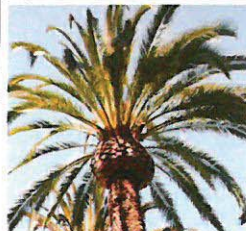


The John R. MacDonald Memorial Fellowship

Your generosity continues to energize our talented students in their academic pursuits. The following received The John R. MacDonald Memorial Fellowship in 2014–15:

Anjie Dong
Srinivasan Suresh



Winter 2014

Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald,

My name is Arul Suresh, and I am a recipient of the John R. MacDonald Memorial Fellowship. I want to express my thanks, as your support has helped make my experience at Stanford truly enjoyable. Having funding has allowed me to focus on my studies and research, and has made transitioning to graduate school much less stressful.



I am just beginning the second year of a PhD program. I have been working with Mark Cutkosky's Biomimetics and Dexterous Manipulation Laboratory since I arrived here last fall. I was in fact partly drawn to Stanford for my graduate studies by the work that has been done in this lab over the years, and to find myself working here still sometimes surprises me. BDML developed controllable gecko inspired adhesives, and this has been applied to things from StickyBot (I, II, and III) to human climbing (recently published, and covered by the media). I'm currently working on improving manufacturing techniques for these adhesive systems, as well as improving their performance. I had the incredible opportunity to be first author on a paper my first year, and we expect it to be published early next year.

I have also enjoyed the courses available to me at Stanford. Last year I took the ME218ABC mechatronics sequence, which was one of the most fun project courses I have ever taken. I got the opportunity to learn embedded programming, electronics, and experience working on a couple of great teams. We put details and a couple of videos of our projects on the web, at <http://shadowfaxrobot.weebly.com/> and <http://enchantmentunderthesea.weebly.com/>.

When not working in lab, I can often be found at Stanford Quidditch practices/games, reading-- or in lab, working on projects for fun, because being at Stanford gives me access to an amazing suite of tools.

Once again, thank you for your support--it really has made all the difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arul Suresh'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Arul Suresh
Stanford University