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September 18, 2008

To Prospective Clients/Employers of Sky Coyote,

I give Sky Coyote my highest recommendation as either a consultant or employee on any scientific programming project for which he applies.

I have been working with Sky for about a year on two geomorphology projects, and have found interaction with him to be something of a revelation. I am used to working with graduate students. After spending great amounts of time, it can still be challenging to get work of the quality I expect from them. In contrast, Sky takes the initiative to learn what he needs to know and then produces work that exceeds my expectations, both in quality and speed. Working with him has therefore been a joy. His progress on our two projects has been excellent. He has consistently put in more time and effort on the projects than was asked for, and has been both diligent and enthusiastic in achieving all project goals. Were funding available, I would continue to seek his participation in future research projects.

Sky's work is of the highest caliber, and he quickly and surely takes new projects from start to completion with a minimum of supervision or help. He learns new material both quickly and independently, and contributes greatly to both the scientific and technical aspects of projects with little or no previous experience in the specific field. For example, I hired Sky to use a river migration model to predict a meander corridor for the Missouri National Recreational River. Sky had no previous experience with this kind of problem, but he quickly produced several model versions, in addition to the one I had requested he use, and investigated the pros and cons of each type of model and subtle variation thereof, all with beautiful graphics. Later, although he had no prior experience with geographic information systems (GIS), he produced his own GIS in about a week—less time than I would have expected for him to learn how to use an off-the-shelf product—and was busily incorporating and reconciling various data including topographic maps and aerial photographs.

He has a wide background in both science and mathematics, and as the above examples show, can apply both his intelligence and experience to solve problems at the cutting edge of our current research. While I sometimes feel like getting evidence of progress from my graduate students is an excruciating ordeal, Sky posts weekly “blog” entries detailing his work and including plentiful illustrative graphics.

Although Sky generally works independently, I have found him to be both an eager and genial participant in group discussions and to be amenable to making group decisions. He is not attached to a specific way to solve a problem, nor to his own opinions or views to the exclusion of others, although his approach to solving a problem generally tends to be “right on target”. He is quick to see the possibilities for future directions of a project and to move in those directions as time allows, but he is diligent in making sure he first fulfills the objectives of the current project. He has an easy and informal conversation style and a good (and often “very dry”) sense of humor that makes working with him enjoyable as well as productive.

I am sorry I cannot continue to find paid work for Sky (I am trying!), as I consider him to be an exceptional asset to our work. I know that he will be a valuable addition to any scientific research effort lucky enough to obtain his services. I invite his prospective clients to contact me with any questions about his many talents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen T. Lancaster".

Stephen T. Lancaster
Associate Professor



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Dec. 15, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

This is in recommendation of Mr. Sky Coyote with whom I have worked for the past nine years in scientific projects involving computer programming and advanced concepts in physics and in several areas of the life sciences. Mr. Coyote has my highest recommendation as a skilled and versatile scientist and programmer. His efforts in a joint project in the visualization of electroencephalogram data from dense arrays of electrodes were extraordinary and highly beneficial to the neuroscientific community. In addition, his contribution of software tools directed toward the calculation of quantum electromagnetic properties of materials has been of great use to the study of optical physics. Most recently, he has also developed a complete software product dedicated to the computation and visualization of mathematical vector functions in real and complex form which is currently in constant use in our UTK labs.

In discussing his technical skills only, as marvelous as they are, I would be remiss in not mentioning his skills in graphics, his extreme diligence, his ability to rapidly finish difficult work, and his enlightened views on a broad range of topics. He has often carried out projects of far-ranging benefit without financial compensation as a matter of personal commitment to a concept. He remains the only individual whom I have known in my career of 30 years of teaching and research who has all of the above admirable characteristics.

I can say without reservation that he would be a credit to any venture with which he is associated, and any group or individual who employs him will feel themselves very fortunate to have obtained his services.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas L. Ferrell".

Thomas L. Ferrell, Ph.D., F.A.P.S.
Head, Applied Physics Laboratories

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January 9, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

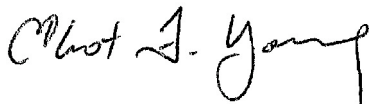
I am happy to write a recommendation for Sky Coyote. I have known Sky since 1994, when he was lead architect of Apple's *Scientist Workbench* project. Over the past eight years, Sky has worked on a wide variety of NASA- and NSF-sponsored projects for me and my co-investigators. Based on our close collaborations over that time, I will confidently serve as a reference for any opportunities that Sky chooses to pursue.

