

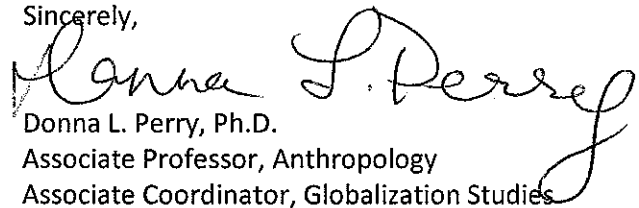
April 21, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Michael Despines, who was invited by the Globalization Studies Program of Gettysburg College to give a public lecture on February 24th of this year. The talk was entitled "The American Dream – The World's Nightmare," and concerned the effects of American consumerism on the world's environment. Michael prepared an outstanding slideshow based on a marvelous array of sources. He synthesized material to create intriguing, data-rich slides that were powerful and comprehensible to a general audience. He showed graphs, statistics, photographs, quotes, and other creative visuals and wove into his discussion examples of consumption practices and environmental degradation from his own work and travels abroad, in dozens of countries. Michael's narrative was compelling and clear, and all members of the audience learned something from it. He fielded our questions in such a thought-provoking way that we derived new insight from our post-presentation discussion. As the coordinator of the Globalization Studies Program, I noted with appreciation how Mr. Despines's presentation prompted students to engage in an animated discussion on a topic of tremendous relevance today.

In addition to benefiting from Mr. Despines's presentation, the students in the Globalization Studies Program also enjoyed lunch with him. This lunch offered students a more informal opportunity to discuss with him his career track, which has included work in the areas of refugees, humanitarian aid, and international development. Mr. Despines's visit offered to Gettysburg undergraduates a marvelous learning experience, and we commend and thank him for his time in crafting such an intriguing presentation and for interacting so openly with students.

Sincerely,


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