

# 2019

## 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 4 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.
- Aon 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**

**Yaqi Chen – Kaiyan Li**

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.

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

**Christopher Kevin – Zhen 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.

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# Towers Watson Scholarship

**Kin Ching Lydia Chau**

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

**Kristen Bystrom – Christopher Kevin  
HoKyun (Josh) Kim – Nikola Surjanovic**



One or more awards, each valued at the university's award minimum or more, will be granted annually in any term to full-time undergraduate students who meet the following criteria:

- are enrolled full-time in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science in the Faculty of Science;
- are in their third or fourth year of study;
- have a declared major in Statistics or Actuarial Science;
- are in good academic standing; and
- have demonstrated commitment to the department and/or the their chosen discipline, for example (but not exclusively) by:
  - -serving as a volunteer at department events;

- -representing the department at University/external events;
- -serving as a volunteer for activities sponsored by professional societies of Statistics or Actuarial Science;
- -serving on the executive board of the Statistics and Actuarial Science Student Association;
- -undertaking activities to enhance the engagement of peers with the department and/or its related disciplines;
- -undertaking activities to enhance the stature of the department and/or its related disciplines.

## **Kristen Bystrom writes:**

Kristen finished her fifth and final year at Simon Fraser University in Spring 2019, majoring in Statistics and minoring in Computing Science. She completed co-op terms at Electronic Arts, George & Bell Consulting, and Statistics Canada.

Kristen's research interests are based around dissecting online behaviour in social media, video games, and websites through network modelling, time series forecasting, text analytics, and sentiment analytics. She participated in research during her undergrad in hockey analytics, facial recognition, human activity sensor processing, and weather forecasting. She presented her research at EA Analyticon, JSM 2018, VanHAC, SURJ, and SciProg. She is a hackathon enthusiast, having been either a volunteer, participant, or organizer of 13 hackathons during her undergrad.



She served as the president of SASSA, the SFU Statistics and Actuarial Science Student Association from January 2018 to April 2019 and before that held other roles such as council representative, and department representative. During her terms as president, she helped organize VANSASH 18, Co-op Spotlight Night, Trivia Night, Movie Night, and Oktoberfest. She also co-organized the inaugural British Columbia Undergraduate Math and Statistics Conference with Alice Roberts.

She volunteered though SFU as an instructor for math circles, a program where SFU students teach advanced math classes to Burnaby School District high school students. She also mentored three first year statistics and actuarial science students through SFU's science peer mentorship program.

Outside of SFU, Kristen has volunteered for five years as the provincial score master for Destination Imagination, a problem-solving competition she participated in at the international level in high school.

She is thankful for all the wonderful faculty, staff, and peers who have made her SFU experience amazing and encouraged her to get the most out of her time at University.

## **Nikola Surjanovic writes:**

The decision to study statistics at university came at nearly the last moment. In my final year of high school I was choosing between engineering and other subjects. I always had a passion for mathematics and problem-solving, and I felt that studying statistics could interest me in this way. At the same time, advice from my older sister along with a sort of hunch told me to pursue statistics. I am now finishing my studies, and I am very happy with my decision. I feel that statistics offers a beautiful blend of theory and application. I enjoy the problem-solving and theoretical aspects of statistics, as well as the potential to apply knowledge quickly in the real world.

In my first year of university I joined SASSA (the Statistics and Actuarial Science Student Association), where I met many people who shared two things in common with me: they liked to talk about mathematics, and they

enjoyed the concept of free food. From the start of university, I also found many professors and faculty offering their guidance and advice, and the secretaries were also quick to lend a helping hand; the atmosphere of the department was great from the beginning, and my appreciation for the people who were part of it grew. In the past I have helped out with the Math Circles program, which aims to provide high school students with mathematics material that goes outside of the regular curriculum, and have helped organize the BC Undergraduate Mathematics and Statistics Conference.

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## **NFL's Big Data Bowl Competition Winners**

**Dani Chu – Matthew Reyers  
James Thomson – Lucas Wu**



# Randy Sitter Annual Graduate Scholarship in Statistics & Actuarial Science

**Shijia Wang**



The award is intended to honour a student of distinction in a Master's or Doctoral Program in Statistics and Actuarial Science and who possesses some of the qualities that were hallmarks of Professor Sitter's life. In particular, he demonstrated passion for his research and other activities, an untiring work ethic, support for his peers and colleagues, fair-mindedness and a hatred of injustice. He was well-known for his sportsmanship and generous and fun-loving nature.

