

Emails supporting Dr. John Hagen in response to the AA News

(to date, 4/3/2008)

Emails from Dr. Hagen's current graduate students (2 total):

"I just want you to know that I support you 110%, as I'm sure countless faculty and students do as well. We all know you are a kind, caring, and above all ethical person. I hope you are not beating yourself up over this – your character will stand the test, and in fact it sounds like it already has." – **Chris Jarman**

"I'm sorry to hear that the Ann Arbor News is singling you out in this manner. You've been a great help to me, and to many students." – **Jillian Lee**

Emails from Dr. Hagen's current undergraduate students (10 total):

"In light of the negative publicity that Professor John Hagen has received in the Ann Arbor News series on University of Michigan academics and athletics, I wanted to write to provide an alternative perspective. My name is Cam Cameron, and I am a current student at the University of Michigan. I have taken an independent study course with Professor John Hagen, and it is important to describe my experience in the course and the process used by Professor Hagen in this mentoring relationship.

First, I must say that any university professor willing to contract with a student for a one-on-one course deserves admiration, adulation, and respect rather than criticism, innuendo, and disparaging editorials. Few faculty members are willing to expend the kind of extra mile effort required for this kind of mentoring relationship. If one were to compute teaching loads, I suspect that Professor Hagen's independent study load would be well in excess of what is expected of a full-time faculty member. The Ann Arbor News articles implied that these independent study sessions are nonacademic and light weight, but my experience is contrary to that perspective.

During my independent study course, Professor Hagen kept detailed track of my research project and literature reviewing activities. He had a folder waiting for me in each of my 15 minute weekly meetings which contained my outlines, preliminary drafts, and suggestions to help me further my research. One of the things with which I was most impressed was the sincerity that Professor Hagen demonstrated regarding his desire to really help me learn the topic and help me gain an interest in psychology. Other students have reported the same dedication and authenticity on his part. The one-on-one relationship and counsel that I received was crucial in my positive academic experience. I know that it is rare to have this type of relationship with any professor in any field of study at this large institution. I might expect it at a small, private liberal arts college, but Professor Hagen provides that advantage to students at Michigan. In my independent study, I chose a topic in the field of psychology that I researched for the semester, and with Professor Hagen's guidance, was guided to sources that proved to be very helpful in expanding and extending the research. The outcome of the independent study was a research paper as well as a PowerPoint presentation that I presented in a formal retreat setting to one of the Michigan athletic teams. The kind of rigor and care that was required in this project and its resulting products were certainly comparable to what is required in other courses that do not depend on multiple choice exams for their evaluations. Based on my own experience, I found the claims in the recent Ann Arbor News articles to be spurious and mean-spirited, and my opinions are confirmed by others with whom I have conversed who also took independent study courses with Professor Hagen.

To be completely forthcoming, I am also currently enrolled in Professor Hagen's Psychology 218 class which deals with learning styles and how individuals can capitalize on these styles in academic study, career preparation, encountering new information, and capitalizing on unique strengths. This area of investigation is a vibrant and rigorous area of research in the field of psychology—unlike the innuendo and disapproving comments made in the Ann Arbor News editorials. Professor Hagen's knowledge and assignments to the class have been very instrumental in helping class members markedly expand their understanding of this important subfield in cognitive psychology. To a person, I would bet that students

in class would acknowledge that learning how to learn has improved. A small minority of class members are athletes, although no one really cares about out-of-class activities, because the point is to learn from Professor Hagen. He has been able to help many students with struggles that they be having in a particular course at the University. I often see him conducting one-on-one discussions with students regarding their academic difficulties and the various alternatives for helping them be successful. My own performance has improved in each of my courses over the semester due to the knowledge that I have gained from Professor Hagen's class. He truly has been a powerful positive influence in my success as a student.

