

May 4, 2008

To whom it may concern:

Letter of Recommendation for Mr. Michael Jack

It is a rare occasion when one has the opportunity to support, without equivocation, the application of someone who fully demonstrated the qualities of industry, perseverance, maturity, discipline, and scholastic ability. Michael Jack meets and exceeds these criteria.

When Michael arrived at Trent University in January 2001, he plunged into his studies with extraordinary enthusiasm and dedication. He literally absorbed course material, seeking to understand every minutiae of each subject. Consequently, Michael's academic performance in computer science and mathematics was outstanding. With an overall average above 90%, Michael earned a prestigious postgraduate scholarship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada which he held throughout his two-year tenure as a graduate student at Trent University. Two accomplishments at Trent, however, bear further recognition.

1. At the end of only his second year of undergraduate study at Trent, I engaged Michael as a Research Assistant. For four months during the summer of 2002, Michael read and critiqued scholarly papers in parallel job scheduling. In addition, he developed simulation models based on the paradigm of marginal utility, culminating in the publication of two conference papers in 2002 and 2003. It was this interest in simulation and modeling that attracted Michael to the graduate program at Trent University where he completed, under my supervision, his master's degree in 2006.
2. In his final year of undergraduate study, Michael was also part of a software engineering team that was entrusted to design and implement a scheduling/booking system for the Department of Athletics at Trent University. With his drive, natural leadership abilities, and excellent communication skills, the project met its deadlines, satisfied its requirements, and was, in my view, the most well-rounded and well-prepared final-year project since my arrival at Trent in 2001.

Michael is by far the hardest working student that I have had the opportunity to watch firsthand. And his work ethics extend to all facets of his life. Everything Michael sets out to do is tackled to the very best of his abilities. Nothing is left undone or left to chance. He views obstacles as opportunities to improve himself. He sets very high standards and pursues life with integrity and unabashed honesty. He is able to size up situations objectively and see through the masks of others.

Michael also brings to the table a unique wealth of experience. As a native of Russia, Michael immigrated with his family to Israel where he worked and studied with the Israeli navy. He has also traveled to ports of call around the globe as a merchant marine. Michael then moved to the United States in the late 1990's as an employee of Intel Corporation. There, he perfected his English and is now fully trilingual in Russian, Hebrew, and English. His written and oral writing abilities in English are superb and indeed, exceed most native speakers of the language.

Michael is well-read and extremely fit. He is outgoing and generous. And over the years, I have developed a great deal of respect for Michael and his life goals. He would be a wonderful asset for any organization and I wish him every success.

Sincerely,



Brian G. Patrick, PhD MBA
Chair and Associate Professor
Computing & Information Systems
Trent University



TRENT UNIVERSITY

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May 8, 2008

To Whom it May Concern,

I am very pleased to be providing a letter of reference for Michael Jack who completed a M.Sc. degree in the Applications of Modeling Program and an B.Sc. degree in Computer Science/Studies both at Trent University. Since completion of his graduate degree, Michael has lectured on a part-time basis for the Program.

As an instructor, I had the great pleasure in having Michael in many courses (both undergraduate and graduate) and I have no difficulty in stating that he was the best student I had seen in many years (his marks in all of my courses were in the 90s). It was not just his academic ability which set Michael apart from other high-achieving students, it was his work ethics. He went above and beyond the course requirements and produced work that far exceeded expectations. Another area which distinguished Michael was that it was quite apparent that he truly wanted to learn new material; he had a thirst for knowledge.

As the Chair of the Program from 1999 to 2007, it was my responsibility to oversee the selection of part-time lecturers. As a graduate student, Michael had served as a guest lecturer in several of my course on numerous occasions. His maturity, clarity, and professionalism was well received by the students. As a result, the Program had no reservations in allocating courses for Michael to teach. He has taught our first-year software engineering course on two occasions, a second-year course in digital logic and a second year course in computer architecture. The feedback from the students has been positive and the Program would not hesitate to assign him future courses if he so desires. One of the strongest comments made by Michael's students is that he went out of his way to provide support in and out of the classroom. Michael had a real desire to see his students succeed at the same time ensuring that they received a quality education. Unfortunately, Michael's association with Trent is limited to a part-time basis as he does not have a Ph.D. which is a requirement for a full-time position.

As a undergraduate student, a graduate student, and now a part-time lecturer, Michael is a tremendous asset to our Department. I have no doubt he will excel in whatever he chooses to do and I am pleased to provide my highest recommendation to Michael Jack.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Hurley".

