

December 2013

Mr. and Mrs. James T. MacDonald  
Post Office Box 620734  
Woodside, CA 94062

Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald,

It is my pleasure to introduce you to this year's recipients of the John R. MacDonald Memorial Fellowship and the Robert F. MacDonald Fellowship. I have listed their names below. I hope you enjoy reading more about the fellows in the enclosed letters.

**The John R. MacDonald Memorial Fellowship**  
Matthew Kiener

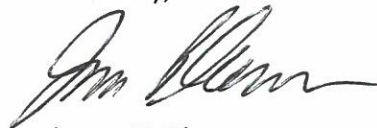
**The Robert F. MacDonald Fellowship**  
Thanchanok Teeraratkul

Currently, the balance of the Daniel W. MacDonald Memorial Fellowship is too low to support a student. We therefore decided not to assign a student to it this year so that it can grow and provide a more substantial fellowship award in the future.

Year after year, our ability to offer fellowship packages is key to our success in attracting top candidates to Stanford. Fellowship assistance provides students with freedom to explore options and find the best match between their interests and our faculty. The education they receive ultimately prepares them to lead in research, academia, and industry, and to solve some of the most pressing engineering challenges in the world.

The MacDonald fellowships are critical for our students and for the future of Stanford Engineering. Thank you for your commitment to our efforts. We are fortunate to have your and your family's partnership.

Sincerely,



James D. Plummer  
Dean



Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald,

My name is Thanchanok (Nicky) Teeraratkul, the recipient of the Robert F. MacDonald Fellowship Fund this year. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making this scholarship possible. I deeply appreciate your support for my graduate study.

I am currently majoring in Electrical Engineering and plan to do research in control and optimization. The financial aid you provide will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying and research.

I promise you that I will work hard and eventually give something back to the community. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Teeraratkul'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Thanchanok (Nicky) Teeraratkul



Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald,

My name is Matthew Kiener, and I am currently a recipient of the John R. MacDonald Memorial Fellowship at Stanford University. I am writing to express my utmost gratitude for the generosity of you and your parents in providing this fellowship. It is an honor to be selected to receive this fellowship in memory of the life and academic gifts of John MacDonald.

Stanford University was clearly my top choice for graduate school, both academically and otherwise. I grew up in Reno, NV, and I majored in mechanical engineering at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN. Through that experience I learned that I really did like the West Coast and particularly the Bay Area, which I had been to plenty of times growing up. When I decided that I wanted to go to graduate school in mechanical engineering, the amazing academics and location made Stanford an easy first choice. I was thrilled when I was accepted, and even more so to be the recipient of the fellowship. Thank you again.

As a student in engineering, I am most passionate about mathematical and computational techniques to improve engineering systems. I have always been interested in math for its own sake, and its increasing importance in the analysis, design, and optimization of engineering systems makes it all the more exciting for me. At Stanford I initially took some courses geared towards computational solid and fluid mechanics, but have since studied control, optimization, and robotics. One project I worked on involved implementing a program to identify human gestures (e.g., waving your hand) based on data recorded by a camera and depth sensor. The main motivation for the project was to provide an easy interface for communicating intended actions to a robotic system. The human gesture would be identified, and the corresponding action would be sent to the robot for execution. This paradigm for human-robotic interaction could be useful as robotic systems become more integrated in human environments.

I would like to again sincerely thank you for your support. Stanford University is a unique and wonderful academic environment, and your commitment to supporting students such as myself to academically succeed here is truly noble.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Kiener". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Kiener