

**INSTITUTE FOR
SEABIRD RESEARCH
AND CONSERVATION**

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23 December 2020

To the Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship Program,

I am writing in support of Eyuel Seyoum's application for a Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship, having had the good fortune to employ him for nearly 4 months as a research assistant in May-August 2016. I lead a long-term investigation of seabird ecology on Middleton Island in the northern Gulf of Alaska, and I recruit a group of 5-10 students and field assistants every year to conduct the work. The site is remote and the work is intensive, involving a variety of techniques including banding, blood-sampling, nest monitoring, censusing, use of electronic equipment and wildlife tracking devices, observational and experimental studies of breeding birds, etc. Eyuel contributed handily to all aspects of the work and was an outstanding team member in all respects.

In his course of undergraduate studies at Bucknell University, Eyuel specialized in biochemistry, and his academic study and lab experience will no doubt serve him extremely well in that field. But in truth I believe he will do well upon entering virtually any field of science owing to his intellectual sharpness, boundless curiosity, quick learning abilities, and enthusiasm for engaging intellectual activities of any kind.

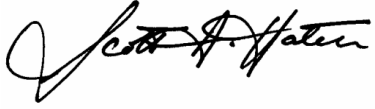
Possessing a vibrant sense of humor and a warm personality that is both consistently respectful of others and brimming in self confidence, Eyuel is a pleasure to be around. He was uniformly admired and appreciated by the 9 or so other crew members with whom he worked and lived in close quarters in the field.

I was sufficiently impressed with Eyuel's skills, competence, work ethic and easy manner that I would gladly have brought him back as my designated camp leader in a subsequent year, but he was still tied up with undergraduate school, and I am unable to offer anything but volunteer positions in the Middleton research setting.

I have more or less lost count of the undergraduates and graduate students I have employed to assist with seabird research on Middleton since 1986 (formerly as a career researcher and project leader with the U.S. Geological Survey), but it would be somewhere in the range of 150-200 young people in Eyuel's same position in terms of preparation and responsibilities. I would place Eyuel easily in the top 5% of that cohort in terms of motivation, affability, maturity, and what I simply find to be a pleasing and contagious enthusiasm for life in general.

I have perused the Flyin Ryan Foundation website (my compliments, by the way, on such a laudable and inspiring program, about which I was previously unaware) as well as Eyuel's engaging essay about himself and his aspirations for an extended biking trip across the U.S. I honestly cannot imagine a better match between the intent of this program and Eyuel as a possible recipient. I have the highest admiration for Eyuel as a person, and every expectation that he will make a significant and positive contribution to society during his life. As I really cannot offer any higher recommendation, I have fingers-crossed that you will make the wise decision to support his proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott A. Hatch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a distinct "H" and "A".

Scott A. Hatch, Ph.D.
President & Senior Scientist (ISRC)
Research Wildlife Biologist (USGS Retired)