

February 5, 2018

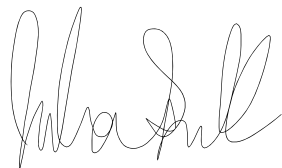
To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Ryan Furlong for the Outstanding Teacher Award (OTA) at the University of Iowa. Professor Furlong was one of my first instructors as I officially entered the University of Iowa, and he has been by far one of the most impactful. In the Fall of 2016, as a timid freshman, Professor Furlong showed me exactly why I came to the University of Iowa- for the incredible English program. In the introductory course, English 1200: The Interpretation of Literature, he easily engaged the entire class with his positive attitude and obvious passion of teaching literature. To this day, Ryan has gone beyond the classroom and has assisted me with major decisions regarding my field of study, extracurricular opportunities, and has supported my pursuit for higher level literacy skills.

Within this introductory course, Ryan's endless optimism created a liveliness in the classroom that made me look forward to going to class and participating. Ryan used an effective style of pedagogy that connected our assigned readings to our own lives and the world around us, while also facilitating discussions that promoted productive student learning. Interpretation of Literature was one of the few classes I felt confident and comfortable speaking in, as Ryan encouraged classroom discussion and interaction amongst peers throughout every class.

But more than this, Ryan goes above and beyond and creates a personal and professional bond with many of his students. As a current English and Creative Writing major, I am not sure I would be the writer I am today without having taken that introductory course with Ryan as an instructor. Ryan acts not only as a phenomenal instructor, but as a highly influential mentor. Throughout my time in his course, along with other English courses, Ryan has provided me with exceptional feedback. I would therefore recommend Ryan Furlong for the Outstanding Teacher Award (OTA), as he has helped me be the successful, devoted, passionate student I am today.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Marie Small', written in a cursive style.

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