Dr. Richard Hurley
Full Professor
Department of Computing and Information Systems
Trent University



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May 6, 2008

Reference for Michael Jack

I have had the pleasure of knowing Michael Jack since the fall of 2001. In that time I have had dealings with him on three levels: as an undergraduate student, as a graduate teaching assistant and finally as a teaching colleague.

As an undergraduate student, Michael would rank in the top 3 students out of the hundreds that I have taught over the last 10 years. He was always more than prepared and always did more than what was asked of him. On the rare occasion when he had a problem understanding a concept he would come to me for clarification, which illustrates his desire to learn a topic completely. In his fourth-year software engineering project course, he assumed a team leadership role and led his team to a very successful conclusion.

Michael's duties as my graduate teaching assistant covered two courses. In my third year requirements course, he led weekly seminars and for the fourth year project course he assisted students with their projects. I was always confident that any task that I gave Michael would be well done and I never had to give it a second thought. In the seminars, I would tell Michael the articles that he should read and then he would lead classroom discussions on the topics. He showed a great skill in being able to read between the lines in the articles and then to be able to pass this knowledge along to the students.

As a teacher, Michael has proven that he can develop courses independently and that he has excellent time management and organizational skills. He has taken it upon himself to rewrite existing course notes to his standards and to try and develop courses in which the students have the best opportunity to succeed. He has proven that he can deal with students in a fair and ethical manner.

In conclusion, I highly recommend Michael Jack. He has shown me that he has the desire, dedication, and ability to succeed and I would trust him with any task given him. I am positive that Michael will be successful in any future endeavour.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Hircock".

Brian Hircock, Lecturer
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11-May-08

To Whom It May Concern,

Letter of Reference for Michael Jack

Michael has demonstrated his strengths, values and character to me on many different levels over the past six years. His relationship to me has evolved over time from student and employee to a loyal friend.

Outstanding Leadership and Pride in Work:

I first met Michael when I moved to the Peterborough area from Toronto in 2002. My occupations since then have been running a software company on a full time basis and lecturing at Trent University on a part time basis. Michael happened to be in the first class I taught at Trent in the fall of 2002. Michael was clearly the leader of his peers in that class. Everyone, including myself, would look up to Michael when complex issues were identified in class. Michael, as the rest of the class, knew it was the first course I had ever taught and he helped me understand the University system and how to better deliver my course materials. In the following semester Michael was in a course I created for the University and he again showed leadership in class as well as outstanding pride in his work. His assignments and projects would be in the order of 200 pages while those of his peers were 20 pages. The qualities of his projects have yet to be matched, 6 years later.

Since then Michael has acted as teaching assistant for my courses at Trent as well as he helped me with a few projects at my software company. Michael has helped me in times I have gotten myself into work overload situations, where the work seemed unmanageable. He comes in, always calmly and pleasantly, in times of my crises, and helps me finish work in time frames that are almost inhuman.

Trusted and Loyal:

Michael quickly earned my trust, which was/is difficult to do. We had him house-sit and pet-sit many times. We would not trust just anyone in our house or with our pets. I remember the first time Michael came over to our house to deliver a project (we were on 5 acres at the time) and our dogs were not friendly to strangers. At the time I thought Michael would be arriving, I went outside to gather the dogs, a Rottweiler and a Staffiture Bull Terrier. Much to my surprise I found Michael and the two dogs playing and rolling on the ground like puppy mates. Dogs are very good judges of character. At least, these two were. I had never seen them accept a person as they did to Michael.

In closing, I would recommend Michael highly, as he takes himself and his work very seriously. His work ethic is unparalleled, and his dedication, pride and loyalty are unwavering. Michael is a very loyal and caring person. He is someone who can always be counted on.

Sincerely,



Sofie Andreou, M.Eng.
VP Community Development
The Breken Group
705-741-5864 x103
sofie@ylm.ca

May 8, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

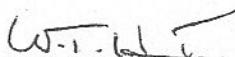
I first met Michael Jack seven years ago when he was a student at Trent University and selling door-to-door for Direct Energy during the summer. I used to be a professor at Trent University and still use the gym there for workouts and he was doing the same.

While I never taught Michael I followed his academic career with interest as he compiled an exceptional record in his courses. He won the prize for the highest mark in first year economics which was the discipline that I taught, although he majored in computer science.

