December 9, 2017

Dear Friends,

You probably are inundated with requests for donations during the “Giving Season.” So, this will be NPPP’s sole fundraising appeal this year.

I ask you to consider donating to the Leventhal Fellowship, which uses 100% of its proceeds to support graduate student internships in nuclear security, to empower the next generation with the knowledge and skills to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

Since 2014, the Leventhal Fellowship has supported three student interns. Here is the latest: Harry Kim was the Leventhal Fellow during summer 2017 at the Wilson Center’s Nuclear Proliferation International History Project. He is projected to graduate with a Master of Global Policy Studies degree in May 2018 and hopes to pursue a career in nuclear nonproliferation, focused in East Asia. At the LBJ School, Harry already has completed a one-semester course on nuclear nonproliferation policy and is currently engaged in a year-long NPPP research project exploring global use of plutonium as fuel for nuclear power, supported by the MacArthur Foundation.

Ask yourself: how many 20-somethings even know that plutonium is used as a commercial fuel, let alone that it poses potential environmental and security hazards? The first generation to confront these concerns is now retiring. Who will replace them to address the growing dangers of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism? That is the goal of the Leventhal Fellowship.

We honor the memory of Paul Leventhal who was a key part of that first generation. Last April, NPPP hosted a symposium commemorating the 10th anniversary of Paul’s untimely passing. Senator Ed Markey’s 2017 Congressional Record statement reminds us of Paul’s many contributions and the importance of encouraging young women and men to follow in his footsteps.

So far, the Leventhal Fellowship Endowment is only 73% funded – short of its goal by $30,000. This yields an annual award smaller than most interns’ summer living expenses, hindering our ability to attract top students to careers in nuclear security. Please help us carry forward Paul’s legacy by donating this year.

Donations are tax-deductible. For online donations, click here. Or make checks payable to “The University of Texas at Austin” and include a memo line stating “Paul Leventhal Fellows Endowment” and mail to: Development Office, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin, 2300 Red River St., Stop E2700, Austin, TX 78712.

More information on the fellowship program is available here. For further guidance on donation options please contact our development specialist, Rachel Ciullo, at rciullo@austin.utexas.edu or (512) 471-3004.

Thank you for considering a donation, and happy holidays!

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