DATE: October 24, 2010

TO: Professor Henkel

FROM: Evan Lyons

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Celebrity Lecturer

I am writing you to recommend Jon Stewart for the course’s celebrity guest speaker. He is the winner of thirteen Emmy’s and twenty-four other nominations. Americans from around the country know him for his role as the host of Comedy Central’s news satire, “The Daily Show.”

Jon Stewart illustrates exemplary interpersonal skills by entertaining his audience with non-offensive comedy, specializing in self monitoring, and effectively managing conflict. Listed below is an analysis of how his interpersonal qualities would enhance the course.

1. *Comedic Personality Without Crossing the Line*

Jon Stewart is able to entertain his audience without compromising the overall purpose of his show. When guests of varying political ideologies appear on his show, Jon Stewart makes witty remarks on the appropriate subject to keep his audience engaged, yet he also makes sure his jokes do not offend his guest speakers.

1. *Maintains Individual Integrity by Respecting Various Views of Guest Speakers*

It is clear from his satire that Jon Stewart is a liberal. However, on his show he allows his guests to express their views on controversial issues without discrediting them. Jon Stewart is willing to learn from and poke fun at both liberal and conservative guests featured on his show. Although his show is categorized within the comedic genre, he is able to maintain a level of seriousness when his guests present political issues.

1. *Specialty in Avoiding and Dealing With Conflict*

When Jon Stewart interviews guest speakers who hold opinions that differ from his own, he is able to avoid significant tension. He is an effective listener and allows his guests to say what is on their minds. When interviewing guest speakers who hold radical political opinions, Stewart often uses accommodative conflict management style in order to avoid tension.

1. *Format of Course Structure*

* **Lesson on Perspective-** (20 min) Guest speaker shows the significance of viewing all perspectives while communicating with a task or conflict.
* **Conflict Management-** (20 min) Stewart describes techniques he uses to effectively diffuse conflict by showing film clips of controversial guests on his show.
* **Audience Attention-** (10 min) Stewart explains how to maintain listeners’ interest and engage them in topics without crossing inappropriate boundaries.

I hope you can agree that Jon Stewart would be an appropriate guest lecturer. Business students would be able to observe how he utilizes effective communication skills, so they may develop their own interpersonal skills. Please contact me by November 25th if you are interested in having him as a guest lecturer. His agent requires that universities make a reservation four months in advance if they would like him to make a guest appearance.