My wife and I live on a farm and he has visited us on many occasions, including at least three times at Christmas. He has helped us by staying at the farm when we have been away, and has hunted on our property, successfully getting a deer with a traditional bow and arrow. When his family has visited from Israel we have entertained them here and we have been the guests at Michael's place on several occasions.

This is the background to our friendship with Michael and I can only say how impressed we are with his accomplishments. You will know that his academic record is exemplary. He has worked diligently at improving his English and his written skills now surpass most native-speaking students of my acquaintance. He has an enquiring mind and reads diligently in a number of fields and is anxious to discuss the issues raised. He is highly disciplined and was extremely focused on his studies, and has continued to apply the same energy to his teaching duties. With respect to his hobby of guns he is fastidious about knowing the rules and following them. And of course he is extremely fit.

It has been a great pleasure for us to get to know Michael and we would certainly recommend him most highly for any position for which he might apply.



William T. Hunter,

R.R.# 8,
Peterborough,
Ontario K9J 6X9

14-May-08

To Whom It May Concern,

I first met Michael seven years ago when he came to our house as a sales representative for Direct Energy. We had a basement available for rent at the time and upon learning that Michael was a student at Trent University my wife inquired if he knew any students who were looking for accommodations. After Michael had checked the place out, he decided to move in himself and he has lived in our house ever since.

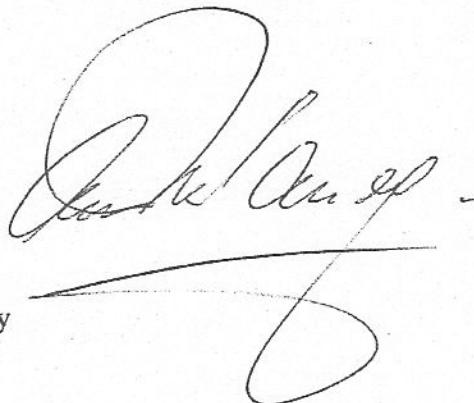
We have five children of our own. They are fully grown and have lives of their own. Over the years Michael has become part of our family. He is like a son to me. In November 2004 my wife had a brain aneurysm and she has been on disability since then. I am retired and drive school bus on a part time basis as I have to look after my wife.

Michael is extremely clean, organized, and diligent. I'd say "immaculate" would be the right choice of a word to describe his living environment. He is dedicated to anything and everything he sets out to do and has a positive attitude to everyone he meets. He has never caused any problems, never defaulted on his rent payments. Whenever I ask him to help me, he is right there right away. Over the years he has been helping us to maintain the property and he has personally renovated half of the house.

Michael's entire family has visited and stayed in our house in August 2003 and his brother has come to stay with us over the summers in 2006 and 2007.

Michael is loyal and trustworthy. I would without hesitation recommend him for any position for which he might apply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andre Melaney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'A' at the beginning.

Andre Melaney
705-652-8125

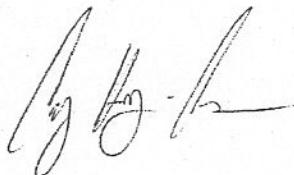
To Whom It May Concern:

As a member of the Trent University athletics complex for the past seven years, and as an employee for the last three years I have come to know several members and students. The fall of 2002 marks the time to which I had the pleasure of meeting Michael Jack. To this day, it is without question that I have not yet met one individual who has demonstrated his level of dedication to physical health, education, family and friends. I believe the personal character which Michael displays is certainly unique, (mostly due to his level of dedication) he naturally embodies the idealizations to which most may only aspire to become.

Consistently over the past six years I have admired Michael's highly regimented schedule. He is absolutely incomparable in his level of efficiency; I would often find him exercising while also reading a textbook, typically regarding this time as his "break" between twelve hour days of work, reading and writing. Regardless to how busy Michael may be, he always reserves some time to teach other members on proper exercise, and engage in the occasional scholarly debate.

Without reservation I highly recommend Michael for this position, and truly believe he deserves the opportunity to demonstrate what I consider his unmatched level of qualification. Please feel free to contact me if you should have any further questions regarding this letter. Cody Harding-Calder

May 12 /2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cody Harding-Calder".

Evaluation of Project

April 21, 2004

Good day Professors Hircock, and Feng,

I am pleased to submit a report on the software design project successfully completed this past academic year for the Department of Athletics and Recreation by a team lead by Michael Jack. I must first apologize for not being in attendance when they presented the programme to you and their peers. Unfortunately my time is often not mine to control and I was in Toronto at an Ontario University Athletics board meeting representing Trent.

