



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

Geology Building
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland 20742-4211 USA
301.405.4082 TEL 301.314.9661 FAX
www.geol.umd.edu

Dr. Julio Friedmann
GEOL - 3106
Dept. of Geology
Univ. of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
juliof@geol.umd.edu
1-301-405-4087

Dr. Crystal Cooper, candidate

To Whom it May Concern,

It is a great pleasure to write to you in support of Crystal Cooper for a position on your faculty. I worked with Crystal on many grants and proposals in 2003 and have seen her present aspects of her research many times. She is an extraordinarily strong candidate and a deeply committed, driven professional scientist.

I have had the privilege of witnessing her powerhouse capabilities. To begin, she has an omnivorous intellect and is genuinely, keenly interested in many aspects of the physical world. These range from non-linear dynamics in the growth of biological structures to chaotic oscillations in an optical circuit or vibrated plate. She attacks problems with energy and panache, obtaining equipment and resources with commitment to a project. She is cagey in discussion, and I've seen her spar deftly with the very best minds of the NLD community at Maryland. She brings that intellect and enthusiasm into the lab where she is an expert coder, hardware user and builder, and experimentalist. Her take-no-prisoners approach to science is infectious, leading us to write multiple proposals over several months to NSF, the military, NIH, and other organizations. Importantly, she is committed to the application of her results, and seeks to find a natural market for her ideas and products within the scientific and industrial communities.

In addition to these qualities, she is deeply dedicated to the training of young scholars. Her laboratory students are capable and productive, and she took great care and interest in training them directly. This translates into a gift for mentorship. She encouraged them to publish and present their results in venues on and off campus, and delighted in their success. Two grants we wrote were aimed at teaching young scientists how to integrate physics into other disciplines and at reaching out to disadvantages or minority students and teachers to engage them in science.

Your program would be well served by a researcher and educator of Crystal's immense talents. I hope you carefully consider her application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julio Friedmann', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Julio Friedmann
Dept. of Geology