

November 2015

Mr./Ms. XXXX  
c/o Office of External Relations  
3207 Kim Engineering Building  
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Ms. XXXX,

I am writing to express my appreciation and thanks for your generous fellowship/scholarship and for naming me an XXXX Scholar for the 2015-2016 Academic Year. I am extremely honored to have been included amongst this year's recipients and look forward to getting to know my fellow University of Maryland scholars.

As a graduate student in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department of the A. James Clark School of Engineering, I am interested in multidisciplinary approaches to traditional engineering problems. My research involves remediating a trichloroethylene plume discovered in the groundwater of a Superfund site. Trichloroethylene is a carcinogenic and highly toxic industrial solvent, and is one of the most common groundwater contaminants in the U.S. In addition to engineering, my work involves aspects of microbiology, genetics, and analytical chemistry, which I incorporate to tackle this multi-sided problem. I feel that this approach encourages a more holistic method of gathering data, and that using multiple tools increases the success and longevity of a proposed solution. This project has also offered me the opportunity to interact and mentor several undergraduates and expose them to the types of problems environmental engineers typically handle.

Again, thank you to the XXXX Foundation for your support and encouragement of this work, as well as your ongoing relationship with the University of Maryland.

Sincerely,

*Actual Ink Signature*

Printed Name

November 2015

Dr. XXXX  
c/o Office of External Relations  
3207 Kim Engineering Building  
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Dr. XXXX,

I am honored to be the recipient of the XXXX Graduate Award. I would like to express my appreciation for your generosity in funding this award for the A. James Clark School of Engineering.

I am a full time graduate research assistant within Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Maryland, focusing on Geotechnical and Pavement Engineering. I obtained my B.S. in Civil Engineering at XXXX in xxxxx. I found myself interested in soil and pavement mechanics when I became the Teaching Assistant at the Asphalt and Superpave lab during my undergraduate studies. This led me to pursue graduate studies in this area of research and apply to the University of Maryland. I was honored to receive the A. James Clark School of Engineering Dean's fellowship for two academic years, which provided great support for me as an international student.

I have been working on projects under the supervision of Dr. XXXX, Department Chair. We have worked on developing master curves of cumulative plastic strain in repeated load permanent deformation tests by applying time–temperature superposition during the first few months of my graduate research. Thenceforth, we were mostly concentrated on implementing non-nuclear methods of compaction quality control using a Light Weight Deflectometer. I acquired tremendous skills through participation in the various tasks included in this project; such as literature reviews, lab testing, large scale testing at the Turner Fairbank Highway Research Center, field trip evaluations in several states, and presentations for technical advisory meetings and conferences.

Starting last summer, I became the Vice President of the CEE Graduate Student Council, planning and organizing social and academic events that are open to all Civil graduate students. I am also a member of XXXX Women Foundation and attend their leadership conferences.

After I obtain my PhD degree, I will seek a career in Civil Engineering, which will give me the strong technical and management background I will need to eventually start my own company. This award has given me a lot of motivation and the courage to dream big and to seek my dreams. Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely,

*Actual Ink Signature*  
Printed Name

November 2014

Mr./Ms. XXXX  
c/o Office of External Relations  
3207 Kim Engineering Building  
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Mr. XXXX,

I am writing to let you know how appreciative I am of your generous contribution to the fellowship/scholarship awards for the A. James Clark School of Engineering. With your help, I was able to receive the XXXX Fellowship/Scholarship, which will help me advance my studies at the University of Maryland.

As a senior in Electrical Engineering, I have studied a wide spectrum of subjects. From power systems to software development, gaining a broad background has enabled me to narrow my focus into a specific area of study, namely software design and testing. I am most interested in this field because it presents challenging problems and allows for creative thinking. In order to solve a software bug, sometimes an out of the box approach is needed. Unique approaches allow me to see the problem in my own way, and derive effective solutions. Software engineering and applied engineering have always been interests of mine; after taking classes in C programming, computer hardware, and operating systems, I know that these are the areas that I am most comfortable in.

Upon graduation, I hope to focus on field work and gain insight into the software design industry. I am able to pursue my dream because of your generous contribution. Your investment into my education will allow me to develop both academically and personally and I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

*Actual Ink Signature*  
Printed Name