Reference for Warren Munroe

For years, I had been interested in teaching a graduate seminar on topics in regression analysis. In the fall of 1999, the department acquiesced, I suspect as sort of a retirement present a kind of symbolic gold watch]. In one way, the reluctance of the department to offer such a course was demonstrated to be reasonable in that almost none of the students who registered in 53:512 were sociology students, but rather were from a variety of departments. Well, it was a challenging course to teach but there were rewards--I ended up enjoying this seminar more than any other graduate seminar I had previously taught; the reason for this was a handful of students who were a genuine pleasure to teach. Warren was one of that handful.

There is a sort of 'toe in the sand' quality to Warren--compared to many of the graduate students in my department who cultivate a conceptually sophisticated self presentation, Warren is very grounded. His language was simple and straightforward, his questions [and there were many] were designed to inform rather than impress and unlike too many of the other students his responses in the seminar weren't subtle put-downs of other students. I suspect that had he been in the graduate program in my department, he might not have survived comfortably.

The major task in the course involved the construction of a model of infant mortality rates cross culturally, a testing of that model and discussion of the results. In my estimation, the model he developed was one of the two best in the class, making good use of insights from geography as well as sociological ecology. Since that time, he has continued to meet with me to discuss his ongoing work which continues to be both grounded and sophisticated. In short, I think very well of him and expect him to be good value in a doctoral program, and further as both a researcher and teacher. Should you have further questions about Warren that I haven't touched on, I'll be pleased to provide any information that is in my power to give.

Sincerely,

T.A. Nosanchuk Professor of Sociology [ret'd}
Carleton University

Warren,
copy for you.
Best, Terry