

*To the Mitchell Scholarship Selection Committee:*

*I am writing a letter on behalf of Ms. Janet Lerner, an international studies student at Mythic University who is applying for the Mitchell Scholarship.*

*To get straight to the point, Janet is, without a doubt, one of the strongest undergraduate students I have had the pleasure of working at Mythic University.*

*I am Janet's co-advisor for her honors thesis and she has enrolled in several of my classes.*

*Most recently, Janet was the sole undergraduate student in a graduate seminar I taught titled Qualitative Methods. Her performance was outstanding. I enjoyed watching her successfully grapple her way through some very difficult readings in the area of social theory.*

*Additionally, she was a discussion leader she grounded very difficult theory which helped alleviate some of the initial nervousness of the other students in the class. As I noted from her discussions, she is one of those rare students who can operate at an advanced theoretical level while keeping firmly rooted in an empirical realm.*

*Over the past year I have watched Janet's interest in Peace and Conflict Studies blossom into a very powerful thesis topic on issues of gender and politics in Northern Ireland.*

*She spent three months in Belfast conducting ethnographic and archival research. The NIWC is a cross-community coalition that was formed in 1996 and fully participated in the peace talks which led to the signing of the Easter Agreement. Recently, the NIWC has found itself at the center of political debates focused on issues of gender, class, and nationalism.*

*Having carefully reviewed Janet's data based on her NIWC case study, I can affirm that her work is top-notch and is on par with the graduate students in the geography department. Mythic University's Geography Department is the highest ranking geography department in the country based on a recent report by the National Research Council, so it is important to understand that I am comparing Janet with some of the best graduate students in the discipline.*

*Finally, Janet has a strong understanding of political theory and a strong intellectual facility. She writes well and clearly and will complete her career at Mythic University undoubtedly to much acclaim.*

*She is a rare and gifted scholar and has my strongest support. Feel free to reach out to me via my email should you have any further questions.*

*Sincerely,*

*Janet Davidson*

*Assistant Professor of Geography and Women's Studies*

