

To Whom It May Concern;

If there was ever a student who exemplified how great an impact one professor can have on one student, I am not entirely sure that I would be that student; however, I am certain that Professor Lang would be that professor.

This letter is not meant to be an evaluation of David Lang's teaching style. You will not find me referring to the way his bad jokes could liven a completely unresponsive room; or how his seemingly eternal office hours made him not only available but unrestricted in establishing real relationships with his students; which enabled him to truly affect their lives. I will not ramble on about the way his vast knowledge and experience of the subjects he taught made his lectures not only interest-provoking, but relatable, and even, dare I say it, entertaining; even to the toughest of audiences. Nor will you find me elaborating on the unremitting thoroughness which he applied to constructively critiquing his students' work. I use this terminology to describe his method of grading now only because I am wordy, but because it is an entirely accurate portrayal. Professor Lang does not merely "grade" his students; he evaluates their effort and performance on each task by looking at not only what the outcome is, but what it could be. And while all of these traits DO characterize, while barely giving justice to Professor Lang's teaching style; like I said in the beginning: that is hardly the point of this letter. Professor Lang is an exceptional educator; anyone who's gotten to know him on any level could deduce that. His effectiveness as a teacher I doubt would ever be in question; so rather than reconfirm the obvious, instead I intend to describe just how my life and career has been impacted by Professor David Lang's guidance.

I transferred to CSUS as a junior in the fall semester of 2004. I signed up for a course called Economics at the Movies, because I thought it would be an easy major course that did not require much time or effort, as I was also working full time. I learned early on that active participation and good attendance are standards that he find imperative to instill in his students, and for good reason. I will allow this about myself as a student: I was not an active participant. Furthermore, within the first couple of weeks of the course, I encountered an obstacle that prevented me from attending a good portion of the classes. I discussed this with him after the first 2 weeks of the course, and he recalled that I had written a particularly good essay analyzing the economics of the first movie. He made an exception to his policy for me and agreed not to demolish my attendance grade if I came in and discussed with him what I had missed. That semester, while learning about the cinematic portrayal of economics, I also learned the value of taking an active role in the courses I was enrolled in and my education.

Throughout the following two years, I took a total of 4 courses with Professor Lang, as well as TAing for him my senior year. I won't detail quite so thoroughly my experiences in these courses, but I will express what I took away from them. After Econ at the Movies, Professor Lang recommended that I take Econ. 140 which was a new course he

was teaching to following spring. The course combined basic quantitative economic analysis with research methods, computer science, and public speaking. It was an ambitious undertaking, both for professor and student. David Lang thought it would be good for me, since neither computer skills nor public speaking were my fortes. Normally I would have shied away from a course that required such involved participation, however I took his advice and the course. And while I do apologize, Professor Lang, for I can not attribute you with turning me into a Winston Churchill or Abraham Lincoln, I will credit you this; you taught me to be confident in more than just my writing. I learned that I could research and present material effectively, and I learned that if I presented qualitative material, I would be heard, and respected, despite the fact that my voice may shake a little still while presenting it.

I graduated with my degree in the spring of 2006, and since then went on to intern and eventually find a job that allows me to use many of the skills Professor Lang taught me. Throughout my career search, Professor Lang continued to be an excellent reference, mentor, and friend. His continued interest in my progress proved to me that he cared not only about my success as a student, or as a former student, but also about my success in life, in growing as a person, and in achieving all my goals. I hate to use the trite expression, "I couldn't have done it without Professor Lang!" because every student says that about that one influential advisor; but it's true. I went after opportunities that I might not have had I not learned to be an active participant in everything I do. I might have given up when initial research did not turn up expected results while job hunting, if I had not learned from David the virtues of thorough research, ambition, and attempting the impossible or unlikely. He helped me in many ways become a person who exercised her potential, whereas I might have otherwise underestimated it. And for those reasons, I maintain, that while David Lang may not have drastically changed the course of my life, he made the changes that mattered, and for that I am forever grateful to him, and confident that out of all the Professors I have known, I have been most benefited by Professor David Lang's teaching, to say the absolute least.

Sincerely,

Lily Resnikoff