

To Whom It May Concern:

Hands down, Mike Costa is one of the hardest workers and best designers and project managers I have ever had the pleasure of working with and managing. His attention to detail and work ethic drive him through any project he is tasked with. He has an ability to face the most frustrating projects and work through them logically and efficiently. His proficiency in Adobe InDesign and Illustrator is unmatched, and time and time again he has been able to teach others how to better use these programs. During his time in our office, his keen eye for design was of great benefit for the office and the quality of work we produced.

Mike had also shown his ability to manage others and delegate project tasks within our office. His attention to detail ensured that projects were updated correctly and in a timely fashion by our design team. His ability to communicate effectively with clients was also a great benefit. Anyone would be lucky to have Mike on their team.

If you have additional questions regarding Mike or the work he did with us, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Larry McAllister II

Assistant Director, Marketing and Communications
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Mike Costa started working for the Student Life Marketing office in April 2009. In the year and the half that he has worked with us, Mike has demonstrated a passion for his work, great attention to detail, and a strong desire to hone his skills.

In the short time Mike has worked for me, he has adapted to our fast-paced office, learning our workflow and project management process quickly. This allowed him to jump right into our daily routine and design a multitude of materials, from print flyers and brochures to logos, t-shirts and other promotional items, all while adhering to the University's strict identity system.

Mike has proven himself trustworthy and talented enough to be assigned large-profile projects. This year, Mike took the lead on our biggest project: our yearly departmental brochure and calendar, with a print run of 20,000 copies distributed across campus. As project leader, Mike not only designed and laid-out the every page of this 156-page document, but also coordinated with other designers to prepare the content for the brochure and kept everybody involved in on task and on schedule. Additionally, Mike ensured that all the digital files for this project were press-ready, saving us time and money at the printers.

Recently, Mike has also been helping day-to-day operations of our office, managing and assigning smaller projects to our team of graphic designers. Additionally, Mike was integral in our new employee training – creating and presenting project management/workflow and software training workshops.

I have no doubt that Mike would be an asset to whomever he may work for. He possesses the right combination of drive, talent, creativity, and interpersonal skills to excel.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael Abdallah
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to have the opportunity to write a letter of recommendation for Michael Gage Costa. I have known Michael for a year — from the fall of 2009 to the spring of 2010. I was teaching at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University as an adjunct professor in the Graphic Design department. Michael was a student in my class, working toward the completion of his thesis during his last year at Rutgers.

Michael is a very dedicated student and exemplified this quality from the very beginning. The fall semester was spent experimenting with new ways of thinking and designing through five shorter but more challenging assignments in preparation for their final thesis project. For many, this was a frustrating experience because it was more demanding than the work they had encountered thus far in their college careers. But Michael took on each project's challenge and created compelling concepts and executions that were related to his own interest. He was able to transform open-ended projects into something that embodied his own viewpoint and original idea. His ability to define parameters to the problem is a trait that will be useful in any design problem or work setting.

Michael's commitment and passion to his work was most apparent when he began his thesis project in the spring semester. Because of the structure of the class, each student independently sets up his or her own timeline and parameters within the constraints of the thesis. Michael was one of my most independent students throughout the whole process. He was thorough from conception to completion. From sketches to development to revisions, Michael displayed his effort regardless of the phase of the project. He established ambitious goals for his thesis, struggled with the process and development, pushed himself to create a multi-part project that was challenging in its topic and execution. Throughout the semester, he remained on task and on schedule. He continually tried to meet the ambitious goals he set out for himself, never giving up no matter how difficult the problem or task at hand. Michael was able to also handle criticism and revisions well from both his peers and myself.

Apart from his impressive dedication to his work and his ability as an independent thinker and designer, Michael was a valuable contributor to the class. He often gave good constructive feedback to his peers and was well-liked by his classmates. Michael is very adept at creating animations with Flash, and was able to lend his expertise to several of his classmates who needed help in that area.

It was a pleasure to have Michael in my class and even more enjoyable watching him grow as a thinker and designer in the last year. The combination of his talent and commitment to his work will make him a valuable member of any team. I am confident that Michael will thrive in a challenging but inspiring environment.

Sincerely,



Leslie Kwok