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RE: Letter of Recommendation for Mr. Florian Pohl

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To Whom It May Concern:

I had the pleasant opportunity to have Florian as my professor for Intro to Islam during the Spring 2004 semester at Temple University. I am pleased to be able to provide a letter recommending him for a position as a teacher. I had just transferred to Temple as a Religion major and was interested in taking this particular course because I am a Muslim myself and had never taken an Islam course before. I was curious to know what material would be taught and how it would be presented in an academic atmosphere. From the very first day of class, Florian's pleasant personality and smiling face made me feel welcome and un-intimidated. He clearly laid out the guidelines of what we were to learn and his expectations for the class which were followed with the utmost preciseness.

Florian made us students feel comfortable because of his carefree attitude. Every morning we would be greeted by his happy demeanor and brilliant energy. His excellent communication skills were a great strength to his teaching. When we were wrong he wouldn't shoot us down but nicely explain to us the right answer so that we would not get embarrassed. He encouraged classroom discussions and would motivate us to get involved in the subject matter. Everyday in class we would learn something new and he would change around his method of teaching so that we would not get bored. We would switch from lectures to discussions to audio/visual programs to paper evaluations to just eating donuts while discussing a current hot-topic in Islam or critiquing the readings we were assigned.

He was obviously extremely passionate and educated about Islam and taught us everything he possibly could. He seemed more like a peer to us than a teacher. Yet at the same time he would enforce his authority and not let students take advantage of him or cross that line between instructor and student. I was very impressed with his style of teaching and to what extent of information he possessed. I learned so much in his class and received a grade of B+. I can honestly say that, to date, no other instructor of mine has led or held a class together as well as my Intro to Islam class with Florian. It was apparent that he really cared about us and our knowledge in this subject.

I had the opportunity to get to know Florian outside of the classroom as a friend as well and I can say that he really is a wonderful person that is just so full of life and grateful for all the experiences and opportunities he has had in life. Whenever we would run into each other outside of class he would make it a point to stop and say hello and genuinely ask how everything was in my life, which is quite rare coming from an instructor. I really did miss not having him around campus anymore.

In summary, I believe that Florian possess every criteria there is in being a successful teacher. He is motivated, knows how to communicate, and most importantly he knows how to teach. After having him as a professor I would highly recommend him as a teacher to any institution. He really would be a positive addition to the academic community.

Sincerely,

Farah Majid