Any time blatant injustice is experienced, a natural human tendency is to try to right what is wrong or offer support to what has been harmed. My motive for writing this note is simply my reaction to that human tendency. Professor Hagen has been unfairly treated in a public forum, and this is one attempt to provide an alternative viewpoint.” – **Cam Cameron**

“I think you have been a great Professor this semester and I have really enjoyed Psych 305. Try to keep your head up and stay positive through what the press writes. Your students respect you as an educator and a researcher. You have been a vital part of the University of Michigan community.” – **Courtney Deimel**

“As a proud student of the psychology department, I found it disappointing to hear the accusations brought against Prof. John Hagen in The Ann Arbor News by Hagen's colleagues at the University. Having taken three courses with Hagen, including an independent study course, I found his classes stimulating and his grading policy fair. Rather than being concerned with norm-referenced performance, Hagen gave his students the relevant feedback necessary for retention and improvement. It is unfortunate that such a distinguished professor would have such damaging statements made about him. Not only is it disrespectful to Hagen and his teaching practices, but also to the athletes mentioned who take his courses. As students at the University, athletes are expected to perform just like other students. And alas, they do in some courses. Why is this troubling? Further, why is the psychology department not interested in understanding how students seem to be retaining information and learning substantially more in courses taught by Hagen, instead of accusing him of grade inflation? It's unfortunate that Hagen had to be unwittingly caught in the middle of a lapse in professionalism. I would hope that apologies are in order, and I would advise anyone who may feel differently to take one of his courses if you haven't. It's my sincere belief that it might be one of the most relevant experiences you'll have here at the University.” – **Hayley Ellard**

“I just wanted to let you know that I have heard nothing but great things about your courses. So many student-athletes that I have talked to—that have taken your courses--said they did more work for you than other courses and that you were so such a great teacher that you motivated them to perform well academically. So despite all the lies that Jim Carty has to say, I just wanted to let you know how much you are appreciated and respected by student-athletes.” – **Caroline Frost**

“I must say that I was shocked this morning when I picked up a copy of the Daily and saw a not so pleasant article about one of my professors. It is rather disturbing that people have decided to criticize the work you do here at U of M. I felt compelled to let you know that I wholeheartedly disagree with the negative comments that were made. For what it's worth, I think you are an excellent professor and I am enjoying the opportunity I have to work with you this semester just as I did during Summer 07. It is quite refreshing to have an advisor who allows me to explore areas that I am passionate about and has a thorough knowledge of their field of study.” – **Alexandra Johnson-Joshua**

“Without a doubt, Professor Hagen offers an extremely unique and academically stimulating learning environment. As part of the Psychology 305, Winter Term 2007, I had the very special opportunity to attend the conference of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) in Boston where I was exposed to groundbreaking research in the multidisciplinary field of child development. As the former

Executive Officer of SRCD, Professor Hagen gave our class an exclusive and personal perspective on the conference, which helped facilitate the learning experience. When the four-day conference ended, I realized that what I had learned in that short period of time was more precious than any classroom experience. The final assignments included both critiques of the science presented and a term paper. In March of 2008, I was able to take advantage of the opportunity to travel to Chicago and attend the conference of the Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA). Again, Professor Hagen prepared our class with appropriate readings about current advances in psychology. Yet another innovative aspect of his teaching style is that he encourages students to take advantage of the many events/lectures our university has to offer. The assignment asks students to attend lectures, then reflect upon the issues and evaluate the presentations utilizing critical thinking skills. The final project represents a culmination of both the conference experience and lecture critiques as students are required to complete an extensive research project.

The students and I can attest to the wonderful, educational experiences with him as an incredibly intelligent, honest, and well-respected educator.” – **Evan LeRoy**, with signed support of all students in the Psychology 305 Winter 2008 class

“I just wanted to let you know that my thoughts are with you and that I very much enjoy your presence in East Hall.” – **Katina Mares**

“I am writing in support of Dr. John Hagen and his work as a researcher and professor. The article recently published in the Ann Arbor News which focused on his independent study courses and his relationship with student-athletes was an unfathomably poor misrepresentation of his career.

