I would like to enthusiastically recommend John Ash, Darrel Deo, Shehadeh Dajani, and David Goodman for Kresge Student Project Funds assistance with their project: the Autonomous Lifeguard. This is an ambitious project that attempts to solve an exciting problem with a real world application that has the potential to save lives. This group has my highest recommendations in terms of their quality, dedication, and skill. I have taught challenging courses where each of them have stood out as bright individuals who are among the top in their class. Their history of success in my classes and in my lab demonstrates the level of diligence and proficiency necessary for tremendous success on their project.

Initially, the students approached me for advice and input concerning their project. I was intrigued by the passion and knowledge they exhibited. Ever since they first approached me, I could see that they have been hard at work, making substantial progress towards their objective. Additionally, John Ash and David Goodman have both contributed significant research to the Autonomous Systems Lab (ASL) by working on various projects with graduate students. Overall, each student on this team is heavily qualified and I am confident in their ability to succeed in this project.

All four students have taken an introduction to mechatronic design course that I teach. The curriculum consists of challenging lab exercises and a demanding final project. The project requires the students to work in teams of three to construct autonomous robots to compete with each other in a game of capture the flag, all while earning points by striking each other with ping pong balls. Darrel, Shehadeh, John, and David excelled in this class and proved themselves to be very talented and driven engineers. Not only did they inspire their teammates, but each of them worked ceaselessly to ensure the completion of their team’s robot. John Ash and Darrel Deo were among the top students in their class, and because of their performance, I asked them to tutor my mechatronics students this year.

Whether in lecture remaining sharply engaged in discourse and dialog, or working many long hours, possibly even overnight, these students are extremely driven and capable. They all have the dedication, work ethic, and talent required to achieve success in their project and beyond.