

October 2, 2001

RECOMMENDATION

FOR: Elizabeth Caplan-Carbin

FROM: Victor Peppard, Chair, World Language Education
University of South Florida
peppard@chumal.cas.usf.edu



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Writing a recommendation for Elizabeth Caplan-Carbin is not the same as writing one for the usual graduate student at a similar stage of her career. During the past several years, first because of a sabbatical and now on account of the retirement of our lone Professor of German, Ms. Caplan has in effect been in charge of our undergraduate German program. In addition to teaching classes in the German language and taking courses, she has handled such things as the scheduling of courses and hiring and supervising of adjuncts that would normally have been the province of full-time faculty. In other words, she now has acquired experience well beyond what one would expect of someone in her position. What is more she has handled all of this with consummate professionalism and quite frankly the Department has been lucky to have her services. Under Ms. Caplan's leadership we have actually experienced a substantial increase in enrollment in our German classes.

Ms. Caplan's credentials at this point to enter the profession are exceptional. In addition to her extensive background in Germanistik/German Studies she has superb preparation in Second Language Acquisition and Instructional Technology. She has also acquired much valuable experience in the classroom teaching both German and English as a Second Language. In fact, her teaching is a model for other instructors, as witnessed by her receipt of the University's Provost's Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate student in 1998. Ms. Caplan's technical skills go well beyond the usual classroom techniques; she is expert in Website design and has done important work for the Department in this area as well. All of this is reflected in the several Webpages she has on line and in the scholarly presentations she has given.

In the Department and the College we are accustomed to think of Ms. Caplan as a colleague because that is what she is in reality. We will be loathe to lose her because of all she has done for us but we take pride in the knowledge that she is an exemplar for the next generation of language teachers.