

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

DEC 29 1970

Room 18-207

December 23, 1970

Professor Matthew Meselson
Biological Laboratories
16 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Professor Meselson:

Dr. Robert P. Mikulak completed his research in our laboratory in January, 1969, with an excellent Ph. D. thesis entitled "Mechanism of General Acid-Catalyzed Hemiacetal and Hemiketal Formation." He also has papers based on his undergraduate work at Northwestern University in *J. Chem. Ed.*, 38, 557 (1961) and *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 87, 4545 (1965). In the graduate record exam he was in the 99th percentile in all three parts. He held NSF fellowships throughout his stay at M. I. T. and was also awarded a Woodrow Wilson fellowship (declined). He speaks and writes clearly, has unusual initiative and perseverance, interacted well with both students and faculty, has a good sense of humor, and was a very competent, mature and resourceful research worker.

Sincerely,



C. Gardner Swain
Professor of Chemistry