



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

December 19, 2012

Dear Appointments Committee:

I enthusiastically recommend Mr. Dean RAMSER as an exceptional candidate for a position as an instructor of English literature, composition and rhetoric, creative writing, and critical and cultural theory. I have known Dean for approximately six years, and base my endorsement on his superb performance in two extremely challenging MA courses at California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA): ENG 510 (African Diasporic Poetics of Space) and ENG 508 (Poetry Writing). I also have had the opportunity to gain extensive knowledge of his teaching. I performed Dean's formal faculty teaching evaluation at CSULA in Fall 2012, observed him deliver several exemplary professional and class presentations, and he has shared extensive teaching materials and accolades with me. He exemplifies the highest levels of quality and care as an instructor to highly diverse groups of students with varying levels of skill and preparation.

In ENG 508, he skillfully adapted the MA-level course materials—including the history and theory of lyric poetry, and class writing exercises—to his own teaching curricula. The results were shared with our graduate seminar, which the whole class found inspiring and illuminating. In ENG 510, Dean delved with keen insight into issues relating to educational challenges in Africa and theories of Pan-African education, which also held great applicability to wider national and international educational policies and practices. This project produced invitations to deliver his results at two competitive professional conferences.

Earning an A in both of these courses, Dean was a true group leader, and performed at the pinnacle of achievement amongst an exceptionally proficient pool of classmates. In both classes, he demonstrated his passionate commitment to pedagogy, the intellectual process, and the importance of quality education at all levels in society. In my experience, he is delightful in a group setting, formerly as a student and now as a colleague. He is quick to encourage and support the ideas of others, a respectful listener and a superb communicator who excels at building a spirit of collaboration to achieve the best possible educational results.

In November 2012, I had the great pleasure of being appointed to write a faculty observation of Dean's teaching for the Part-Time Instructors' Review Committee of CSULA's English Department. This session of Dean's ENG 095 (Composition and Rhetoric) class was one of the most impressive displays of classroom management and curricular design and delivery that I have ever observed. I rated him "Outstanding" in every category. His pedagogy was extremely inventive yet crystal clear. Every student was tremendously engaged, enthused and energized. The session contained a substantial component of peer review in which all class members displayed an impressively high level of knowledge, skill and participation due to the obvious quality of instruction, direction and encouragement that they had received from Dean since September.

Throughout the six years that I have worked with Dean—first as a student and now as a colleague—he has displayed exceptional commitment, discipline, focus, intellectual depth, sense of purpose, verbal and literary proficiency, and desire to serve others effectively. I can attest to his consistency, reliability, motivation and quality of his level of preparation and skills. I have been constantly amazed at his energy, authentic concern for others, positive spirit and fulfillment of goals that always meet and typically exceed expectations.

The English Department at CSULA has been enriched by Dean's participation. If a suitable permanent opening became available in this department, I would encourage him to apply and endorse him unwaveringly. That level of enthusiastic support for Dean is widely held among students, faculty and administrators alike. Based on the quality of his teaching, research, service and character, I enthusiastically recommend Dean Ramser to you as an ideally suited colleague and instructor who will be an asset to any department and institution.

Sincerely,

Lauri Ramey, PhD
Director, Center for Contemporary Poetry and Poetics
Professor of Creative Writing, African American Literature and Culture, and American Studies
Tel: 323.343.4165 (office)
Email: Lramey@calstatela.edu

November 23, 2012

To whom it May Concern:

As an Assistant Professor in the English Department at California State University, Los Angeles, I am honored to recommend to you one of my best students, Dean Ramser. I had the pleasure to be Dean's teacher in a literature seminar ENGL-541: Postcolonialism: Theory, Practice, Politics (Winter 2010), and I was impressed with his genuine interest in the material and with his overall performance during the quarter. Ranked among the top 5%, Dean's assignments showed not only an impeccable and graceful writing style but also an impressive ability to undertake scrupulous research and to develop cogent arguments. Moreover, during class discussions, Dean's feedback and questions demonstrated an exceptionally inquisitive mind, a remarkable sense of humour, and a relentless commitment to the prusuit of knowledge. My occasional "hallway" discussions with Dean revealed to me an individual who demonstrated a laudable sensitivity to cultural diversity and a deep belief in learning as an ongoing and fundamentally intereactive enterprise.

Dean's assiduousness, sharp mind, and congenial nature are qualities rare to be found, and I am confident that his performance of his duties in your institution will leave nothing to be desired. In short, let me say that Dean Ramser deserves my highest recommendation, and I am all hope that his application will be considered favorably.

Please feel free to contact me should you need further information.

Sincerely,

Atef Laouyene, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of English
California State University, Los Angeles
Phone: (323) 343-4291
E-mail: alaouye@calstatela.edu