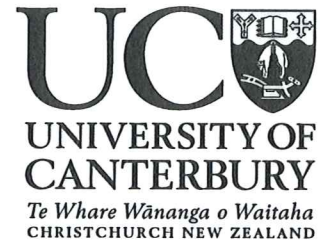


College of Engineering

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26 May 2011

Recommendation letter for Samuel Williams

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my sincere pleasure to support Samuel Williams' application to work for Google. I consider Samuel to be an outstanding student with great potential.

Samuel has studied in our department, sometimes part time, since 2002. He has always been a student who has taken an interest in Computer Science well beyond the required coursework, studying topics such as programming language design as a personal interest, doing his own experiments and discussing ideas with staff members.

His academic record speaks for itself (including a near perfect GPA in his final year), and behind it is an individual with many strengths and interests. He is a very good communicator, both verbal and written. He responds well to feedback, and has demonstrated the ability to produce work that is of a very high standard.

As a project for my class on Computer Science education he developed an extensive website (the "Programming Dojo") which included a set of posters that have been very popular in classrooms around the country, as well as a comparison of programming languages for teaching, which has been a valuable reference. The course was co-taught by a visitor from the USA, and we were both extremely impressed with Samuel's work.

Samuel has done various kinds of tutoring, with extremely positive feedback from students. Recently we had a course where (partly due to disruption from the Canterbury earthquake) students were very confused about the material, and Samuel was our first choice as someone to call in to make sense of the complex material for the somewhat stressed students. We have already had feedback that the students have found that Samuel has taken a very confusing topic and presented in a very accessible way.

My only hesitation in recommending Samuel is that he is such an asset as a researcher, tutor, programmer and generally interesting person to have around that he would be sorely missed at Canterbury. However, we fully support him in pursuing his interests. He is among the best students I have encountered at Canterbury. I strongly recommend him for your favourable consideration.

I would be very pleased to be contacted if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Bell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tim Bell
Associate Professor and Deputy HOD, Computer Science and Software Engineering,