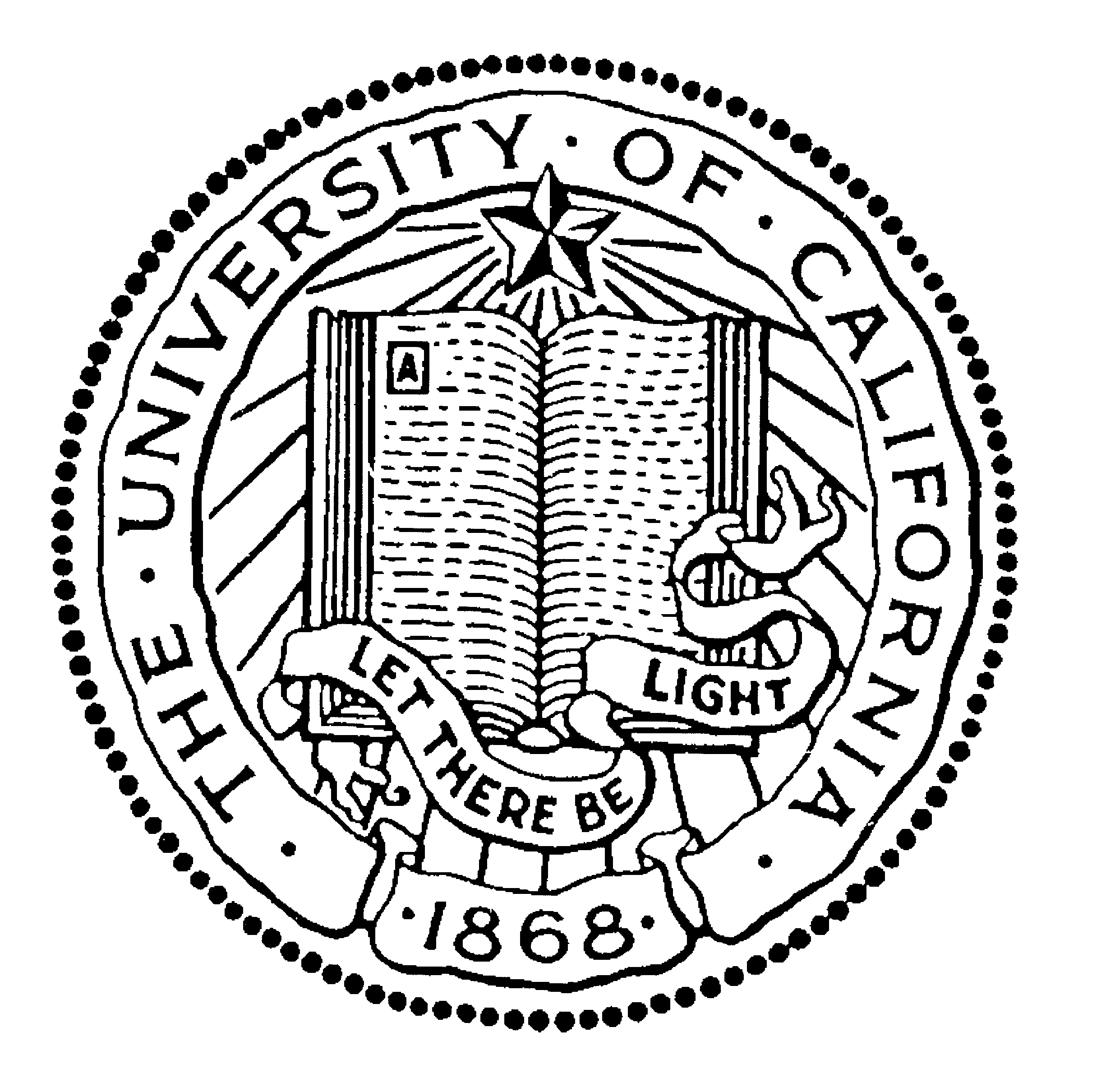
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS



BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

**Re: Letter of recommendation for Violet Wu**

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to have the opportunity to enthusiastically recommend Violet Wu for the graduate program at [institution]. Violet will soon graduate from UC Davis and has been working with our lab for the past year. At UC Davis, Violet has excelled as a researcher in her own right, a student, a field ornithologist, and as a science educator. Among other accomplishments, Violet competed for and won the Lloyd W. Swift Award, is conducting her own research project regarding melanization in monarch caterpillars, has been named to the Dean’s List several times and runs a science education channel on social media site Bilibili with 106,000 subscribers. We have been particularly impressed with Violet’s ability to balance these many endeavors and succeed at all of them. She has a proactive, ambitious approach to her career and her potential as a scientist is unlimited.

Violet joined our lab in February 2022, bringing her own funding from the Lloyd W. Swift Award to bear on our project. The other applicants were barely comparable. Violet has been involved with conservation and research since arriving at UC Davis. She has assisted with a project to code scientific articles and build a large database of primate traits, assisted with a project studying ruminant metabolism and animal nutrition and conducted her own independent research project about melanization in monarch caterpillars. She conducted remote fieldwork in the California desert and contributed to the resulting publication.

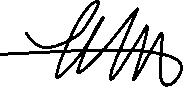
We invited Violet to join our lab to deploy Raspberry Pi-based motion-activated cameras at bird nests to capture video of parents bringing food to their young. Before the field season began, Violet trained with master bander Daniel Karp to learn how to measure and band birds. Then, during spring and summer 2022, Violet worked under Katherine Lauck’s supervision to install the cameras and other sensors, and measure, mark, and collect data on nestling birds. Violet mastered these skills with ease and confidently helped teach to other less experienced members of the field crew. Indeed, Violet helped improve our field methods by suggesting creative ways to organize our sample collection process. Her attention to detail and steadfast positive attitude made it easy to trust her to collect data independently.

Beyond her impressive research credentials, we greatly admire Violet’s work in science education. She started her channel in 2021 with the goal of drawing people into the world of insects and advocating for their appreciation and conservation. She creates all the content, including filming, editing, and narrating. Her videos reach millions of people with engaging content about insect physiology and ecology. She is also passionate about bird conservation. She participates actively in the Birding Club at UC Davis, including volunteering her time to participate in the citizen science program Christmas Bird Count. In addition, she has been volunteering at the UC Davis Raptor Center for the last two years, where she conducts events in which the public is invited to learn about and interact with birds of prey. She has put in hundreds of volunteer hours caring for these vulnerable birds, including preparing food/medicine and conducting medical examinations.

After spending the past year working with her, we cannot recommend Violet highly enough. Violet’s potential has been recognized through numerous scholarships at UC Davis including the Tracy and Ruth Storer Scholarship, the Elizabeth Graves Hosselkus Scholarship, the Robert B. Wilson Scholarship, and the Gail E. and Ruth M. Oliver Scholarship. She is personable and professional, commands an impressive array of skills with ease and generosity, and is flexible and adaptable in difficult situations. She is fully capable of leading her own research projects, which is rare among scholars of her career stage. In short, Violet has exceeded our expectations and we strongly believe that she will also exceed your program’s.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Katherine S. Lauck

PhD Candidate, Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology

1073 Academic Surge

One Shields Avenue

Davis, CA 95616-8627

(540) 923-0228; kslauck@ucdavis.edu