



April 2, 2010

To Kristen Worley,

I wanted to take this opportunity to say 'thank-you' for making time in your hectic schedule to be a guest lecturer in my class on Olympic Sport History on February 10, 2010.

Your presentation about your experiences in Canadian and international sport provided the students with an unparalleled opportunity to examine issues of gender identity with someone who has lived experience as a transitioned athlete. Furthermore, your willingness to field tough questions from the students, combined with your professional manner in responding to them, helped to make the classroom a safe space to talk about the deeply troubling problematic of gender identification in sport.

Overall, the students came out with a better understanding of gender identity, and the ways in which athletes have been deeply and negatively impacted by sex testing. Your presentation made it very clear that ideas about gender and performance are still very much central to sport, and are a means through which to regulate female involvement, especially at the elite level.

Your presentation resonated with a large portion of the class: several students went on to complete essays in other courses in this very topic, and most students elected to complete an essay on this issue for the final exam.

I would be pleased if you would consider returning to my class in the future to present on this issue. I anticipate next year's class to be much larger -- almost double the number of students (approximately 70) who were enrolled in this year's course.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice Forsyth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janice Forsyth, PhD  
Director  
International Centre for Olympic Studies  
The University of Western Ontario