As a current student and research assistant of Dr. Hagen's, I have experienced first-hand the generosity and flexibility this man provides to his students and the seemingly endless wealth of knowledge which he continually shares with them. His courses are a vehicle for eager minds to truly explore and his independent studies especially are engaging arenas for student athletes and non-athletes alike to flourish in knowledge not available elsewhere in the curriculum.

Dr. Hagen's substantial history of accomplishments in the field can surely withstand any undue criticism from a desperate journalist; not to mention the army of followers he has amassed through friends, colleagues and students over the years. His influence on psychology will last decades and to be frank, the frustrated words of one loyal undergraduate will do little to protect his reputation. But his reputation doesn't need it.

My single voice amidst a choir of powerfully supportive professionals may not make any difference, but I couldn't sit silently while my professor, employer, mentor, and friend was spoken of in such an inappropriate way. I know Dr. Hagen for the brilliant, ethical, hard-working faculty that he is and he deserves to be referred to as nothing less.” – **Travis Pashak**

“Your class [was] a wonderful experience for me and the workload was nothing below standard. I find Carty's remarks to be out of order and a display of sheer ignorance.” – **Jasmine Pruitt**

“I am sorry about the articles that have been published recently. It is unfortunate that our media is so completely absorbed with presenting such inaccurate, misleading, and one sided stories. The positive experiences that so many of us have been fortunate enough to have are not what gets published. Through my working with you, I learned a great deal about myself, my study skills, my learning styles, and much more. I learned a lot about ADD and how others have learned to cope with their learning disabilities and still become very successful. I also was able to do projects on sports and dealing with being a “student-athlete,” a concept that these journalists obviously do not understand. And, thanks to their acquisitions, others have been stripped of their opportunity to learn exactly what it takes to be a student first and then

an athlete second. The student-athletes are all very supportive and appreciative of you. You are highly respected among us all. Our thoughts are with you.” – **Mike Sears**

“I just wanted to say I support you! I am sorry for all of the scrutiny you are getting, they do not have a clue what they are talking about. I have benefited and learned a lot from taking your independent study classes!” – **Danelle Underwood**

Emails from Dr. Hagen’s colleagues (29 total):

“As one who has become aware over the years of both the talents and pressures that student athletes face, and as one who has often heard of your excellent and caring work with them, I want to express my support for you and my irritation at the current news stories.” – **Charles Behling, Ph.D.**

“John, so sorry you are having to go through this. If of even small comfort, remember that those of us who know and admire you won't be taken in by misguided and unfair attacks on you or your work.” – **Stanley Berent**

“I wanted to share with you why I have cancelled my subscription to the Ann Arbor News. The Ann Arbor News' coverage of Professor John Hagen and his students was so appalling, irresponsible, and seemingly (to me) mean-spirited that I must, in good conscience, express myself in the only manner that appears to draw any attention from the News. And so I have cancelled my Ann Arbor News subscription. You might be asking yourself why I would take such a strong stand on this issue when it is likely that I would be opposed to something in virtually any edition of any newspaper.

1) John Hagen is one of the nation's leading experts on how students with learning disabilities and student athletes learn. So, it is not surprising that many athletes and students with learning disabilities want to study independently with Professor Hagen nor that he is able to teach them in ways that are effective for them. Indeed, one of the primary goals of postsecondary education is to help students learn how they learn best, so they can maximize their own educational efforts. For students who learn in these distinct ways, access to John Hagen is some of the best education the University could provide. In my view, the News knowingly and intentionally targeted Professor Hagen, even when it had been apprised of his value to these populations--and it chose, seemingly quite selectively, to present Professor Hagen in an unfavorable light. John Hagen was a recipient of the Neubacher Award for his research and service in precisely these areas. He is a good scholar, a good mentor, a good teacher, a good citizen, and a good person; he deserved to be treated better.

