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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR PETER THOMAS

This is a letter in support of the teaching of Peter Thomas, who entered the Department in 1994 after transferring from the Department of Computer Science. As we do with all beginning graduate students, we had Peter participate in the Department's College Fellow program. Peter worked in the Autumn Quarter in a logic course with Professor Slaman, and then in the Winter and Spring in a service course for physical sciences majors with Mr. Kukavica. His duties included attending class, holding regular office hours, assisting in constructing and grading exams, and eventually in lecturing for the class. Peter had had some experience in classroom teaching at the high school level, so his skills were clearly in place when he began in our program. Professor Slaman reported, "Peter gave two lectures. He is a very polished lecturer. He made contact with students and kept their attention. His treatment of the mathematical material was well prepared and contained appropriate examples (original to him). I recommend Peter Thomas most highly. He is meticulous in his preparation and has an engaging classroom manner. I have never before seen a graduate student teach as well as he does."

In 1995 Peter was appointed a Lecturer in the College, and has taught in our service course for majors in economics, and in linear algebra and calculus. He has been thoughtful about his teaching, in particular suggesting supplementary texts and materials for each of these multi-sectioned courses. Professor Cowan visited his class in March, 1996 and reported, "Peter gave a careful lecture on the Implicit Function Theorem -- with an application to Economics. He was articulate, and completely in command of the material. An excellent performance. Good interaction with the students."

In the Student Course Evaluation Book published by the College, Peter receives favorable comments. The summary of one of his classes reads, "The students that returned evaluations said that Mr. Thomas was an enthusiastic, friendly and approachable instructor. They said his strong point was in conveying the important concepts, giving the most important material deeper treatment. Most of the students also found his explanations clear, but some thought the lectures could have been more clear. The students said his weak point was organization and commented that he was

slow in returning homework assignments. Overall, students found Mr. Thomas to be a good teacher."

I would be comfortable with Peter teaching any of our standard undergraduate courses. He enjoys adding his own personal touch to the course syllabi and is creative in presenting material to the students. He is an enthusiastic, thoughtful teacher and he has my strong recommendation.

Sincerely,

*Diane Herrmann*

Diane Herrmann

Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies