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To the undergraduate committee:

It is a great pleasure to nominate Sloan Nietert for the senior undergraduate award. Sloan is the best undergraduate student I've ever had, who I believe has a great potential to be a very strong mathematician/computer scientist in the years to come.

Sloan was a freshman student in my Calculus 3 class in Fall 2015. During the first week of classes Sloan impressed me by quickly by solving one challenging problem that I posed so I decided to talk to him to see if he has interest in studying mathematics. During our first meeting Sloan impressed me so much that I remember telling several of my colleagues that I found a potential star student. More importantly, during that meeting I convinced Sloan to start visiting my Linear Analysis (graduate class) even though he had essentially no experience with rigorous mathematics. Still, as I expected, in one semester he was quickly able to learn all the basics of proof writing and ended up being among the top three students in that course (most of the other students were graduate students). In the spring semester Sloan took another graduate course, Measure Theory, and ended to be the best student in that course. We followed this up with a still ongoing research project with the goal to find a general result that will encompass part of the famous Riesz representation theorem and the Caratheodory extension theorem. Sloan already made some initial steps towards the solution. In my opinion, if he can finish this project it will result in a solid publication (not just for an undergraduate).

Besides having him as a student I got to know Sloan much better at our regular weekly meetings last year. These were not mandatory meetings. They were driven mostly by Sloan's great enthusiasm about mathematics in general. It was him who brought up the idea for attending the Budapest program which I enthusiastically supported. He was among the first students to be accepted in the program and will spend this semester to study mathematics in Hungary.

Even though Sloan started taking rigorous courses only last year, his mathematical background is pretty solid now. He took our Functional Analysis (MATH 9270) course last semester which is the most advanced course in analysis that we offer. He also has a solid background in computer science (as far as I know he took some graduate courses in the CS department).

Therefore, without any hesitation, I very strongly recommend Sloan Nietert for the senior undergraduate award. If there are any questions that I can answer, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mishko Mitkovski