2) The Ann Arbor News and its editors claim to have copies of student academic records. As I understand it, they were apprised that it was a violation of federal law for someone to provide access to the FERPA protected, confidential information they claimed to have. I also understand that they were made aware that the information they claimed to have was private and personal information about students and that it was inappropriate for them to have that information or to share it. The News seems to have no compunction about exploiting the privacy of innocent students, but, of course, keeps private names of those who unlawfully provided it with access to these private student records.

3) The Ann Arbor News did not need to use the names of the students in its article. It was not necessary to describe specific students, to give details about their academic experiences, and to link that information to the students' names. As a result of this article, a number of these students are being pilloried with unwanted communications, insults, intimidating comments, and the discomfort of their peers knowing private information shared unnecessarily by the Ann Arbor News. It was disgraceful and shameful to print the students' names, especially when it added no important information to the story. It is my understanding that the Ann Arbor News and its editors had been made aware of the confidential nature of student academic records and, because it offered no benefit to the story to name the students, I can only assume a mean-spirited intent. Despite what appear to be obvious choices in prudence, respect, and journalistic integrity, our hometown newspaper has, it seems to me, chosen to a hostile and cavalier

approach that has been and will be truly harmful to Professor Hagen and his students. Any of us or our families, colleagues, friends, or neighbors could be next. The Ann Arbor community deserves better. And I, for one, will no longer abide or support a newspaper that is so disrespectful to our community.” – **Jack Bernard**, Adjunct Professor of Law, Education, Information, and Public Policy, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the VP & General Counsel, Chair, UM Council for Disability Concerns

“You are showing amazing strength and grace in a situation that is extremely unjust. I am appalled at the misrepresentation of you and your contributions to UM and the fact that this situation clearly is not about defending academic integrity at UM but more about personal agendas along with sensation-seeking journalism. I am proud and awed by your many contributions to UM, and I support you 100% (as do many others here). Please let me know if I can be helpful or supportive to you in any way during this time.” – **Tabbye Chavous**

“I was very disappointed at the recent article in the News and the outright hatchet job they have directed at you. I am sorry that you have to go through this. Please know that those of us truly familiar with your work offer you our support along with the admiration we share for your good work with students” – **William Collins**

“I admire your strength and resilience and just wish that none of this dumb stuff had ever happened in the first place. We chose you for your obvious expertise and we really value having you as the presenter. Our program will be better as a result. Many thanks!!” – **Constance Cook**, Executive Director, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching

“Gus and I just read the AA News and the material from Terri Lee. We're very sorry to see that you're having to spend time dealing with these accusations. Having looked at the article and the responses by the College and the EC, it seems to me that you have done everything possible to help your students. You have our support.” – **Margaret Evans**, Ph.D. Center for Human Growth and Development

“Count me in with your many supporters. I canceled my subscription to the News today.” – **Dan Gamble**, Associate Director of Academic Human Resources

“I just wanted to add how upset I was to see the AA News article. I have always been impressed with your deep commitment to all students, and it's quite awful to see how this has been distorted in the press. I'm glad to see that the department and university are supporting you.” – **Susan Gelman**

“I feel incredibly bothered about the distortions and effort to discredit your wonderful work over the years in the Ann Arbor News. Having gone through what the Ann Arbor News did with me in the affirmative action case, it appears that its leadership won't listen to any but their own opinions about what constitutes news, in your instance when it is clear that there isn't a problem here as analyzed in an intensive look by various university officials.” – **Patricia Guin**

“I had heard that this article was going to be published and was surprised to see that they'd publish something with such a lack of substance. I also involve quite a few student athletes in independent study courses, especially community and university internship courses. I sometimes feel as if I am one of the few faculty members who have taken time to get to know them and ask them about their aspirations. From what I read in the article I am only prouder to be your colleague.” – **Lorraine Gutierrez**

“Know that I support you. My husband read the articles- he knew nothing about the situation- and thought it was ridiculous and mean-spirited and made the Ann Arbor News look foolish. Hang in there.” – **Bonnie Hagerty**

“I had heard a bit about this beforehand, and had hoped that they would have showed better judgment on this non-story -- or rather, a story of professorial dedication to be celebrated, not castigated. I thought that the statements from others, especially our Chair and Provost, were very strong and supportive. Your

response, and closer study of the details, will go a long way to show the absence of anything newsworthy, and that sometimes smoke comes not from fire but from empty hot air. Good luck with all of this, and know that you have many, many colleagues who support you.” – **Dan Keating**, Ph.D. Professor of Psychology, Psychiatry, & Pediatrics, Director and Research Professor, Center for Human Growth and Development

“I am so sorry that you are being subjected to the likes of the Ann Arbor News and others. Your service and devotion to students doesn't deserve to be punished like this. I cringe to think how it must feel to be in this sort of spotlight. My heartfelt wishes to you for the strength and forbearance to endure this with your dignity intact.” – **Betsy Lozoff**

“I'm sure it is very hard to deal with such a "trashy" situation! Hang in there! Those of us who know you, know you to be a person of the highest integrity and unquestionable competence and commitment to students and the University and the field of psychology.” – **Marty and Jane Maehr**

“I know this will pass quickly and the novelty of the AA news' exploitation of misinformation is seen by most as just that. You have the respect and admiration of all the staff in this fine department and please know that I remain available to you at any and all times.” – **Buda Martonyi**

“Dear John, I have told everyone who mentioned this that I was confident that anyone from the University who looked into the facts would be proud to have you as a colleague, and that I was proud to have brought you here.” – **Bill McKeachie**, Professor Emeritus, LSA Department of Psychology

“I just finished reading Terry's email. I am sorry to hear that you have to go through all this. It is quite upsetting. I have seen undergrads coming to SRCD from your class were quite fond of you. Few of them were in my classes too. Please let me know if I can be of any help.” – **Ramaswami Mahalingam**

“Let me add my emailed voice to the accolades. I thought the article wasn't as bad as I feared, although deeply unfair to both you and the students you've worked with. It's a real shame all around.” – **Kevin Miller**, Professor and Co-Chair, Combined Program in Education and Psychology

“I have been checking the media outlets and as far as I can determine there has been no follow-up in the NYT or CNN after day 1. In other words this story has no legs (as they say in the biz) as far as the national media are concerned. The day 2 story on Kinesiology was incredibly boring- I couldn't get through it and I was highly motivated. Day 3 was merely a repeat of Day 2. Clearly they felt the day 1 story would ignite a fire and it didn't. The admin and department have all responded well in my view and the impact will be limited and die soon. I hope to see your smiling face around the 2nd floor a lot.” – **Fred Morrison**

“I am so sorry to hear about this mess, clearly after all these years of commitment, you deserve accolades rather than witch hunts. I don't know if you remember this, but I was a doctoral student here 1983-1987, and one of my cohort-mates and friends was Dorothy Feeman, who worked with you on, I believe, reading. I remember how much she appreciated your mentorship and help -- I am sure that there are many many former students who can attest to the time and energy you have spent with them. It is too bad that the article was intent on suggesting otherwise.” – **Daphna Oyserman**

“[Your response] is an excellent statement, and a very important correction to an outrageous story” – **David Potter**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Greek and Latin

“I just finished reading the newspaper. I'm glad you were prepared. It's actually worse than I thought it would be. Your photo on the front page? And the length of the article is much longer than I thought. I really didn't like seeing your name splashed across the pages - as if you're the only professor who teaches athletes. It really is such an inaccurate portrayal of you and who you are. I feel so badly for you. I'll

certainly support you in any way you and Terri find appropriate! The focus should be off you.” – **Ellen Quart**, Director, Michigan Mentorship Program

