

Anne Alter
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Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald,

My name is Anne Alter, and I am currently a second-year mechanical engineering graduate student at Stanford University. I am writing to thank you for your fellowship support through the Daniel W. MacDonald Memorial Fellowship. The support that I have received from this fellowship has helped me to accomplish my academic goals and has enhanced my experience in graduate school. I simply would not have been able to attend graduate school without your support.

Since entering graduate school, I have focused my studies in the areas of mechatronics, dynamics, and sensors. I am currently working to finish my master's degree with the ultimate goal of obtaining a PhD. I have been working in a research laboratory that develops micro-scale sensors that are embedded within all kinds of devices like smart phones, cars, and navigation equipment. I have been working to study the performance of these sensors and am trying to find ways to increase their sensing strength.

Last year, I took a mechatronics course (which combines mechanical and electrical engineering), and spent the year learning how to build robots. Our final project involved designing a remote-controlled hovercraft from scratch. We utilized resources like the Stanford Product Realization Laboratory to laser cut and assemble our hovercraft. At the end of the quarter, we were able to compete against other teams in our class in a competition where we drove our hovercrafts around a course. This class enhanced my skills as an engineer and prepared me for work that I will do in my PhD research.

Beyond research, I am a member of the Stanford University triathlon team. As a team, we swim, bike, and run together, training for various races against other universities. Last April, I was able to travel with the team to the Collegiate Triathlon National Championships in Clemson, South Carolina. There we competed against hundreds of other collegiate athletes from across the country. It was an incredible experience to be in the race and to represent Stanford.

Thank you again for your fellowship support. The experiences I have had at Stanford University have truly changed my life and have helped me to grow as an individual and engineer. I am extremely grateful and would not be here without your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Alter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anne" being more prominent than the last name "Alter".

Anne Alter

