

Monday, April 11, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is my personal recommendation for Jesse Stommel. I am an undergraduate student at Georgia Tech who is currently taking Dr. Stommel's English 1102 class this semester. Unlike most students, I came into the class already knowing a little bit about the instructors' pedagogy and the class topic. A colleague of mine who has known Dr. Stommel for two semesters highly recommended that I sign up for his class. I am writing this letter of recommendation because I am someone who is currently seeing Dr. Stommel's teaching first hand.

I have to admit that Dr. Stommel's class is one of the only classes I look forward to going to because the atmosphere he creates in the classroom resembles a true learning environment. In the beginning of class he always starts off with stories and interesting facts, then moves on to logistics, and finally into the meat of the class. I try my best never to be late just for the fact that I will be able to come in and listen to the conversations before learning. The amount of creativity he encourages us to explore is phenomenal. From my experience, it is rare to see Georgia Tech classes give the opportunity to be creative with assignments because requirements restrict us to follow certain standards and stay within a strict realm of our deliverable. Instead, Dr. Stommel encourages us to be creative and analytical in everything that we do. He engages the students in class by speaking with passion, and keeps the class interactive by consistently asking us our thoughts and opinions. The fact that students in his class are comfortable enough to refer to him by his first name shows that he is truly committed to knowing each one of us and making sure we get the most out of his class.

I enjoy how Dr. Stommel creates assignments that allow us to use the resources we have in the Georgia Tech campus and Atlanta area. For example, for our film project we contacted local real estate agents and strip malls to film our movie. Also, for fundraising we contacted local restaurants and were forced to learn how to deal and communicate with people and businesses in the real world, rather than just communicating with peers only.

I highly recommend Jesse Stommel for the overall excellence in pedagogy award. As a student in his class, I believe he truly deserves it.

Sincerely,

Maya Uddin

Undergraduate Student at the Georgia Institute of Technology