

October 15, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Dr. Lizz Caplan to recommend her, with enthusiasm, as an outstanding teacher and scholar. I have known Dr. Caplan since Fall of 1995 when she enrolled in our Ph.D. program in Second Language Acquisition and Instructional Technology. Offered jointly by the Colleges of Education and Arts and Sciences at the University of South Florida (USF), this program is unique in the U.S. for its interdisciplinary approach to the integration of technology in the acquisition and teaching of languages. It attracts students from the four corners of the globe due to its innovativeness and responsiveness to a real need and shift in the field.

Dr. Caplan ranks, without a doubt, as one of the top 2 or 3 most creative students I have ever met. She was the type of graduate student all of us dream to have. In just a few years, I had the pleasure to watch her grow and evolve into a first class researcher. She was not only an exceptional student because of the quality of her work and inquisitive mind, her intrinsic motivation and autonomy, but also because of the experience and background she brought to the program and shared with her fellow students. She is extremely bright, has excellent work ethics, worked toward her degree with a clear purpose and did it very successfully. Her work as a teacher at USF was absolutely **outstanding**; every project she undertook for her classes always reflected a strong dedication to teaching and the integration of technology into her classes.

You will no doubt notice from Lizz Caplan's dossier that she is extremely informed about the use of technology for instructional purposes. She not only studies this as a field but also models it on a daily basis in her classes. I have rarely met anyone so dedicated to successfully integrating technology for the benefit of her students as she is. Dr. Caplan has given inordinate amounts of time to the preparation of new materials for her students and to the research of appropriate websites to enhance her German classes. She has designed curricula, authored multi-media software for German language instruction, created tutorials, authored a website for German including lesson plans and exercises, and the list goes on.

Dr. Caplan developed the topic of her dissertation research by combining her interest in second language pedagogy with her interest in technology. Her creative, well thought out work is the cutting edge in the field of computer-assisted language learning as well as in the field of animation and visual imaging. The research project she undertook in her doctoral program has led her to a new path of inquiry that is very promising for future scholarly contributions. Indeed, the concept of animated grammar is fairly new and remains largely undocumented. Dr. Caplan's study has the potential of significantly impacting the fields of language learning and of multimedia. In addition, she is also a remarkable writer, and I have no doubt that she will provide valuable contributions to the publications in her field.

Dr. Caplan is without a doubt an outstanding, dedicated scholar who is motivated by a research question that has real life implications for the teaching of languages. Therefore, it is without any reservations and with enthusiasm that I would urge you to consider Lizz Caplan's application favorably. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carine M. Feyten, Ph.D.  
Professor, Foreign Language Education  
Interim Associate Dean, College of Education  
[feytan@tempest.coedu.usf.edu](mailto:feytan@tempest.coedu.usf.edu)