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January 17, 2011

RE: Letter of Reference for Mr. Sean Baskin

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of Mr. Sean Baskin. I grew to know Sean while he was an undergraduate major specializing in Geographic Information Science and Spatial Analysis. He is, in my opinion, one of the strongest undergraduate students in this area that I have had the pleasure of teaching. In his work with me, Sean has shown a great deal of initiative, discipline, and ability. This is particularly true of his work during his senior year in our program.

While an undergraduate student, Sean took standard classes in GIS from me including some which carried graduate credit. This included classes on spatial data management and web based GIS. However, I became more aware of his abilities and work ethic when he worked with me on a directed research project. That project focused on developing advanced web mapping techniques based on REST services from sources such as ESRI ArcServer, Google Maps, and Bing Maps. In addition to using these services, Sean worked with me on developing Flash based mapping applications built with Flash Builder 4. This was state-of-the-art work, and it required him learning Action Script and MXML programming, along with mastering the Google Maps Application Programming Interface (API) for Flash. Some of the topics he worked on were map classification functions, customized user interfaces, and developing data services. While much of this material was new to Sean, he seemed to master it fairly quickly. I was very pleased with his work and his level of effort on this directed research project.

I believe Sean is a bright young man at the start of a promising career in GIS and Spatial Analysis. If he continues to show the same dedication and enthusiasm for his work in this area that he did on his directed research, I think his future is quite bright. I am happy to recommend him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Bruce A. Ralston'.

Bruce A. Ralston
Professor