

2009-2010 R. Bruce Coles Memorial Scholarship

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.

Kuan Chiao Wang (Joe)

It is an honor for me to be the recipient of the R. Bruce Coles Memorial Scholarship for the 2010 spring term. When I first heard about actuarial science from a friend majoring in Statistics, he described the program as one of the most challenging majors in SFU. It triggered my curiosity. Hence I took ACMA 210, the introductory course for actuarial science. It was a terrific experience as I met many new friends with brilliant minds. However, to be honest, students in actuarial science are constantly challenged with problems with twists. I must understand the concepts thoroughly, because getting away from partial understanding of some concepts would not be an option in this field of study. One of my favorite quotes from Dr. Parker summarizes it well, "The exam preparation starts AFTER you understand everything."

Currently I'm working in the Household Survey Methodology Division at Statistics Canada in my COOP term. I use my background in statistics and knowledge of Excel and SAS to study a proposed project, US Air Exit Survey. I plan to work in the insurance industry and pursue a career as a property and casualty actuary after my graduation this year. I look forward to applying my knowledge and skills to the real world. Thank you for the support and recognition given to me.