Memorial Scholarship. I am a business administration student, concentrating in finance and double majoring in Actuarial Science, who aspires to be an Actuary. My academic performance and leadership initiatives, in relation to cancer awareness, have shaped the person I am today and provide a strong base to parlay into success in the future.

As someone who has felt the impact of cancer, my girlfriend's grandmother, who had lung cancer and my father's aunt who currently has breast cancer, I am continually motivated to raise awareness and money for cancer research. I raise awareness annually of prostate cancer and men's health issues by participating in Movember. Since 2012 I've made posts on Facebook and Instagram to foster support for my Movember profile. This past year, I took an innovative approach and grew my beard for a full year leading up to November so that I could stimulate more people to join the cause. With exposure to over 1000 people on social media, I was successful in getting others to assume my role. My Movember profile consists of pictures, from throughout the years, and has provided an opportunity for people to donate to the cause.

Cancer can occur at any time and leave families with hardships, which I have witnessed, but I believe a cure is within reach. I will continue to raise awareness about men's cancer issues and support cancer research by excelling in my studies and pursuing a career as an Actuary. My academic successes include achieving President's Honour Roll for two semesters, while balancing part-time work and athletic commitments, and maintaining an above 4.0 Upper Division GPA.

These successes have transferred over to professional experience through roles as a Teaching Assistant and Analyst. As a Teaching Assistant, I leverage my statistical knowledge to assist students, leading to better performance on assignments. To further supplement my choice of career path, I attained a position as an Analyst for the Beedie Endowment Asset Management (BEAM) fund. This undergraduate fund is one of the largest, \$5 million, strictly student-run funds and provides an excellent opportunity to improve my analytical skills as well as learn financial modelling and risk assessment.

I sincerely thank D.A. Townley & Associates for funding this scholarship. This award pushes me to further succeed in my studies and attain the FCIA designation. I have completed my VEE corporate finance and economics courses and have exemptions for exam FM. I plan to write exam P this summer and have a partial

exemption for exam MLC. I look forward to the great deal of learning I have ahead of me before I can officially call myself an “Actuary.”

Aon R. Bruce Coles Memorial Scholarship

Yi Fan Hao – Mengyi Li

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.

Yi Fan Hao writes:

I am honoured to be receiving this scholarship, since it serves as a reminder to me that hard work and perseverance always pays off. In the future, I will look back at this event to motivate me to continue working hard in pursuing my goals.

From a young age, I've always had a passion for mathematics. This continued into high school, where I found out that one of my math teachers used to work as an actuary. After doing some research, I decided that I would be well suited for such a career, and chose to pursue an actuarial science degree.

Looking back on my four years at SFU, I have certainly learned a lot both from classes and from interactions with my fellow classmates. The actuarial science courses, especially ACMA 320, were very challenging and led to many long nights finishing up assignments and studying for midterms and finals. These courses have done a wonderful job in preparing me for the actuarial exams and as a result, I have successfully completed 3 exams and am sitting for my fourth in June.

Outside of classes, I am currently the secretary for the Statistics and Actuarial Science Student Association (SASSA), which is our departmental student union. Joining SASSA has helped me to make many friends who share a similar interest as me and has also helped me to improve my communication and organizational skills, both of which are essential to success as an actuary.

This scholarship will help me cover both the costs of tuition as well as the actuarial exam fees. In conclusion, I would like to thank the Aon R. Bruce Coles Memorial for their generosity and recognition.

Pacific Blue Cross Scholarship

Jing Wang

One Pacific Blue Cross Scholarship in Actuarial Science will be made available in any semester, based on academic merit, to a 3rd or 4th year student with a declared major in Actuarial Science.

Towers Watson Scholarship

Di Wu

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.

Statistics and Actuarial Science Endowment Awards

Award to Recognize the Statistical Society of Canada

Philippa Swartz

This award is offered to an undergraduate student who is a declared major/honors in Statistics and/or Actuarial Science and who is promoting Statistics and Probability. The criteria for selection for the award are academic merit and a commitment to the mission of the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC).

The SSC is a national organization representing statisticians from across Canada. Its mission is to encourage the development and use of statistics and probability.

To achieve this, the Statistical Society of Canada:

- helps to develop a public awareness of the value of statistical thinking and the importance of statistics and statisticians in Canadian society;
- works to ensure that decisions affecting Canadian society are based on appropriate data and valid statistical interpretation;
- promotes the highest possible standards for statistical education and practice in Canada;
- promotes the development of statistical methodology;
- promotes a sense of community among all statisticians in Canada;
- provides a forum for the exchange of ideas between theoreticians and practitioners of statistics.

This award was generously endowed by the Statistical Society of Canada using proceeds of the net revenue from the SSC Annual Meeting held at Simon Fraser University in 2001.

Philippa Swartz writes:

As I've grown up with a statistics professor for a dad, I was exposed to the discipline at a young age. Throughout my adolescence I was a competitive highland dancer, and my dad and I often bonded by "analyzing" the results of each and every competition. Although we didn't use any sophisticated methods (mostly looking for patterns in the judging) my curiosity for statistics was sparked.

