UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

February 10, 2018

PUP Undergraduate Program
Pixar Studios

To the Selection Committee:

We are writing to recommend **Kaiqi (Jennifer) Wu** for the *PUP Undergraduate Program*.

Jennifer is currently enrolled in CS/FINE 383 *Computational Digital Art Studio*, a capstone course for the Digital Art Specialization held between the Department of Fine Arts and Cheriton School of Computer Science. Students in this specialization are enrolled in either Fine Arts or Computer Science programs, and take a shared suite of courses in fine arts and digital media. Through this letter of recommendation, we would like to comment on her technical skills, creative work, problem solving abilities, and her capacity to succeed in your program.

Computational Digital Art Studio is an upper-level studio course where students write computer programs to create innovative digital artworks that reflect each student's conceptual interests. In the first module, students created an artwork that uses a novel form of input to generate, augment, or manipulate a visualization. For her project, Jennifer created an ambitious work using real time computer vision face tracking to trigger three different animations with algorithmically generated 2D and 3D graphics. One visualization even featured news headlines pulled from the New York Times in real time. Her work clearly demonstrated Jennifer's mastery of complex computer programming concepts and her ambition to harness her skills to create diverse self-directed artworks. In those respects, Jennifer's work was certainly at the top of the class.

It is important point out that Jennifer's CS grades are very strong. Waterloo CS is one of the top CS programs in the world, with exclusive admissions and very high academic standards. Within this already demanding program, there are three fourth-year courses known as "the big three" given their legendary difficulty and attrition rate. One of those courses is CS 488 "Computer Graphics" in which Jennifer received 86%. A mark like that in one of the toughest courses in one of the toughest CS programs is exceptional. In addition, the fundamental 3D graphics topics covered by this course are highly relevant to Pixar and the PUP program.

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Jennifer is a motivated and engaged student. She is able to give and receive feedback, makes tangible intellectual contributions to our classroom environment and is a generous and collegial with her peers. In our personal interactions with Jennifer, it is very clear that Jennifer's goal is to find a career that leverages her technical skills for creative purposes.

We believe that *PUP* would be a fantastic opportunity for Jennifer to further develop her technical and creative skills in a highly challenging environment.

Best regards,

Daniel Vogel
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February 7, 2018

I would like to recommend Kaiqi (Jennifer) Wu as a candidate for graduate school. I have supervised Jennifer in my capacity as a team leader for the Dockstore project here at the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research.

Jennifer was a hard worker and a quick learner here at OICR. As a significant achievement, she was able to pick up Typescript with no previous Javascript experience and worked with the Angular web development framework to deliver real features and visualizations to our users. As a part of this work, Jennifer played a pivotal role in the migration of our site from AngularJS to Angular (2.0) while implementing a new search and visualization feature.

Jennifer was also able to accomplish her tasks with a great deal of independence and was able to work productively with many of the technologies that we use on our team such as Elastic Search, Kibana, Docker, and domain specific languages such as Workflow Description Language (WDL) and Common Workflow Language (CWL).

During her co-op term, Jennifer also displayed a strong interest in improving the design, layout, and look of our website. This is consistent with her strong interest in computer graphics and computational fine art.

I am happy to recommend Kaiqi Wu wholeheartedly as both a fellow software developer and as a supervisor. If there are any further questions about her background or her work here at OICR, please do not hesitate to contact me at denis.yuen@oicr.on.ca

Sincerely,

Denis Yuen
Team Leader, Informatics
Ontario Institute for Cancer Research