

December 23, 2006

Umarah Ahmad

To Whom It May Concern,

I am excited to hear that Professor David Lang has been nominated for the SSIS Outstanding Teacher Award, an award he highly deserves. For me this presents an opportunity to share my appreciation for everything he has taught me about economics and more so life in general.

In my first two years of college, I disregarded the opportunity to visit my professors during office hours. Not until I took Professor Lang's class in the spring of 2005 did my views on this change. His first assignment was to simply drop by his office and introduce ourselves personally. The invitation illustrates his commitment to getting to know all his students and make them feel comfortable to approach him with any questions that arose from class. Professor Lang was always hospitable and non-judgmental and took the time to address any of my comments and concerns.

In class, Professor Lang's style is interesting and funny, but focused on the day's learning objectives. He fosters a cooperative relationship between the students which has also benefited me in all my classes and enriched my learning experience. The trust I developed in Professor Lang's teaching style extended to subsequent semesters as I continued taking at least one class from him every semester. In total I have taken five courses he has taught.

Professor Lang has been open to sharing his own experience in education and in academia, making him someone who a student could go to for sincere advice and insight which is why I chose to consult him about my own post graduation plans.

I appreciate that Professor Lang carries high expectations of his students and pushes and encourages us to challenge ourselves. Professor Lang encouraged and motivated me to take econometrics despite my doubts to do so. As a prerequisite to my graduate school program, I feel adequately prepared and in fact I feel more comfortable with econometrics than most of my peers.

However, what I appreciate about Professor Lang the most is that he is committed to not only doing his job well, but rather doing it exceptionally. This is truly inspiring to me. A simple testament to this commitment is exemplified by him always being in class on time, promptly replying to e-mails and turning back assignments and tests extraordinarily fast. Professor Lang would always be in class waiting for his students to come in before he began instruction.

I believe that Professor Lang is only in the beginning of an extraordinary career he will have in education, however he is already an outstanding professor who has undoubtedly shaped my experience in every aspect at Sacramento State. I am grateful that I was able to be in his class and truly hope that he receives this well-deserved and distinguished award.

Sincerely,

Umarah Ahmad

Class of 2006