This carried on when I was in high school, at that point my dad and I would plot my racing times (when I competed in cross-country). Thus, when the time came to pick my major for applying to SFU it was no surprise I chose statistics.

During my past few years at SFU I've been very fortunate to have been exposed to lots of interesting research and applications within statistics. I completed NSERCs with Professor Derek Bingham as well as Professor Joan Hu. I was also able to get involved with a project with Professor William Sheel (UBC) through Dr.

Bingham. This was really interesting to me as Dr. Sheel is a professor in exercise physiology, an area that I've always been interested in. I've gotten the chance to take quite a few classes in kinesiology at SFU, and I recently declared my minor in the subject.

In addition to my time exploring statistics and kinesiology, I also got involved in a psychology research lab within the past year at SFU. I volunteered in Professor Jodi Viljoen's lab, where the ongoing project is trying to predict recidivism in youth. I really enjoyed my time in the lab and this opened my eyes to all the other opportunities there are within statistics (as Dr. Viljoen's lab used a lot of statistics in their research).

During my past few years I've also spent time volunteering at various places outside of SFU. I volunteered at the Burquitlam Lions Senior Center for a year, and have been a Go Girls mentor for over a year. Go Girls is a program in which two mentors visit a middle school once a week to teach the girls about living active lives. I'm really passionate about this program as I feel like it empowers young girls at a critical time in their lives.

Outside of school and volunteering, I also enjoy running, cooking, and reading. I tutor several high school students in math each semester which is also something I enjoy.

Academic Merit Award

Brian Ching – Albert Kho – Yu (Wayne) Wang

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.

Statistics & Actuarial Science Departmental Gathering
April 12, 12:00pm, AQ 4150

Undergraduate Awards

Undergraduate Open Scholarship:

Tsz Kwan Chan 1154, 1157, 1161
Anqi Chen 1157, 1161
Mengting Ding 1154
Yunqing He 1154
Hongshi Li 1154
Qi Li 1157, 1161
Chuyuan Lin 1161
Yufeng Qi 1154
Kelly Sutanto 1157
Evan Thompson 1154, 1157
Mandeep Uppal 1161
Jing Wang 1161
Xinmiao Wang 1154, 1161
Yu Wang 1157, 1161
Jason Wong 1157
Di Wu 1157, 1161
Lu Yi 1154
Dian Yu 1154, 1157, 1161
Yingying Zheng 1154, 1161
Ouyang Zhou 1157, 1161

SFU Alumni Scholarship:

James Annable 1161
Anqi Chen 1157, 1161
Jenny Hung 1157
Jusun Kim 1161
Chuyuan Lin 1161
Jing Wang 1161

International Co-operative Education Award:

Run Hong 1154
Yemima Nugroho 1154
Xuan Zhang 1154

International Mobility Award:

Dani Chu 1161

Business International Mobility Award:

Xingyi Kang 1157

International Summit Entrance Scholarship:

Kin Ching Chau 1161
Jin Tang 1157

BC Secondary School Academic Entrance Scholarship:

Nolan Badovinac 1157
Emily Lamers 1157
Rachel Loo 1157
Shuman Peng 1157

BC Secondary Simon Fraser Entrance Scholarship:

Nikola Surjanovic 1157

Dean's Academic Excellence Entrance Scholarship:

Atul Sriram 1157

April Allen Memorial Scholarship:

Kelly Sutanto 1161
Mandeep Uppal 1161

Aon R. Bruce Coles Memorial Scholarship in Actuarial Science:

Yi Fan Hao 1161
Mengyi Li 1161

Pacific Blue Cross Scholarship in Actuarial Science:

Jing Wang 1161

Statistics & Actuarial Science Endowment Award:

Philippa Swartz – (SSC) 1161
Brian Ching 1161
Albert Kho 1161
Yu Wang 1161

Towers Watson Scholarship in Actuarial Science:

Di Wu 1161



Graduate Awards

Special Graduate Entrance Scholarship:

Trevor Thomson 1157
Matthew van Bommel 1157
Shijia Wang 1157
Steven Wu 1157

CD Nelson Memorial Graduate Entrance Scholarship:

Shijia Wang 1157-1194

Provost Prize of Distinction:

Shijia Wang 1157-1164

NSERC CGS Masters Scholarship:

Matthew van Bommel 1157-1164
Steven Wu 1157-1164

NSERC PGS Doctoral Scholarship:

Dongdong Li 1154-1181

Randy Sitter Annual Graduate Scholarship in Statistics & Actuarial Science:

Andrew Henrey 1161

Faculty of Science Excellence in Teaching Award:

Yunlong (Ben) Nie

MSc Graduate Fellowship:

Moyan Mei 1161
Derek Qui 1161
Steven Wu 1161
Ying Zhang 1161

PhD Graduate Fellowship:

Rajitha Silva 1154

Faculty Awards

NSERC Discovery Accelerator Supplement:

Joan Hu

Granted the special title of “University Professor” by SFU:

Richard Lockhart

President Elect of the Probability Section of the SSC :

Richard Lockhart

President Elect of the Actuarial Section of the SSC:

Yi Lu