In regards to the evaluation of the project, I have attempted to provide comments to substantiate a mark for Olga, David and Michael.

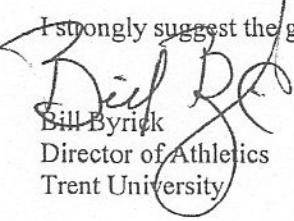
Introduction: The group met with me early last summer to discuss the opportunity and to scope out the needs of the Department. Through a series of meetings we identified the need for a computer based facility booking system, attendance monitoring system, statistical analysis need, as well as other requirements. After reviewing the manual system for booking we decided to embark on a project that would focus on satisfying this one need.

Planning: In preparation for the programme, we agreed to meet every Tuesday afternoon as required. It was made clear that there would be a time requirement on my part and those within the department to assist. Through a series of meetings the group gleaned significant information from the staff and added their creative suggestions to improve the procedure. Throughout the period the group continued to bring questions and possible solutions to our Tuesday meetings. Each week a prototype project began to evolve, and each week we were asked to confirm progress. The focus of the project was to produce a programme that would be more efficient, improve communication, provide more information to the student staff on the front line, and as a result provide more information to the customer. As frequent users of the facility this group understands the challenges and opportunities.

Result: I am very pleased with the result. I believe we have addressed the needs as outlined in the Planning Phase and the group created a system that will be both efficient and user friendly - a major need. Throughout the project the group added features that enhanced the product including the varying degrees of access, provision of statistical information, provision of visual directions for building setups, creation of daily and weekly schedules, etc.

Overall Comments: The group was very focused, professional and dedicated. They were also flexible in making changes and then adapting to the changes as time and needs arose. The department staff members have many priorities and as we are a customer service and deadline driven organization the group was forced to adapt to the frequent rescheduling of meetings. The group did adapt to these realities. We are pleased with the product. In regards to constructive criticism, the group was demanding and the project did take a significant amount of time. The reality is, the time was necessary in determining the need and finding a workable solution.

I strongly suggest the group receive an A+, or a 9.5 out of 10 for the project.


Bill Byrick
Director of Athletics
Trent University

May 5/08

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12-May-08

Dear Michael,

On behalf of Trent University and the Department of Computing & Information Systems, I would like to extend my thanks to you for your recent contributions to Trent's undergraduate programs in your capacity as a CUPE course instructor.

I recognize what an important role CUPE course instructors play in delivering the high quality undergraduate instruction on which Trent prides itself. Your knowledge and skills are truly valued.

I hope you have enjoyed your experiences in the classroom, and I wish you well for the summer.

Sincerely,

Christine McKinnon
Dean of Arts & Science

To whom it may concern,

In 1997/8, during my tenure as a Senior Engineering Technician with the Equipment Installation Team at Intel Corporation, I was tasked with conducting training and supervising new hire technicians. It was in this job capacity that I met, trained and worked with Michael Jack. In totality, I spent roughly 14 months working with Michael in both New Mexico and Portland, Oregon.

Michael was assigned for training to our facility in New Mexico from the Intel plant in Jerusalem. Although he was quite young at the time of his assignment, I was immediately impressed with his maturity and dedication to learning his job tasking. I'm sure that this assignment was a daunting task for this young man as he also had to hone his English language skills, English being a 3rd language for him.

Michael soaked up knowledge like a sponge, and then proceeded to complete all his assigned performance objectives in a thorough, competent, and complete manner.

After Michael's initial training was completed, our team entered into two complex and protracted equipment retooling ramps, first at our Rio Rancho, New Mexico clean room and then at Ronler Acres located in Hillsboro, Oregon. Michael was assigned his own tool set for coordination of installation, and production readiness testing. Despite the long hours and the grueling compressed schedule, Michael performed well. His desire to learn and excel never flagged, and he always questioned job aspects that he didn't understand.

Because of this extended exposure to Michael's work ethic, I am happy to recommend him to any future employer. I am sure that he will be a thorough and competent employee in whatever job capacity he is retained.

Feel free to contact me for any additional information that you might require.

Sincerely,
Jonathan A. Coret
Capital Improvement Specialist 1
Department of Corrections, Office of the Director
State of Missouri, USA

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Tel. (573) 302-1763 home
(573) 526-8444 work

P.S. This letter was written in the summer of 2001. Unfortunately, I have lost contact with Jonathan A. Coret as he changed jobs and moved somewhere else. His contact info is no longer valid.

05-MAY-08

Ulowe