Written Evaluations Provided by Former Students/Mentees (Spring 2016)

Student 1:

In Spring 2014, I had the opportunity to take HCMG215: The Management and Economics of the Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology, and Medical Device Industries with Julius Chen as the sole TA. He was a wonderful TA during the course and has been an incredibly helpful mentor since then. During the semester, Julius was a very accessible and approachable resource if students needed assistance, whether it was in office hours or other appointments set up to accommodate students’ schedules. Julius also provided additional support for our final group project, which was immensely helpful in shaping our team’s progress. He also held review sessions before the final exam, for which he prepared study guides and slides, and during the review session, he explained a lot of complex material very well and helped synthesize course themes in a cogent and concise manner. Julius has demonstrated a passion and a talent for teaching, and he is the best TA that I have had in the HCMG department. Julius clearly dedicated himself to the course and cared about how students did, both in the course and their interests in healthcare outside of class. Over a year after the course ended, Julius was nice enough to reach out to former students to catch up, and I asked him for career advice, which he was generous enough to give. He gave up much of his time to mentor me through graduate school applications and interviews and provide his valuable perspective based on his own accomplishments.

Student 2:

I was fortunate enough to have Julius Chen as my Teaching Assistant for Healthcare Management (HCMG) 215: The Management & Economics of Pharmaceutical, Biotech, and Medical Devices Industry at The Wharton School during the Spring 2014 term. As a Teaching Assistant, Julius was incredibly helpful in explaining course concepts during office hours, a fair grader of exams, case study write-ups, and course projects, and a kind individual overall. There are many instances in which I can recall him embodying these traits during my time in HCMG 215.

To start, Julius was very helpful in explaining tricky course concepts. As one can imagine, a survey course of the management and economics of three large industries (big pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and medical devices) covers many different topics, and each nation’s healthcare system varies dramatically in both detail and complexity. To that end, Julius hosted numerous office hours throughout the term to explain these differing healthcare systems, and also held a final exam review session, in which he presented a twenty slide lecture deck that recapped all of the key course concepts. In particular, I was never fully clear on the differences between the various European healthcare systems across the European Union, but after attending his office hour sessions multiple times and listening to his final review lecture, I was able to leave the class with a very clear understanding of the differences between healthcare systems across the European Union.
Beyond his ability to well explain course concepts, Julius was also a fair grader on all of the course assignments, including the case-study write ups, term project, and final exam. He provided in-depth comments on every assignment, that not only gave clarity into his grading structure and schema, but also asked thought provoking questions that I should consider for further analysis within the context of the broader healthcare industry. That was very much appreciated, as many Teaching Assistants at Penn and Wharton provide scores on deliverables, without actionable, meaningful feedback.

Above all, what I found most important to Julius’ strength as a Teaching Assistant was his genuine kindness throughout the entire term. I consistently saw a smile on his face, and never felt that he was unapproachable or standoffish, despite being a Ph.D. candidate many years older than me. I firmly believe his warm, friendly demeanor will carry over to his role as a professor, and undergraduates for years to come will feel fortunate to have had him as their instructor.

…He truly is one of the most outstanding Teaching Assistants I have had here during my four years at Penn.

Student 3:

I am writing to provide a review of Julius Chen as a former student of his at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. In the spring of 2014, I was a student in a class taught by Julius and Professor Patricia Danzon, entitled “The Management and Economics of the Pharmaceutical, Biotech & Medical Device Industries.” As the teaching assistant for the class, Julius was in fact the primary point of contact for us as students as we worked on assignments and prepared for exams. Julius was very accessible outside of class, and as my team prepared for our final project on pharmaceutical alliances with academic institutions, we benefitted substantially from being able to meet with Julius to discuss ideas for our project. Julius also did a fantastic job of leading review sessions in advance of the final exam for the class- he was very effective in conveying course concepts in relatable and understandable terms. Julius’ greatest strength in my opinion though, was his ability to connect with us as students and provide advice as we prepared to launch our careers. The Wharton School has a program that supports undergraduate students to have lunch with graduate students to learn about their experiences and perspectives. Julius reached out to members of my group after the completion of our class to go to lunch and to learn about our plans after graduation in an illustration of his interest in the success of us as students. Julius’ advice and support has meant a great deal to me and a number of my close friends, who have also been his students. I am looking forward to hearing about Julius’ continued success in the future because of his dedication and skill as a teacher.