

Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald,

My name is Margaret Koehler, and I am a recipient of The John R. MacDonald Memorial Fellowship. I am writing to thank you for your family's financial support to pursue graduate studies in mechanical engineering here at Stanford. Like your son, I went to Stanford for my undergraduate degree and have remained here for a master's and my PhD. I truly appreciate your support, and I am humbled to receive this gift in honor of John MacDonald's life and academic achievements.



I am studying mechanical engineering with a focus on mechatronics, controls, and robotics. I enjoy the mechanical engineering side of robotics in particular because we get to translate the advances of the computer revolution from the information realm to the physical world. I'm particularly interested in medical robotics. I've always enjoyed learning about the biology of the human body and find surgery and other medical treatments fascinating. Medical robotics is a wonderful way for me to combine my love of mathematics and engineering with this fascination and use that combination to help others. As an undergraduate, I worked on a robotic manipulator for use in stroke rehabilitation. We used the manipulator to study human adaptation and learning in different virtual environments, with the hope that this knowledge could inform future stroke rehabilitation paradigms. As a first-year graduate student, I worked on an actuated brain catheter and took an exciting course sequence in mechatronics, preparing me well for my future work. By developing new robots to help improve patient outcomes and performing more basic robotics research, I hope that my career can benefit society.

In addition to my primary academic pursuits, I enjoy playing the euphonium in the Stanford wind ensemble. The euphonium is a low-brass instrument shaped like a small tuba that plays in the range of a trombone. I have played with this group since my freshman year here on The Farm, and I find it a great way to relax while being creative with others. I really enjoy the music (especially that of Gustav Holst!) and community of this group.

Thank you again for your generous support of my graduate studies. Without your fellowship fund, I would not be able to continue at Stanford for my PhD. I truly thank you for the gift that you gave out of your loss.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Koehler*

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