



RANDOLPH COLLEGE

Science Festival

2500 RIVERMONT AVENUE
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24503-1526

PH: 434.947.8488
www.randolphscience.org

To Whom it May Concern –

Randolph College has been running a weekend-long Science Festival for the region since 2010 (www.randolphscience.org). Each year, we bring a keynote speaker to campus, and the keynote is meant to bring legitimacy and notoriety to the Festival, and to be a major draw for the weekend. In the past we have had an astronaut, someone doing a demo show on the Science in the Disney movie Frozen, a presenter from the Higgs boson research team the year it was discovered, Michael Shermer, and this year – 2017 – we brought in Greg Kennedy, the Innovative Juggler.

Greg Kennedy personable – he was willing to talk to me directly on the phone about what would work best for the Festival, and he was very easy to work with in terms of his needs and what we could supply.

There was so much that was impressive about Greg Kennedy's keynote performance starting from the fact that he designed a whole show around our needs for something that was truly entertaining, but also contained a significant amount of science. We were so impressed when he arrived at how much equipment he had – he filled the stage. But nothing compares to his actual show and the reaction of the community.

Greg Kennedy's show at the Randolph College Science Festival was a unique and amazing show that could not be duplicated by anyone else. I have seen most Cirque du Soleil shows (including the one he was in), and the level of juggling in this show was as good as any I have ever seen. The weaving in of starting his career as an engineer, and transitioning to juggling, and then talking about the science in his pieces was spell-binding. After the show, one little girl came up to him and said "I thought I was going to be bored by your talking, but I wasn't at all!"

I received so much feedback after the show from many community members that it was the best thing they had ever seen, or that they were so disappointed they missed it because of all the chatter they hear about it. To a person, everyone who I talked to said that it was "amazing", and how in the world did we get that show to be here??? Unquestionably, there is unanimous agreement that he is the best keynote we have had for the Science Festival.

The events coordinator at Randolph College who worked closely with Greg to bring him here said that we will have set a bar, and will have a hard time topping this as keynote. It is hard to prove causation, but the weekend Festival started with the juggling performance on Thursday night, and continued with many activities



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through Sunday, and attendance at all events jumped from about 2000 last year to closer to 3000 this year.

While he was here, Mr. Kennedy also spoke at our Fine Arts students' weekly colloquium, and he taught a physics class for me. Reactions to both classes were overwhelmingly positive, as Mr. Kennedy can show artists that the path is not always easy, but that it can be forged with hard work, and he was able to really connect the juggling with equations and algorithms for the physics class.

I would recommend Greg Kennedy as a unique and special find for anyone who wants to bring an entertainer or a science speaker to campus. I cannot say enough good things.

Peter Sheldon
Director, Randolph College Science Festival
Chair, Department of Physics
Randolph College