

# 2013

## 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/programs/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.
- R. Bruce Coles Memorial Scholarship in Actuarial Science.
- The Statistics and Actuarial Science Endowment Awards funded by earnings on our departmental endowment fund.

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### April Allen Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

#### Charles (Jonathan) Royalty

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.

As I enter my second year in the Actuarial Science program at Simon Fraser University, I am honoured to be the recipient of the April Allen Scholarship for the 2012/2013 academic year. It will be a great help in allowing me to focus on my actuarial studies instead of having to seek unrelated employment to cover tuition.

My life has been touched by cancer since a young age, because my dad had lymphangic endothelioma when he was young and the surgery to clean up dead tissue after the radiation treatment had left a large scar under his arm. That scar was a constant reminder every time we went to the swimming pool, or similar activities, that cancer was real and something to be cautious about.

Besides those experiences while growing up, my grandmother also dealt with ovarian cancer, which was caught early before it spread and serious consequences were prevented because of that. Recently a family friend has been facing a long, terminal, bout with treatment-resistant breast cancer that has metastasized into most of her major organs. These two instances in people close to me have helped reinforce how important routine screenings are to ensure that a growing cancer doesn't slip past someone without a chance to respond, and how critical early response is. These reminders have also served to keep the reality of cancer close to the forefront of my mind, and to keeps me aware that cancer can, and often does, affect anyone.

As I complete my Actuarial Sciences degree and move into my career, I hope that the responsibilities I take on will give my voice added weight when I encourage people to ensure they are protected from financial collapse due to unexpected events, including cancer, and to seek appropriate health screenings to help prevent catastrophe whenever possible.

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## **Towers Watson Scholarship**

**Shuai Yang**

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.

It is hard to describe my excitement when I was informed that I had been awarded the TOWERS WATSON Scholarship. I am not only glad for receiving the scholarship but also for being recognized. It lets me know that we are closely connected to the real industry. I appreciate the attention they put on the younger generation.

I am a fourth year undergraduate student at SFU. Meanwhile, this is my second year in the Actuarial Science program. During the last year I have met many brilliant friends who helped me a lot with my studies. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn influenced me every day. Also, I have met many professors who are very supportive. Some of them who work in the industry shared abundant valuable real life experiences with us. Besides, they do not just teach us how to solve equations and get the final result, they teach us how to learn, how to be a critical thinker when facing real life problems. Working as a TA in the Statistics Workshop allowed me to improve my communication skills. I also found that an essential requirement for teaching others is to understand the concept deeply. I am so happy for the opportunity to share the things I have learnt with others.

So far, I have completed three SOA exams, P, FM and C. I am planning to take MLC in May 2013. My plan for the next two to three years is to keep pursuing my ASA credential. I intend to apply for graduate studies after graduation, either in actuarial science or financial mathematics. I think I have already found what I like to do and what I would like to have as a hobby rather than a job. I would like to learn as much as I can and integrate all this knowledge into my career. I like what actuaries do, and I want to be an actuary.

Finally, I would like to thank the Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee and, especially, the sponsors, Towers Watson. Thanks for your generosity and for awarding me the scholarship. I will keep running and try my best in my future studies.

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## **Pacific Blue Cross Scholarship**

**Yuefeng Ji**

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.

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## **R. Bruce Coles Memorial Scholarship**

**Jinwan Kim – Yuwen Zhai**

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.

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## **Statistics and Actuarial Science Endowment Awards**

**Bo Chen – Braden Rustand – Jing Wang**

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

### **Bo Chen writes:**

My name is Bo Chen and I'm an international student from China. This is my second year studying at SFU in the Statistics & Actuarial Science Department. It is my honor as a statistics student of SFU because I obtained the practical knowledge and learning skills from our respected professors. I also enjoy the time spent with my friends to explore statistical knowledge, to figure out the difficult questions and to build life-long relationships. I am sure that statistics is my direction of study and career. Therefore I desire to apply for the Statistics and Actuarial Science Endowment Award to prove I have the ability to pursue the highest honor as a student.

According to my study experience at SFU, I really believe our professors and TAs are knowledgeable and professional. I benefited from most of my professors as they have provided an active influence to determine statistics as my career. The most impressive example is the lectures of Dr. Tim Swartz. Typically people hold an idea that the accurate science area has nothing to do with personal opinion. Dr. Tim Swartz introduced the theory of Bayesian Statistics where by information from data is combined with subjective belief. It not only refreshes and improves my original understanding but also eliminates the misconceptions about statistics. Finally I can use both a subjective and objective approach to solve practical problems. I also remember the charm of Prof. John Hu. She is the professor who inspires me in the area of statistics. Because of her patient attitude and precise explanations, my fundamental knowledge was stabilized. Thus I trust the professors at SFU as my career directors and I am willing to contribute my valuable study life to statistics.