“Well, John, here is another letter of fierce support!!! Always!!!” – **George Rosenwald**

“Terri I don't know if you know but I worked for John for the majority of my undergraduate years (3.5 to be exact) at CHGD. The thing that stands out most was his way of supporting students and of going the extra mile. I think of his taking undergrads to SRCD - an experience that many will never forget - of his raising awareness of learning disabilities and opening the doors of the university to students with learning disabilities; working to get support services to them so that they could demonstrate their talent. I also think of his support of me when I first applied to Michigan and through my tenure bid. I certainly hope that we don't lose John's presence among us because of an angry colleague. I was particularly appalled to see my name in the story. I was included in the story, but was told that the story was about independent studies. I feel badly that my words were used as an indictment of John's work. I didn't know until much later what the story was going to be about. I hope that you are both able to weather this awful storm.” – **Stephanie Rowley**

“John, I just read that Ann Arbor News article and realized they cite me as saying more than 2-3 independent studies students would be too much. When I talked with the reporter, we discussed honors thesis and junior/senior projects leading to honors theses, not all independent study numbers. Under the broad set of numbers that was apparently counted for you, my count would probably be around 30-50 a semester (I can't even tell because there are many undergrads working with the post-docs and grad students in my lab and I rarely see them on an individual basis, except the advanced honors kids). This is all quite fishy and agenda driven. Obviously, I did not know about this context last fall, when the AA News asked me how many individual study students I usually advise. It sounded a bit like he's worried we're not working enough, which was obviously not his agenda.” – **Norbert Schwaz**

“You are involved in some amazing efforts that will lead to real change in the world.” – **Colleen Seifert**, Psychology Department Professor

“I just became aware of what you've been going through the last few months. I am so sorry you've been subjected to these unfounded accusations. I would never have believed them; your integrity is unquestionable. I hope this is over very, very soon.” – **Barbara Smuts**

“Thelma and I recently returned from Puerto Rico and were saddened to learn about all your difficulties. We both have great respect for you as a scholar and as a ‘mensch’ as do virtually all your colleagues.” – **Elliot Valenstein**

Emails from Dr. Hagen's former students (8 total):

“I recently read of the Ann Arbor articles on your independent study courses. I was not a student athlete and graduated from the U in Dec. 2006 with an Economics degree. I conducted an independent study for you and Steve on Prospect Theory and the limits of traditional economic models of human behavior. My sister, Maggie Ford, was also your student. I want to tell you how refreshing it was to study a topic which was not offered in any formal class. As a professor, you were a guide and a partner, not a lecturer. Keep up the great work.” – **Pat Ford** (financial advisor, Brown Wealth Management Group)

“I took a course from you in graduate school that led to an ongoing interest in learning disabilities and in children with all kinds of very individual and serious problems. When I was a clinical graduate student, not many professors thought broadly enough to inspire me. But you did. I have devoted my career to

helping the “different kids” – the LD, ADD, abused and neglected. I have not been in much touch with you over the years, but I have never forgotten what you taught me. Now I am on the Board of a local school for Learning Disabled children that is expanding; have taught in the Child Advocacy Law Clinic for 15 years; have co-chaired a number of Clinical Area dissertations on child abuse; testify frequently to help children in difficult custodial situations; and currently serving as the expert in the Children’s Rights lawsuit to fix the foster care system in Michigan. I may not be a football player, but you helped me become who I am, and I am certain you are helping athletes too. The newspaper article was horrifying.” – **Pam Ludolph** (Ph.D. Clinical Psychology, University of Michigan)

