

February 5, 2009

Dear Friend:

What an honor to share with you my experiences as a University of Washington graduate student—and how a fellowship makes all the difference for me and many thousands of UW graduate students like me.

First, I want to thank you for your commitment to graduate education and encourage you to renew your gift in this new year.

I was very fortunate to receive a donor-funded fellowship from the UW Graduate School's Graduate Opportunities and Minority Achievement Program (GO-MAP). As a result of this support, I have been able to teach at the UW and conduct my dissertation research in English Language and Literature, while also giving back to the community by applying my writing and communication skills. Since 2006, I have served as project coordinator for Mentoring Seattle: Connecting Bilingual University Students with English as a Second Language (ESL) Public School Students. This is just one example of how the impact of graduate training extends well beyond the limits of the UW Seattle campus.

Fundamentally, GO-MAP support allows me to participate fully in the University's three-part mission of teaching, research, and service. Beyond the essential funding my fellowship provides, the Graduate School connects me with an amazing network of faculty and staff mentors and fellow students. All the GO-MAP Fellows—and other diverse graduate students who attend professional development workshops and community building events—benefit as well from this breadth of support. In fact, I am such a believer in GO-MAP, when I married in June 2008, my fiancé and I asked our wedding guests to make a donation to GO-MAP in lieu of a traditional gift. How much better to invest in the lives of talented underrepresented graduate students—with all the potential they promise—than receiving a toaster oven!

My husband Ruvane and I believe with all our hearts in the importance of giving. I invite you to give as well. You, too, can significantly impact the lives of graduate students, allowing them to reach out with their expertise to serve people in need, as I have done.

**Would you please renew your support for general graduate fellowships and/or GO-MAP fellowships with a gift this winter?**

Generous alumni and friends provide the resources needed to help advanced degree students succeed in hundreds of fields. The need is greater than ever. Enrollment in UW master's and doctoral programs has increased 5.1% since 2007, meaning more graduate students are doing amazing things in classrooms, laboratories, businesses and beyond, often with immediate impact throughout Washington State and the nation. Please consider how you can support graduate education and the leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you,



Lisa Thornhill  
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2007 GO-MAP Fellow

P.S. Did you know that many companies encourage their employees to support the UW by matching their charitable donations? Please contact your HR department for the proper matching gift form.