

Emily Pauls
3497 Frist Center,
Princeton, New Jersey 08544 – 1134
epauls@princeton.edu

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Mr. John C. Stone, II
Class of 1953
Apartment 266
80 Lyme Road
Hanover, NH 03755-1232

Mr. Stone and the Class of 1953,

My name is Emily Pauls, and as one of the recipients of the Class of 1953 Memorial Scholarship, I would like to thank you for helping my family pay for my education here at Princeton University. While both of my parents did not attend college, they always pushed me to aim higher than they did during their youth, so I always planned to attend college, but I never knew it would be here! Finishing off my sophomore fall, I have never felt so challenged or more at home.

I am a first generation student here at Princeton University, and I am also a first generation Chaldean-American – my father was born in Baghdad, Iraq, and my mother is from Tehran, Iran. They both moved to Michigan with their families when they were fairly young, seeking both a religious and political refuge. My grandparents, from both sides of my family, knew very little English when coming to this country. They worked long, labor-centered jobs in order to provide for their children the life that they never had in the Middle East.

My parents reflect many of the same characteristics as my grandparents. They never wanted us to worry about money like they always had when growing up, and because both of them did not attend college, they pushed my younger sister and me to work harder in school than they ever did. For this reason, my parents have always inspired me.

I love Princeton because of the amazing opportunities. I am currently working on my major in Molecular Biology with plans to go to medical school. I have also joined and become a DJ at the campus radio station, WPRB. I was recently elected to be the President of Princeton's Rotaract Club, which focuses on both community and international volunteer work. Right now, we are fundraising to help build a school in an underdeveloped country with a connection to another organization called buildOn, and are reaching out to our community more than ever by contacting and working with the Children's Home Society in New Jersey.

I am so grateful to be able to attend Princeton University, and without this Scholarship, I am not quite sure where I would be today! When I think about what my being here means not only to me, but also for my parents and sister, I realize how big this really is. There are no words which fully express my gratitude, but for now, thank you.

Sincerely,

Emily M. Pauls 18'