



January 22nd, 2021

To the SMSS Undergraduate Committee:

It is my pleasure to STRONGLY RECOMMEND Killian Davis for an undergraduate Clemson SMSS student award. I have known Killian since the spring of 2020, when he took my section of MATH 4560: Topology. Since then, Killian has continued to work with me in two reading courses on algebraic topology. I find Killian to be a very strong and motivated student who is very interested in learning and someone who is ready to make the transition to using his mathematical knowledge in research and industrial applications.

Killian performed very well in my topology class, easily earning an A. He had a considerably higher grade than anyone else in the class, which included a Goldwater recipient. Killian always came to class excited and well-prepared to succeed; for example, he would often watch YouTube videos on mathematics and would come to class with interesting (and often deep) questions about something that he had just watched in a video. In every way, Killian is a model student who

Towards the end of the spring semester, Killian expressed interest in continuing his study of topology with me as an independent study, and I was very happy to take him up on this offer. Killian has been reading a graduate-level algebraic topology book on his own (we meet weekly to discuss the material) and he has been making great progress (he works problems most weeks and typically reads over the material about three times each week). I have worked with very few undergraduates who are prepared to study graduate-level material, let alone read it on their own. I find Killian's enthusiasm and energy for learning mathematics to be truly exceptional and I easily rank him in the top 5% of math majors at Clemson University.

This summer, Killian worked at the ground vehicle systems center federal lab as an intern. In this internship, Killian applied his mathematical and computational skills to military applications and very much enjoyed his experience there (he is seriously considering a career at this federal lab after getting either a masters or a PhD). Killian came back to Clemson with even more enthusiasm for mathematics than ever. Killian is taking (and succeeding at) graduate-level courses in both Algebra (8520) and Computation (8600) with an eye towards working on a project in computation in the summer and fall that would complement his internship experiences.

Overall, I find Killian to be an exemplary student who is genuinely interested and excited about learning mathematics. I expect him to shine in the remainder of his career at Clemson as well as his future studies. Overall, I very STRONGLY RECOMMEND Killian for a departmental award. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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