In the current semester, the high level STAT courses challenged me. I spent much time working out the problems in those courses. Sometimes my friends and I spent lots of time in the library to solve issues together. After I understand the skills and knowledge, I am also willing to share my experience and time to help the people who suffer the difficulties of learning statistics. With my high academic standing and attitude I am chosen as a TA in the Statistics Workshop. I will attempt my best to advise and assist the students who seek help to learn meanwhile I will also maintain high academic standing. In the future, I plan to get the honor degree in Statistics and apply for graduate studies and the A.Stat accreditation by the SSC.

If my application is approved, it represents that I have the capabilities to climb the peak of academy. My confidence of study will be also encouraged. Overall I want show my sincere wish and grateful honor to have this opportunity to apply for this award throughout this brief.

### **Braden Rustand writes:**

Now more than ever, I am happy to be majoring in actuarial science and have the opportunity to do challenging and rewarding coursework. As I expected and hoped, although upper level STAT and ACMA courses are more difficult, they are also much more interesting both in their theory and applications because there is more time devoted to each topic.

This is my third year of university (second at SFU, I did my first in Nanaimo), and my education is proceeding as planned. Thanks to rigorous coursework and self-studying I have passed the FM (8), P (10), and MLC (10) exams, with my grades out of ten parenthesized and supporting documentation attached. I am currently self-studying for MFE, which I will sit after this semester is over. In my coursework, I am also working through exam C material. By the time I graduate in spring 2014, I expect to have completed the five preliminary SOA exams.

I have also been learning through experience. Last semester I had the opportunity to intern at Pacific Blue Cross, where I learned about group insurance and SQL database programming. In the summer I will be interning at Manulife in Ontario, where I hope to gain expertise in another line of insurance.

With an exclusive focus on my five STAT and ACMA courses, I am determined to make this my best semester yet. With any luck, there will be many more such courses offered next year as well so I can get everything possible out of my remaining time at SFU.

## **Jing Wang writes:**

I decided to study actuarial science before joining SFU. I believe that “there’s no scary thing in this world but phenomenon to be understood”, said Marie Curie. The world is uncertain and full of risk, and actuaries are the leading professionals in finding ways to manage risks. I’m the kind of person who is eager to understand the world better, and I think learning actuarial science will show me the way.

The teachers at SFU are very enthusiastic and they leave a good impression on me. They encourage me to think, to explore and enjoy a sense of accomplishment when solving problems. While taking the required mathematics and statistics courses, I found my interest and maintained an excellent academic record. Now I am very happy to be one of the students in this program, and I hope to make greater achievements in the future.

Department of Statistics & Actuarial Science Awards/Graduands Reception  
June 12, 2013, 1:00pm, TASC2 8201

**Undergraduate Awards**

**Undergraduate Open Scholarships:**

Xiaoyu Bai 1127  
Brandon Burrell 1127  
Xuheng Chen 1127  
Best Guo 1127  
Shi Jin 1127, 1131  
Jinwan Kim 1127, 1127, 1131  
Yee Wai Kwan 1131  
Ming Jun Lu 1124, 1131  
Zachary Monteith 1127, 1131  
Shraddha Ramesh 1124, 1127, 1131  
Braden Rustand 1124, 1131  
Evan Thompson 1124, 1127, 1131  
Sze-Hung Daniel Tsui 1124, 1127  
Jing Wang 1124, 1127, 1131  
Ning Wang 1124  
Yueren Wang 1124, 1127  
Herman Wong 1124, 1127, 1131  
Shuai Yang 1124, 1127, 1131  
Yushu Ye 1127, 1131  
Ka Yan Yiu 1127  
Yuwen Zhai 1127, 1131  
Gong Zhang 1131

