

December 19, 2008

Dear Committee,

This letter will be somewhat unconventional in that I would like to give you a true understanding of

how much I appreciate Jonathan Lucia. Birmingham-Southern College has a residential population of

1,000 students and until 2007 I was the only professional staff person in the office. In June 2007 the

College gave me a professional staff position.

I hired Jonathan from Appalachian State University fresh out of graduate school and very eager. Jonathan chose Birmingham-Southern because he knew that he would get a myriad of experiences since we were a small liberal arts college. I was at the time pregnant and would have my baby July 2007. How amazed I was that Jonathan accepted the position knowing that after a month in his position I would be gone and he would be in charge of the department during the busiest time of the year. He was ready for the challenge. He even reported to work a week early (without pay) to attend a student training held in May. RA training and opening went perfect.

My maternity leave was expected. Then the unexpected happened. I got sick in the spring of 2008 and was in and out of work for 6 weeks. Of course during another critical time, RA selection. Jonathan rose to the challenge yet again and ran the department wonderfully. To top it all off, during the time I was sick, our Dean of Students was on maternity leave and Jonathan had agreed to handle all social council, honor council, and judicial during her absence. Not to mention he was trying to quit smoking during all of this. Honestly I can’t believe he is still standing. He says that during those 6 weeks he learned more than all of his graduate friends combined. His wish of broad experiences was coming true, probably quicker than he would have expected.

During that crazy first year RHA under his leadership won RHA of the Year for the state of Alabama, Jonathan created a college committee on sustainability called the Green Team, got published in two journals, and has led our commuter student union to win the top organization award for the College.

I owe Jonathan so much because he was the Director for 15 weeks of last year. I would never have made it without him. And for that I nominate him for the James C. Grimm Outstanding New Professional Award. He has gone above and beyond his job description and for that we appreciate him!

Sincerely,

**Dana Bekurs**

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Director of Residence Life

Birmingham-Southern College