

January 12, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

I have known Adam Stangeby for a full year now, as someone who attended a public lecture I gave on harassment in video games and someone whose summer internship I supervised. In my capacity of supervisor of his internship, I am able to comment on Adam's research abilities, work ethic, and his written skills. To say Adam is a driven student is an understatement: he is perhaps one of the most ambitious I have worked with in my 14 years at York, and his ideas are not only plentiful, but are of that unique variety that they stay with you well passed your discussion of them. In terms of his research abilities, I would say they far exceed (especially given his numerous degrees) almost all Master's students and are on par and/or exceed that of first and second year PhD students. His writing is also very strong, as he is able to grapple with abstract concepts and theories and make them intelligible and relatable to the work he is doing.

In terms of his work ethic, in his internship, a project that he designed and carried out with very little direction from me far exceeded my expectations. For example, For his internship, Adam explored the cinematic elements in the videogame series *Gears of War*. Adam's deep knowledge of the *Gears of War* series, his considerable player expertise, and his place in the community meant that he was uniquely positioned to undertake the work he did for the internship. The fact that he was then a student in a film program and investigated the changes in the cut-scenes in the series in a systematic and very detailed way meant that he did highly original work. Indeed, the work that he accomplished, I believe would make a unique contribution to the field of video game studies and I am encouraging him (and will work with him further) to help him publish his research.

In sum, Adam is a thoughtful, hardworking and accomplished student and I believe that he will excel and hopefully finally find a home in the video game industry.

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