“I was your t.a. for two years with Bettina Schwethelm – maybe three, I can’t remember – and the course was one of the few on campus at that time that provided experiential learning in real placements for children. It was rigorous academically and provided students with internship experiences they would never have had otherwise, that I’m sure changed their lives. “The Child and the Institution” was a marvelous course, and I crafted my own independent study program while I was in the Psychology Department at the University of Arizona after it, with placements in various foster child care programs, mental health centers, and schools serving kids with special needs. So the experiential learning course you developed re-generated in some of your own students’ and teaching assistants’ work...and I offered more than 100 students in Tucson a similar kind of independent study experience. The idea came from my experience as a t.a. for your course. Their criticisms of you are without merit, and it is shocking that another faculty member targeted you in this way.” – **Laura McCloskey** (Director, Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute)

“I write in support of the decades of dedicated educational work of Professor John Hagen. It was with shock and dismay that I read the lengthy article in Sunday’s News questioning his integrity in the context of independent study classes with University of Michigan student athletes. In the 1980’s, I served with Dr. Hagen on a University Task Force to establish services for students with learning disabilities. Subsequently, he consulted with the Athletic Department to conceptualize and create a program of academic support for student athletes who needed strategies to ensure academic success (study skills, writing support, college level reading skills, time management). I also consulted with the athletic department to implement the Academic Success Program and worked closely with Dr. Hagen to provide evidence-based, effective teaching methods for student-athletes. Dr. Hagen has shown himself to be a tireless advocate not only for students with special needs, but also student athletes who need extra support. His depth of knowledge served this program (any many others) very well. Dr. Hagen has consistently demonstrated only the highest of ethics and devotion to the well-being of all students, athletes, and non-athletes. Dr. Hagen’s only failing in providing independent study classes was his willingness to sue his breadth of knowledge to teach these students in a way few University of Michigan professors can. It is concerning that the News chose to report Dr. Hagen’s dedication in such a negative and unfounded manner rather than recognizing his achievements and accomplishments in educating and serving students.” – **Eileen Mollen** (Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Ann Arbor Center for the Family)

“I am pleased, proud, and grateful for the opportunities you provided me as one of your graduate students twenty years ago. You have proven to be a mentor and a friend and are much appreciated.” – **Jennifer Myers** (Ph.D. Associate Director of Academic Services, Residential College, University of Michigan)

“I would just like to commend you on your work and express my support for you continued success as part of the U of M family. Please know that there are many of us that are not buying the drivel that the Ann Arbor News is trying to sell the community, and we see their piece for what it is: a misleading, defaming article that is typical of any newspaper desperate for increased readership and willing to go out of their way to create controversy that they feel will achieve that end and furthermore make themselves look like some type of righteous moral compass for U of M. I hope that many others express this sentiment to you, and I encourage you and your colleagues to defend your work should the News get even

more overzealous in their attempt to smear you and stir up negative feelings toward our great school. Stay strong, and Go Blue!” – **Ben Ramirez**

“Dr. Hagen, I had the pleasure of taking a class with you years ago. I would like to add my voice to those that are supporting you as you have supported our athletes. I guess anything will be said to sell papers and get noticed these days.” – **Donald Shin, MD**

“I imagine that it cannot be easy to be receiving negative publicity after a lifetime of commitment, achievement, and service to the University of Michigan. Consequently, I wanted to let you know how much I appreciated the opportunity I had to work with you while I was an undergraduate. You supervised my psychology honors thesis (“The Effect of Music on Cognition”) during the 1997-98 academic year. It was a wonderful experience and an honor to have the opportunity to be advised by someone as significant in the field of psychology as yourself. That experience was one of the highlights of my academic career and I owe so much to you for it. It spurred in me a desire to be involved not only in research but, more importantly, to recognize the importance of the world of ideas and how ideas impact society as a whole. I wanted to let you know how much working with you meant to me in my life and how it has positively affected my career. And I am sure there are so many others like me who feel the same way. Poorly written, misreported, self-serving Ann Arbor News articles will never be able to change the good that you have done for us all.” – **Prashant Tamaskar, JD**