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# Dr. David Eaves Graduate Scholarship in Statistics

**Anqi (Angela) Chen**



The purpose of this scholarship is to recognize and reward an outstanding student in a graduate program in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at Simon Fraser University.

One scholarship will be offered annually to a graduate student who fulfills the following eligibility criteria:

1. has demonstrated academic achievement at the undergraduate and graduate level; and
2. is registered full-time in a graduate program in Statistics.

Statistics & Actuarial Science Departmental Gathering  
April 9, 2019 – 12:00pm – K9510

**Undergraduate Awards**

**Undergraduate Open Scholarship:**

James Braun 1187, 1191  
Mengqi Cen 1187, 1191  
Kin Ching Lydia Chau 1191  
Changan Chen 1191  
Yaqi Chen 1187, 1191  
Boyang Fan 1187, 1191  
Ye Fan 1184, 1187  
Richard Groenewald 1187  
YiJia (Carrie) Gu 1187  
Kaiyan Li 1187, 1191  
Jihyun (Jina) Lim 1184, 1187, 1191  
Junchao Liu 1191  
Dorothy Lu 1184  
Fen Qin 1191  
Atul Sriram 1187  
Leo Steeves 1191  
Jessica Tse 1184  
Zhen (Jenny) Wu 1191  
Hanyun (Sally) Zhao 1191  
Yu Han Zheng 1191

**SFU Alumni Scholarship:**

James Braun 1191  
King Ching Lydia Chau 1191  
Changan Chen 1191  
Yaqi Chen 1191  
Richard Groenewald 1187  
Isaac Rankin 1191  
Yukari Uchibori 1187, 1191  
Siting Wang 1191  
Li (Linda) Yao 1191

**Faculty of Science Alumni Scholarship:**

Yaqi Chen 1184

**Alumni Association of the University of Hong Kong,  
British Columbia Award**

Jia Qiu (Forrest) Zhu 1191

**International Co-operative Education Award:**

Keyi Huang 1191  
Jiajie Lim 1184  
Jingyang Liu 1184  
Chi Kit Lok 1184  
Chris Sobczak 1184  
Zhang (Jane)Yan 1184, 1187  
Yi Yao (Karl) 1187  
Jia Qiu (Forrest) Zhu 1187

**International Mobility Award:**

Cristina Agatep 1191  
Xiaoyao Yang 1187

**Patrick McTaggart-Cowan Undergraduate Scholarship:**

Richard Groenewald 1187

**University Transfer Entrance Scholarship:**

Li (Linda) Yao 1187

**International Summit Entrance Scholarship:**

ChungKwai Wong 1187

**April Allen Memorial Scholarship:**

Yaqi Chen 1191  
Kaiyan Li 1191

**Aon R. Bruce Coles Memorial Scholarship in Actuarial  
Science:**

Christopher Kevin 1191  
Zhen (Jenny) Wu 1191

**Towers Watson Scholarship in Actuarial Science:**

Kin Ching Lydia Chau 1191

**Statistics & Actuarial Science Endowment Award:**

Kristen Bystrom 1191  
Christopher Kevin 1191  
HoKyun (Josh) Kim 1191  
Nikola Surjanovic 1191



## **Graduate Awards**

**Graduate Dean Entrance Scholarship:**  
Meng (Maggie) Sun 1187-1224

**NSERC-CGS Masters Scholarship**  
Dani Chu 1187-1194  
Matthew Reyers 1187-1194

**NSERC CGS Doctoral Scholarship:**  
Shaun McDonald 1191-1217

**Travel & Minor Research Award:**  
Payman Nickchi 1184  
Christina Nieuwoudt 1184

**Thesis Completion Fellowship:**  
Lasantha Premarathna 1184

**Randy Sitter Annual Graduate Scholarship in  
Statistics & Actuarial Science:**  
Shijia Wang 1191

**Dr. David Eaves Graduate Scholarship in  
Statistics:**  
Anqi (Angela) Chen 1191

**NFL Big Data Bowl Case Study Competition  
Winners:**  
Dani Chu  
Matthew Reyers  
James Thomson  
Lucas Wu

## **Faculty Awards**

**Named to Royal Society of Canada Fellowship:**  
Richard Lockhart

**2017/2018 Faculty of Science Excellence in Teaching Award**  
Dave Campbell

**Elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association**  
Boxin Tang  
Carl Schwarz

