

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I highly recommend Dr. Jesse Stommel for the Excellence in Pedagogy Award. As a student in his English 1102: *The Dead and the Undead* class, I have experienced his extremely creative and effective method of teaching firsthand.

This class is very different from other English 1102 classes as we are producing a film over the course of the semester instead of a research paper. Directing, producing, filming, and advertising a film is a new and challenging process for most of the students in our class. Jesse consistently leads our class with enthusiasm, humour, and creative insight, all of which make the assignment seem less daunting. For example, Jesse provided constant support to myself and my department when we were faced with the almost impossible task of producing over \$500 in donations for the budget of our film. The entire class, and especially my department, learned how to work with local companies and actors with encouragement and guidance from Jesse. In addition to the film, we also contribute to a class blog, read and discuss various excerpts and novels related to class material, and view and discuss films also related to the class material. All of these aspects of Jesse's class truly encompass the multi-modal theme that all English 1102 classes are centered around.

Jesse is obviously passionate about his job and his students. It is clear that he wants everyone to succeed because he continually offers to discuss anything concerning the class. Our classroom is a place where we can freely express our thoughts and opinions. Jesse creates a wonderful and rewarding relationship between himself and his students by treating them as adults to develop mutual trust and respect. English is a class at Georgia Tech that is frequently overlooked and not taken seriously by STEM students, but Jesse overcomes that mindset with his unique teaching method. As a fourth year engineering student, I can say without reservation that Jesse has been my absolute favorite professor because of his approachability, creativity, and open classroom.

I strongly believe that Jesse is the perfect candidate for this award. Any further questions about Jesse and his English 1102 class can be directed to me.

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