

December 2010

Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald,

My name is Bob West, and I am an incoming graduate student in Stanford's Computer Science Ph.D. program.

I am writing to thank you for the support I have been receiving from the Robert F. MacDonald Fellowship Fund. I deeply appreciate the freedom I am experiencing by not having to worry about funding, particularly during my first year of study in my new department. Let me also send you a heartfelt thank-you on my mother and father's behalf, who were the ones to support me for many years before I entered Stanford and who are relieved – and at the same time proud! – that someone else is as confident in my potential as to take over the financial burden of paying for me.

Let me give you a very brief biography of myself. Born and raised in Bavaria, Germany, I am 28 years old. I obtained my undergraduate degree in computer science (Technische Universität München) and Latin philology (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität) in Munich and moved on to McGill University in Montreal, Canada, thereafter. There I got a Master's degree in computer science (and frostbites).

So far I have been enjoying California and Stanford a lot, and I am aware that this would not be possible without external support. I hope that the skills I am about to hone will one day put me in a position to hand on to a next generation of young scientists the support I am receiving from you now. In the meantime you can rest assured that I am trying to make the best – academically as well as personally – of my graduate years at Stanford.

Thankfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert".

Bob West

