



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Dec. 30, 2015

To whom it may concern:

Chris Keizur's research project for my Fall 2015 sports, media and society class—race and sport—could have been routine. But it wasn't. Chris explored how society perceived pioneering and controversial African-American boxer Jack Johnson, and he didn't settle for the opinions of historians or sports scholars. He delved into the archives and found the game stories from Johnson's matches in the 1910s—and he analyzed the coverage himself.

That's the kind of deep research and commitment that Chris brings to his journalism, as well. Those characteristics will make him a strong addition to any newsroom.

Chris is also a terrific writer. His monthly media critiques for my class were elegantly written and insightful, and his intelligent questions in daily reading responses helped me plan class lessons. Before this class, I'd known Chris primarily from reading his track and field coverage in *The Daily Emerald*, and it was rewarding to see the scope of his work broaden during the term.

I'd like to add a word about Chris' sports journalism experience. Like the best sports writers, Chris has interests far beyond the playing field. Good writing is good writing, no matter the topic; he has studied abroad in Vienna and Segovia, and he's excelled in a class that was really as much about race, gender, social class and sexual orientation as it was about sports.

Chris is exactly the kind of young reporter I most enjoyed working with when I was an editor at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and *The Miami Herald*. I'm confident he'll excel in whatever role you need him to fill.

Feel free to contact me if you'd like more information about Chris. I can be reached via email ([lshontz@uoregon.edu](mailto:lshontz@uoregon.edu)) or cell (305-613-9944).

Sincerely,  
Lori Shontz  
Journalism instructor

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