



The University of Alabama

Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Odense, Denmark, March 18, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of MADS JENSEN, who is seeking admission to the American Studies Program at your university for the fall of 2009. Mads is currently a second-semester graduate student in American Studies here at the University of Southern Denmark, where his classes include a course I am teaching this semester called Looking for America: Literary and Cultural Perspectives. The course focuses on immigration issues and immigration experiences for a number of new Americans from various backgrounds: German, Chinese, Cuban, Dominican Republican, Pakistani, and more. Needless to say, a student in this course would benefit greatly from himself being exposed to new environments and getting first-hand experience from the culture of his chosen field of study. Mads has the initiative to see to it that his theoretical interests in American Studies be followed up with a stay in the U.S., and I sincerely hope that your university will be able to admit him so as to give him this opportunity.

I have known Mads only one semester so far, but I have already noticed his interest in global issues in general and most certainly his passion for the American South, which I share myself. As a Ph.D. student at Tulane, I was exposed to a new world that has since made a lasting imprint on my research and teaching, and I am certain that Mads would benefit in many similar ways from his planned studies in Alabama. He will have the opportunity to conduct research for his M.A. thesis on confederate issues, and find sources and expertise that would be hard or impossible to locate in Scandinavia.

Mads is a well respected student in our American Studies Program. In class he contributes with ideas and visions singularly his own, and he will consistently offer fresh and interesting insights on the material we cover. Outside of class, he is active as well. He is a board member of DSAAS, the Danish student organization for American Studies, and has created the DSAAS website. He is also the editor of the organization Newsletter.

As already mentioned, Mads is himself trying to organize his studies at the University of Alabama, because he believes his studies and understanding of the U.S. in general and the South in particular will be extremely valuable for his future education and career. I hope you will be able to assist him in fulfilling this dream and give him my best recommendations. Should you need more information on his work, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely, 
Clara Juncker, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Dr. Phil.

Center for American Studies, University of Southern Denmark

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