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Richard G. Stoner Memorial Scholarship

Department of Physics

Arizona State University

2/19/2011

Dear Richard G. Stoner Scholarship Selection Committee:

I write this letter in strong support of Robert Baker’s application for a Richard G. Stoner Memorial Scholarship. In this letter, I will address Robert’s academic successes and overall collegiality among his peers.

Since fall semester of 2010, Robert has been my student for the Human Event, an extremely work-intensive seminar required of all Barrett Honors College students. Robert is an exemplary student. In the fall, he earned an A in a course where the class average is a mid to low B. Robert is reliable and consistent in his class preparation and performance. In the Human Event, to be both reliable and consistent is high praise. The Human Event is designed to promote critical thinking skills and advanced argumentative writing. Thus, to earn a high grade, students must engage with challenging primary source texts through participation with their peers in class and through three argumentative essays. The essays are rigorously graded. Robert refined his argumentative writing skills so that he was making As on his essays by the end of last semester. Robert, always a regular discussant in class, also made an A on the participation component of the course.

In his class, Robert is easily the most collegial student among his peers. Again, in a class where it is competitive just to speak, being friendly and respectful makes one stand out. Robert is a wonderful student to have in such a class. When his peers teeter on the tense side of a discussion, Robert effectively neutralizes the tension while bringing the class back on tract.

In closing, let me reiterate my strong support of Robert Baker’s application for the Richard G. Stoner Memorial Scholarship. Robert is an undergraduate physics major. He is planning to pursue his PhD in physics so that he can teach physics in the future. If there is anything I may do to clarify my support, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Ingram-Waters

Barrett, the Honors College

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