March 24, 2018

Professor Sarah L.G. Springer
Academic Counselor Sr.
University Honors Program

Dear Professor Sarah L. G. Springer,

I am very pleased to recommend Christian Bush for the Best Undergraduate Thesis Award. I am writing this letter in the capacity of his chief advisor for the senior thesis.

- The thesis is a detailed study of the Confucius Institutes introduced by the Chinese government to the American institutions of higher learning.
- The theme of the thesis is clear: Although Confucius Institute (CI) is supposed to be cultural and linguistic, it carries political messages that impacted on the American students. This is not only because politics is not separable from culture, but also because of the Chinese government does have a political agenda in doing it.
- The arguments throughout the paper are logical and well balanced in the sense often the arguments of both sides were cited and analyzed.
- The documentations were done properly. The sources cited are mostly academic sources, such as those carried in “jstor,” primary sources, such as the CI contracts, Hanban websites, or well-established media sources.
- In researching on the thesis, Mr. Bush used some of his field trip experience in China. That makes the thesis go beyond the requirements of an undergraduate thesis. In addition, Mr. Bush is applying for Fulbright to go to Taiwan for further study. That shows his commitment in the study of China.
- The paper is well written too in terms of language and structure.

Mr. Bush presented his thesis with clarity and forcefulness. The committee passed the oral defense unanimously.

I have supervised other undergraduate thesis in the past. I would put the thesis by Mr. Bush as representing the top 10 percent. As the author of 14 books sitting on the editorial boards of three academic journals, I believe that with some modification, such as condensing the length from the current 45 pages to 30 pages, this thesis is publishable by an academic journal. In sum, I nominate Christian Bush for the Undergraduate Thesis Award without hesitation. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have concerning this letter.

Sincerely,

Shipping Hua
Calvin & Helen Lang Distinguished Chair in Asian Studies and Director of Asian Studies Program