



DUKE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Department of Neurobiology

February 14, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

Clayton Thomas was a student in my undergraduate seminar in the Focus program at Duke University. The Focus program is offered to only the most promising of the matriculating class, and provides a small group experience in an area of special interest to the students. My seminar is in the field of neurobiology and is taught by the Socratic method. The students, all first semester freshmen, read original papers written by outstanding researchers in the field and answer questions about the papers, both orally in class and on essay type exams. As a result, I acquire a good estimate of each student's abilities. The students in the seminar are among the best at Duke and Clayton was outstanding in this group. He is articulate, very bright, writes well and can understand difficult concepts in original paper ranging from systems to molecular and cellular neurobiology. I think he has extraordinary potential and I recommend him with enthusiasm and without reservations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William C. Hall".

William C. Hall, Ph.D.
Professor of Neurobiology