Daniel Raymond Wong Memorial Fellowship at Stanford University
Letter of Intent from Daniel's Family

It is our desire that the recipient of the Daniel Raymond Wong Memorial Fellowship demonstrates some of the special qualities of Daniel. Being intelligent and hard working are not unique characteristics at Stanford. What made Daniel special was his compulsion to share his knowledge with others, for the benefit of others. For example, one of Daniel’s colleagues wrote to tell us how, in his first days of employment at TIFF (The Investment Fund for Foundations in Cambridge, MA), Daniel had some trouble using the Bloomberg terminal. Later in the day, having solved his problem, Daniel wrote a detailed explanation of how to calculate returns on the Bloomberg along with his initial incorrect assumptions. He then circulated this explanation as an FYI to his group. This colleague wrote that Daniel’s email inspired the rest of the group to adopt this same procedure whenever they made helpful discoveries.

Daniel’s personal motto was FED: which stands for Focus, Effort and Determination. He believed that with those elements, especially the first, Focus, one could achieve almost anything. Daniel’s focus was always on helping other people.

Daniel had three areas of interest: Education, Health Care and Investments. From his internship with the Department of Health and Human Services during his cherished time at the Stanford in Washington Program, he realized that most people do not understand the basics of health care. From his employment at TIFF, he concluded that most people do not know the basics of personal investing. And from his years of tutoring throughout high school and college, he learned the power of knowledge. Daniel believed that social inequity could be modified through education. His focus was on social inequity, but more than simply viewing it in the abstract, Daniel took an active role in reducing that inequity himself. Daniel hoped to write a primer on health care and health insurance, and on personal investing. He never got the chance to do so, but he provided academic tutoring and college counseling for free to at risk students in New Jersey and East Palo Alto, CA. Later, he gave investment counseling to his former tutees as well as to his Stanford friends.

Daniel died of what is suspected to be viral encephalitis on December 3, 2013, at the age of 22. In the condolence cards we received, almost every description of Daniel refers to his kindness and his willingness to commit himself to his friends and his ideals. To many of his Stanford friends, Daniel was at the heart of their Stanford family. Many people strive for self-actualization through impressive jobs and high salaries. Daniel gave priority to his friendships and building community.

We hope these anecdotes provide a picture of Daniel’s spirit that we are confident others possess as well. We would like the Public Policy Program to identify students with this spirit and nurture them with the Daniel Raymond Wong Memorial Fellowship.

March 2014
THE DANIEL RAYMOND WONG MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FUND

A small group of faculty and alumni are establishing a fund in memory of Daniel Raymond Wong (Class of 2013). The fund will honor Daniel by supporting summer fellowships for students who demonstrate some of his interests and characteristics and which will allow students to utilize rigorous analytical and professional skills in the public sector.

Gifts in Daniel's memory for this purpose may, for investment purposes, be merged with any of the general investment assets of Stanford University, but they shall be entered as additions to an endowed fund known as THE DANIEL RAYMOND WONG MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FUND (“the Fund”). The Board shall use the endowment payout from the Fund to support summer fellowships for undergraduate students under the direction of the Program in Public Policy. The amount and terms of each award, the terms of eligibility, and the recipient thereof, shall be determined by the Program in Public Policy or such other University authority as may be designated by the Board.

In choosing recipients of the fellowships, it is hoped that the Program in Public Policy will choose undergraduate students who have demonstrated that they have some or all of the following interests that were associated with Daniel Wong himself: a declared major in economics or public policy, a demonstrated interest in the study of education or health care, who has secured a position at a nonprofit or public service organization, and will be located in the Washington, DC area. Ideally, the recipient should possess some of Daniel’s trademark qualities: an analytical mind coupled with an intrinsic desire to share his knowledge and an overarching orientation towards equity and social justice.

If, in the judgment of the Board, changed circumstances should at some future time render the designated use of the Fund no longer appropriate, then the Board shall use distributions from the Fund to further the objects and purposes of Stanford University, giving consideration to our special interest as evidenced by the purpose described above.

Should the endowment threshold of $100,000 not be reached before December 31, 2014, the gifts in Daniel’s memory will be designated for an expendable fund with the same purpose as described above.