

## 2015-2016 April Allen Undergraduate Memorial Scholarship

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.

### 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."