November 4, 2005

Dear [Name],

It is my great pleasure to provide you with this communication concerning the Presidential Fellowship Program, and to be able to update you on our plans for the year. As you know, MIT has been building the Presidential Fellowship Program over the past four years. This year, for the fifth time, we have been able to award named Presidential Fellowships, in addition to the institutionally funded Presidential Fellowships. We are very grateful to you, one of our initial donors, for this substantial commitment of financial support. This year we have been able to fund 150 first year graduate students through the Presidential Fellowship Program, and approximately 65% of these fellowships have the distinction of being named. We are very pleased with the growth of the Program over the last year.

The Society of Presidential Fellows continues to bring the new graduate students together in various social and educational settings. We strive to build a community of scholars that connects students beyond the boundaries of discipline. To that end, we held a Reception of Welcome on September 14th in the Steam Café, a new dining collaborative located in the Department of Architecture. President Susan Hockfield and I addressed the group, and greeted the new fellows and academic administrators. We are pleased to continue with the lecture and dinner series first offered in 2003, co-sponsored by the Sidney Pacific Graduate Community Committee on Scholarly Interactions. The first lecture and dinner was held recently, featuring E.A. Griswold Professor of Geophysics and Department Head of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, Dr. Maria Zuber. I have attached a listing of the lectures remaining in the series, in the event that your schedule might allow you to join us. The fellows particularly enjoy having access to these inspirational scholars, and the chance to meet them personally over dinner. I expect the year to pass quickly, and before long we will begin planning an end-of-year event to which all donors will be invited. It is our hope that this will be a prime opportunity to connect students with benefactors, and to begin a mutually beneficial dialogue. This event will take place in early May, and we will confirm the exact date well in advance.

I have attached the name of the student who has been recognized as the current [Name] Presidential Graduate Fellow. I hope you will enjoy reading about [Name] and hopefully meeting her in person during this academic year. Your generosity in taking the initial steps to lay the enduring foundation for this crucial program is so important to this great institution, and I am personally very grateful to you. I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

L. Rafael Reif

cc: Janet E. Fischer
2005-6

MIT Department: Biological Engineering
Pennsylvania State University
BS, 2005, Biomedical Engineering
MIT Degree Objective: Ph.D.