



The University of Georgia®

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Theatre and Film Studies

October 12, 2015

Dr. David Saltz,
Head, Dept. of Theatre and Film Studies

Dear David:

I invited Assistant Professor Julie Ray to speak to the Sr. Seminar class on Wednesday, October 7th. This guest speaker engagement was in regard to leading a discussion of professional unions and more importantly, to reveal employment options for all of our students in the emerging film industry in Atlanta. The class was made up of approximately twenty-five undergraduate students who are mostly within a semester or two of graduation. This memo is intended to act as an observation of her teaching as we approach her tenure review in the not-so-distant future.

Professor Ray came to the room a good fifteen minutes prior to the start of the class to make sure that her PowerPoint would load onto the AV setup that we have for the room. I arrived shortly after that and was surprised to see her already there. We got her presentation up and running fairly quickly and were all set to go by the time that the students began to arrive for the class.

After an initial period of my going through some course administration and an introduction to Julie, she took over for the rest of the class. The structure of her presentation was centered around a well-planned PowerPoint presentation that was delivered in a manner that allowed her to not only present key points and interesting graphics, but also allowed her a wide breadth of freedom to adjust the lecture based off of her interaction with the students. There was a logical flow to her lecture that a solid progression from the more generic topics of the unions and film industry (in general) to very specific elements of the Atlanta film industry and market. This presentation included an introduction to not only several of the Atlanta studios, but also some of the trade publications and websites that act as job contact services for the film/video industry.

The students were solidly engaged throughout the presentation and Professor Ray fielded questions frequently during the 45 or so minute presentation. Questions were thoughtfully answered in a comfortable personable manner and the students felt at ease with her informal yet engaging style of presentation. She clearly showed a command of the material and felt at ease with the class, despite this being her first contact with the majority if these students. Her time management was spot-on for the presentation and also allowed about three-five minutes for final questions from the class. The presentation was so successful that a number of students

requested copies her PowerPoint document which she has made available and I have since posted to the class's E-Learning site.

In conclusion, Professor Ray displayed all of the qualities of a talented instructor while making her guest presentation to the class. She is viewed as a solid asset to the design area, a good colleague and her teaching demonstrates those qualities that I view as important to a design educator at the university level. I'm looking forward to observing her again next spring in one of the classes that she teaches on a regular basis (graduate scenic design or Foundations of Design).

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Dunham", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard Dunham,
Professor, Head of Design

cc. file

Assistant Professor Ray