

2004-2005 Statistical Society of Canada Endowment Award

(Kyle) Kuan-Chiun Wu

The [Statistical Society of Canada](#) Award will be presented to an undergraduate student who is a declared major/honors in Statistics and/or Actuarial Science. [The criteria for selection for the award are academic merit and a commitment to the mission of the SSC.](#)

Kyle Wu writes:

When I was three years old, my family moved from Taiwan to South Africa, where I spent most of my life. Honestly, the move didn't seem to impact my life much – I was much too busy eating, sleeping, playing, learning to speak properly, and not worrying about picking a good career path to notice the changes. However, when I moved to Vancouver four-and-a-half years ago, I did a very good job (overly good, some would say) of noticing all the changes to my life. These changes ranged from the fact that I'd be going to a completely different school, to the fact that my immediate family would become spread over three continents, to the fact that cars drive on the right side (or the wrong side, depending on how you look at it) of the road. Fortunately, I didn't have to change my goal to become an actuary.

I first heard about actuarial science from a cousin of mine (one that I particularly look up to) when I was 14. Even before I decided to do any research on the profession, I knew that my current career path would be the one that I'd be taking once I'd gotten high school out of the way, and here I am. As an actuary, not only would I satisfy my desire to have a slightly less-than-conventional job, but, having always been fascinated by mathematics, I'd be able to do it the love *and* for the money.

As with many students at my stage of the actuarial program, I hope to finish my preliminary actuarial exams before I graduate. This shouldn't be too hard to accomplish because, although I am close to graduation in terms of credit-hours, I began an eight-month co-op work term at Pacific Blue Cross in January, which means that I won't be able to finish my course requirements for graduation until the end of the year, at least.

I haven't really made any plans past graduation yet. I suppose I'll try to find work in the actuarial field and try to earn a full actuarial designation as soon as possible, but there are still decisions to be made about whether or not I'll stay in Vancouver, what "flavour" of actuary I'd like to become, and so on.