



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-9430
(805) 893-3118 FAX (805) 893-3324

November 7, 2012

Dear Madam/Sir:

It is a great pleasure to write on behalf of Tyler Holstein's application for your social psychology program. Tyler has taken two courses from me and earned "A" and "A+" grades in them. He has come into my office on many occasions and had long conversations with me, during which times I have come to know him quite well.

I first came to know Tyler when he did an outstanding job in my large lecture class (Soc 152A), earning an "A+" grade. As a consequence, I invited him to be in the honors course (Soc 152B) that I hold the next quarter for the very best students in the prior quarter. It was in the honors class that I first came to know Tyler well and to respect his intelligence, integrity and deep concern for humanity. This small class is a discussion class and Tyler made many intelligent and creative contributions. I got to see Tyler thinking "on his feet," and was very impressed with how quickly he formulates ideas and clearly he expresses them. He wrote an "A+" paper for that class—and I do not give many "A+" grades.

Tyler has earned a 3.98 GPA in his four undergraduate years, which is very impressive—especially since the Psychology Major is one of the hardest ones on our campus. Tyler wants to do original research in areas of evolutionary psychology and/or unconscious social cognition. He is also interested in dyads. He loves analytical thinking and writing, which makes him very well suited for a career in academia. He is genuinely eager to extend scientific theories of the way the human mind thinks and I am certain that he will make significant contributions in that endeavor. He is well versed in scientific methods and well prepared to design sophisticated research projects.

Tyler is quite skillful in his use of English, in both spoken and written forms. He is a cheerful, humorous and outgoing person, leading people to like him and enjoy working with him. He relates well to many different types of people. He also carries responsibility well and takes his projects extremely seriously, working carefully and with attention to detail. He is forward looking in attaining his long-term goals.

By now it should be abundantly clear that Tyler is an exceptional person who is developing into an outstanding scholar. He stands out among his peers as a very serious and honest person who is using his years at the university very effectively. He loves challenges and wants to gain ever-increasing numbers of skills as he advances through his career. Tyler is both a serious worker and a cheerful, well-adjusted person with whom it is a pleasure to interact. He earns my highest recommendation. If I can be of any further help to you, please do not hesitate to phone me at (805) 967-4995.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John D. Baldwin".

John D. Baldwin
Professor
baldwin@soc.ucsb.edu