

Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald,

My name is Laura Matloff, and I am a second-year graduate student studying mechanical engineering at Stanford. I am a grateful recipient of The John R. MacDonald Memorial Fellowship, and I would like to express my appreciation for your generosity. Thank you so much for supporting me in my graduate school studies and allowing me to pursue my dream of becoming a professor. It means so much to me to be studying at Stanford.



I am focusing on mechatronics and design for my master's degree, and I am planning on continuing towards a PhD to design and make innovative things that people enjoy and can rely on, designs that can make a difference in the world. Beyond sharing my physical discoveries, I would also like to teach someday, sharing with others the knowledge that I have gained. Attaining a graduate degree is important for me to achieve these goals, and I am excited to be here at Stanford and am grateful for this fellowship that is giving me the means to realize these dreams. Being at Stanford has been amazing. In the year that I have been here, I have learned so much and have met and interacted with so many inspiring people. The resources and the knowledge of the people at Stanford are incredible. In all of my classes, I have been so impressed with my peers, and know I have much to learn from them as well as from my professors.

I am conducting research with Professor Lentink, focusing on biomimetic design of a morphing bird wing inspired robot. My research has been accepted for a talk at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) annual meeting in January, and I am excited for the opportunity to share my research with a broader audience. I study biomechanics and morphology of a bird's wing through the lens of a mechanical engineer. I am fascinated by the interdisciplinary combination of biology, fluid dynamics, and robotics as a means to push the boundaries of these fields. Collaborating with fellow laboratory members from different backgrounds and interests brings me different perspectives, valuable for understanding my research in the context of the wider scientific community.

I am honored to receive a fellowship in the memory of John, and I sincerely thank you for your support and generosity. I would love to share with you the work that I have been doing at Stanford, so please feel free to contact me! Thank you again for your generosity, I am truly grateful for this fellowship.

Sincerely,

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

Laura Matloff