

UNIVERSITY *of* WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE

April 9, 2000

Supplies Grant Review Committee
School of Science and Allied Health
105 Main Hall
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
La Crosse, WI 54601

Dear Colleagues:

It is a pleasure to be writing this letter of endorsement for Mr. Shane Jones and his request for an SAH Supply Grant for Student Researchers. I have known Shane for approximately two years. I currently serve as his instructor in Stream and Watershed Ecology (Biology 464). I am also Shane's academic advisor. He currently holds the best grade point average in the entire Aquatic Science Concentration (ASC).

Shane's performance in my course has been excellent; he is currently ranked second in class. He constantly asks thought provoking questions and is engaged in the subject matter. He is an academically adept and very dedicated individual. Over the past year, he has been volunteering to work in my research laboratory for several hours each week.

The undergraduate research project Shane proposes will explore the interconnections between animal foraging behavior and ecosystem productivity. This is an ecological problem closely tied to my own research program. Algal (periphyton) productivity plays a large role in shaping the food web structure of stream ecosystems. The interaction between primary productivity (i.e., how fast algal populations grow) and rate at which algal resources are consumed by herbivores is a central research focus of stream ecology. This topic is also very relevant to current debates over how artificial fertilizers in runoff, which induce algal growth in streams, are affecting our local river ecosystems.

All equipment and facilities necessary for conducting this research are available in the River Studies Center's Benthology/Analytical Laboratory in Cowley Hall. Much of the field gear Shane will be using this summer has been purchased from my other research/teaching grants. I lack resources, however, for purchasing the consumable supplies required by this project. I want to draw particular attention to the one of the line items in our research budget. Shane has requested a small amount of funding to cover his roundtrip mileage to our collection sites this summer. He will frequently need to collect *Glossosoma* larvae (herbivorous caddisfly) and periphyton-colonized tiles from streams in the Coon Creek Watershed. I feel this is an appropriate item to request

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under the Supplies Grant as this fieldwork will be essential for gathering materials used in our experiments. Other requested supplies are required for the analysis of chlorophyll *a*. Shane will be receiving a stipend through a UW-L Distinguished Undergraduate Research Fellowship. Receiving a Supplies Grant would greatly aid our research efforts.

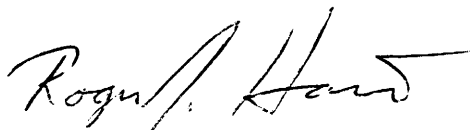
Because this study is a continuation of my own research, I will be closely following Shane's progress this summer and over the next year. I intend devote considerable time and effort to the experimental design and analysis of the results. I am very excited about this project and Shane's potential for success. He possesses a level of maturity and work ethic that far exceeds many of his undergraduate peers. I am confident that this research will provide Shane with an excellent research experience and lead to future research possibilities for the River Studies Center. I have no doubt that we will meet the requirements stipulated by this grant and do so in a timely fashion. With favorable results, we also intend to present this research at the meeting of the North American Benthological Society scheduled to be held in La Crosse in June 2001. This meeting is an international meeting of aquatic ecologists and typically draws over 800 participants.

Shane's future goals include graduate studies in aquatic ecology. I can personally attest that success in graduate school is greatly enhanced by prior research collaborations between the individual and graduate students during his/her undergraduate program. This research project will provide Shane an opportunity to work closely with two of my graduate students, Ms. Jennifer Gauvin and Mr. Todd Kalish, who are conducting research in the Coon Creek Watershed. Ms. Gauvin is also researching *Glossosoma* and will be assisting Shane with his project.

In summary, Shane has my unreserved recommendation. He is, beyond a doubt, the "shining star" of the Department of Biology's Aquatic Science Concentration. His likelihood for success in the undergraduate research program is very high.

He deserves all possible consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger J. Haro".

Roger J. Haro, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Biology