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 keep 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
Yuwen Zhai 1127, 1131
Herman Wong 1124, 1127, 1131
Shuay 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
Ruífeng Ma
Simon Mak
Xiaohong Ning
Huong Quan
Insoo Rhee
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

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

Zhe Zhang
Fei Zhao
Rui Peng Zhou
Hui Bing Zhuang
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 Chkrebtii

**SSC Travel Award 2013:**
Shirin Golchi
Huijing Wang

**MSc Graduate Fellowship:**
Shuang Chen 1134
Tianyu Guan 1131, 1134
Dilinuer 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 Premerathna 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