

Kyle Gustafson
3 Comstock Circle
Apartment 102
Stanford, CA 94305
715.307.2122
gust@stanford.edu

Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald,

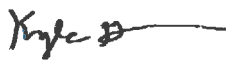
I am a first-year chemical engineering PhD student at Stanford, and I am writing to thank you for your support through The Robert F. MacDonald Fellowship. This fellowship will help me to continue my studies and pursue a career in academia. I am excited to be able to focus on my research, coursework, and volunteer efforts because of this support.

I chose to attend Stanford because I was very excited by the research that Professor Eric Shaqfeh is doing in complex fluid mechanics. I have been interested in fluid mechanics and polymers since taking an undergraduate course which covered these topics. The ability to describe complex phenomena with relatively simple mathematics is something that continues to interest me, as I have always enjoyed using mathematics to solve problems. I have always been fascinated by the huge range of length and time scales involved in fluid motion, and discovering that these can be described by the Navier-Stokes equations cemented my interest in fluid mechanics.

During my undergraduate education I worked on fluid mechanics demonstrations for middle school students, which is something that I am continuing to work on at Stanford. I am also teaching at Splash!, which invites students from schools throughout the Bay Area to Stanford's campus to take classes taught by volunteers. I will be teaching a polymer class this year. I enjoy helping younger students explore their interests in science and engineering, and this has been a great opportunity to do so.

Thank you again for your support. This fellowship has helped me to continue to explore my interests in fluid mechanics in addition to helping inspire new students to pursue careers in science as well.

Sincerely,



Kyle Gustafson

