

2018-2019 Statistics & Actuarial Science Endowment Award

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 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 through 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.