

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been fortunate to have had many excellent professors at CSUS, especially within the Economics department. However, the teacher who has had the greatest impact upon my academic success is Dr. Lang. In the past two and a half years I have had the privilege of taking three courses from Dr. Lang, including a rigorous senior research class. When I learned that Dr. Lang had been nominated for the SSIS Outstanding Teacher Award, it prompted me to consider why it is that he stands out from the dozens of other professors from whom I have taken courses. I came to the conclusion that, while there are many reasons why Dr. Lang is an exceptional teacher, the foremost reasons are his enthusiasm, balance, and perception.

My first course with Dr. Lang was a lower division lecture with more than eighty students, many of whom were there simply to fulfill a general elective. However, despite the large class size and less-than-enthusiastic students, Dr. Lang taught the class with the same amount of passion and personal attention that would normally be dedicated to a small upper division class. Throughout the semester, Dr. Lang worked tirelessly to both make the subject interesting and to enable his students to succeed in the class. An outstanding example of this effort was when Dr. Lang learned that a group of students were meeting for a study group and offered to attend. Not only did Dr. Lang meet our group in the library, but he spent several hours helping us to grasp the more abstruse concepts. This instance exemplifies Dr. Lang's enthusiasm for both the subject and for his job in a way that words never could.

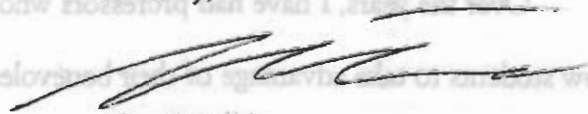
Over the years, I have had professors who are extremely approachable and fun, but who allow students to take advantage of their benevolence to the detriment of the class as a whole. Conversely, I have also had professors who intimidate their students into toeing the proverbial line, but who as a result are exceedingly unapproachable. It is the rare professor who is able to perfectly balance being the fun, accessible teacher with demanding respect and academic honesty. Dr. Lang

seems to have mastered this balancing act. While he is consistently available to offer assistance, cracks jokes with his students, and maintains a lively classroom atmosphere, at the same time he inspires his students to want to earn his respect. In my experience, an average teacher compels his students to respect him through fear of consequences; a great teacher inspires his students to seek his approval by working to their full potential. By this criterion, Dr. Lang is undoubtedly an outstanding teacher.

Due to the accuracy of his insight into his students, Dr. Lang was always the professor to whom I would turn for academic guidance. After three courses and five semesters of interacting with Dr. Lang, I have come to trust the honesty and precision of his assessment of my academic strengths and weaknesses. Dr. Lang does not judge his students based solely upon their grades; rather he takes the time to notice what their strong points are and to encourage them to utilize those strengths.

As a student, I feel strongly that Dr. Lang is a credit to the Economics department, the Social Sciences division, and to the university as a whole. Dr. Lang has consistently been an outstanding professor who has aided me in continued success as an undergraduate and who has also inspired me to strongly consider graduate work in economics. I can think of no one who is more deserving of recognition for their outstanding work as a teacher than Dr. Lang; this year or any year.

Sincerely;



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