Sky is a talented programmer with experience in many languages and on different platforms. One of Sky's most valuable characteristics is his ability to estimate the scope of a project and subsequently deliver working code on that schedule. In addition, Sky has a flair for writing applications that are highly usable – even fun – from a human interface standpoint. A recent example took place at the first EuroPlanet conference in Berlin in October 2006. I showed *FITSRegister*, a program we use to display and coregister groundbased images of Venus, to instrument PIs from the Venus Express mission. Almost without exception, the scientists and their students asked for copies of the software to use with their spacecraft image sets.

It is important to mention that working with Sky is like working with a scientist, albeit one with very effective programming skills. After Sky and I have discussed a particular problem, Sky will typically research the literature, test different algorithms, and return with useful code to perform the task in question. Sky recently wrote feature-tracking routines to quantify wind speeds on Venus. These routines are based in part on algorithms he came across in the literature of various terrestrial applications (e.g., tracking glaciers, sea temperatures, as well as terrestrial clouds). Prior to that, Sky researched and implemented several different algorithms to perform Speckle Reconstruction for short-exposure image sets we obtained at NASA's Infrared Telescope Facility in Hawaii, part of an automated image enhancement pipeline we were developing.

It has been my pleasure to work with Sky over the past decade, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors. Potential employers should feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Eliot F. Young, Sc.D
Principal Scientist



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GEOPHYSICAL, ASTROPHYSICAL, AND PLANETARY SCIENCES SECTION

1/10/07

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a job recommendation letter for Sky Coyote. I've worked with Sky for about two years now, mostly on telescopic infrared image reduction and processing. He has been extremely productive during this time, and has developed several very sophisticated software tools for processing the images and for automatically calculating motion. This was a challenging project, but Sky's very deep knowledge of analytic mathematics and his prodigious software skills have made it highly successful. It is extremely rare to work with someone as technically capable as Sky. He made steady progress every week, often coming up with sophisticated solutions so rapidly that it was difficult to keep up.

Sky is a highly motivated and independent worker. Generally, solutions were arrived at most efficiently by meeting once a week, allowing him to follow his own mathematical leads, and having him present his results. Although this has been a fairly focused project, it became clear after several months that Sky's abilities and interests are deep and wide. He has written user-friendly computer programs for a large range of projects, as can be seen in his resume. Whatever tasks Sky takes on, I am confident he will produce outstanding results. I encourage you to contact me at any time if you would like more detailed information.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Bullock

Dr. Mark A. Bullock
Planetary Atmospheres and Geosciences Section Manager
Department of Space Studies



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DEPARTMENT OF SPACE STUDIES, BOULDER, COLORADO

January 19, 2007

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in reference to Mr. Sky Coyote for whom I can, without reservation, provide my highest level of recommendation.

I first became acquainted with Mr. Coyote approximately two years ago through our mutual involvement in a Venus cloud observation and cloud tracking project funded through NASA. At the time of our first meeting, Mr. Coyote had already been involved with the project for some time, and had developed the framework for what would become the primary image analysis tool, expertly customized, for the specific scientific application of processing Venus cloud images and identifying cloud motions. The software tools Mr. Coyote developed for the project are easy to use, intuitively well designed, efficient, and flawless.

In my interactions with scientific programmers over the years, I rarely found an individual that could instantly speak the language of the scientist, efficiently translate a scientific task to a functional computer program, examine the program output, and then understand what it means. More typically, there are top-notch programmers that provide fantastic code that is easy to use and that runs super efficiently, but the code provides the wrong answer! Mr. Coyote's breadth of scientific knowledge and understanding is exceptional, and coupled with his programming expertise, he is able to provide full scientific and coding support throughout the software development and testing cycle. This is truly a rarity.

Equally important to Mr. Coyote's qualifications is his demeanor and work ethic. He is a good listener, responsive to suggestions and ideas, and is extremely personable. He is also a hard worker, self-starter, and is very detailed oriented.

In summary, you will find in Mr. Coyote the ideal employee. He is a dedicated, intelligent, personable, and extremely skilled scientific programmer. Mr. Coyote would be an asset to any organization.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss Mr. Coyote's qualifications in greater detail.

Sincerely,



Scot C. R. Rafkin
Principal Scientist.



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