**Faculty of Science Alumni Scholarship:**

Shuai Yang 1124

**SFU Alumni Scholarship Fund:**

Braden Rustand 1131  
Jing Wang 1127  
Shuai Yang 1127, 1131  
Gong Zhang 1127

**Dean of Science Award:**

Simon Mak 1127

**Governor General Silver Medal Award:**

Simon Mak 1131

**April Allen Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship:**

Charles (Jonathan) Royalty

**R. Bruce Coles Memorial Scholarship:**

Jinwan Kim  
Yuwen Zhai

**Pacific Blue Cross Scholarship:**

Yuefeng Ji

**Statistics & Actuarial Science Endowment Award:**

Bo Chen  
Braden Rustand  
Jing Wang

**Towers Watson Scholarship in Actuarial Science:**

Shuai Yang

**Graduands 1124-1131**

***Undergraduate:***

Rachel Au  
Xiaoyu Bai  
Andrew Balzer  
Mandeep Bariah  
Pietro Campesato  
Dominic Chan  
Joyce Chan  
Zurika Chandranath  
Changwu Chen  
Hua Chen  
Ran Cheng  
Derek Cheung  
Junior Chuang  
Chien-Kun Chung  
Bethany Gill

Sven Haunerland  
Dinglan Huang  
Yu Han Huang  
Lawrence Huen  
Che-Fu Kao  
Lucy Li  
Ruobing Li  
Xi Li  
Jianhui Liang  
Xinying Liang  
Evelyn Liu  
Ruifeng Ma  
Simon Mak  
Xiaohong Ning  
Huong Quan  
Insoo Rhee  
Demin Ruan

Yejun Song  
Haishan Tan  
Xinyin Tan  
Billy Tjahjadi  
Qianyu Wang  
Xiaoting Wang  
Xinyu Wang  
Tracy Wicaksana  
Da Zhong Xi  
Yang Xu  
Jun Yan  
Tiantian Yang  
Xiting Yang  
Qiao Ying Zhang  
Xi Zhang  
Yu Zhang  
Yu Zhang

Zhe Zhang  
Fei Zhao  
Rui Peng Zhou  
Hui Bing Zhuang

***Graduate:***

Jimmy Lim  
Junjie Liu  
Jie Liu  
Fabian Moya  
Jimmy Poon  
Juan Valero  
Kasra Yousefi  
Fan Zhang  
Hua Zheng

## Graduate Awards

### **Provost Prize of Distinction:**

Elena Szefer 1131-1137  
Simon Mak 1137-1144

### **Special Graduate Entrance Scholarship:**

Andrew Henrey 1127  
Biljana Jonoska Stojkova 1127  
Kanna Nirmalkanna 1127  
Wijendra Premarathna 1127  
Pulindu Ratnasekera 1127  
Abdollah Safari 1127  
Gerald Smith 1127  
Yi Xiong 1127

### **Randy Sitter Annual Graduate Scholarship in Statistics & Actuarial Science:**

Kasra Yousefi 1131

### **Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement:**

Audrey Beliveau 1131

### **NSERC CGSM:**

Elena Szefer 1131-1137

### **Travel Minor Research Award:**

Harsha Perera 1131

### **Won the Data Analysis Competition at the SSC 2012:**

Audrey Beliveau  
Zheng Sun

### **Won the SSC Student Presentation Award 2013:**

Oksana Chkrebti

### **SSC Travel Award 2013:**

Shirin Golchi  
Huijing Wang

### **MSc Graduate Fellowship:**

Shuang Chen 1134  
Tianyu Guan 1131, 1134  
Diliner Kuerban 1134  
Zhenhua Lin 1134  
Megan McCorquodale 1134  
Kanna Nirmalkanna 1134  
Nathaniel Payne 1134  
Pulindu Ratnasekera 1131, 1134  
Maria Santiago 1134  
Gerald Smith 1131  
Fei Wang 1134  
Lu Wang 1134  
Tingting Wen 1134  
Jiaying (Vicky) Weng 1131  
Yi Xiong 1134  
Yuanyu Yang 1134  
Kasra Yousefi 1131  
Guang Qu (Annie) Yu 1131  
Xiaoli (Sabrina) Zhang 1134

### **PhD Graduate Fellowship:**

Jack Davis 1134  
Joslin Goh 1134  
Shirin Golchi 1134  
Andrew Henrey 1134  
Biljana Jonoska Stojkova 1134  
Ruth Joy 1134  
Wijendra Premarathna 1134  
Abdollah Safari 1134  
Huijing Wang 1134

## Faculty Awards

### **Elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association:**

Richard Lockhart

### **Centre de Recherches Mathematiques-SSC Prize for 2013:**

Derek Bingham

### **SFU Excellence in Teaching Award 2012:**

Carl Schwarz

### **Outstanding Alumni Award-for SFU in the Academic Achievement Category 2012:**

John Spinelli

### **Sterling Prize in Support of Controversy 2012:**

Rick Routledge along with Alexandra Morton