



To Whom It May Concern:

I enthusiastically support Elizabeth Gurney's application for the German position at your high school. I am convinced that Elizabeth will prove to be an important addition to your staff. She will be a great colleague, a motivated and motivating teacher, and most importantly a resourceful addition to your German program. Her language education during high school and here at Clemson University had prepared her well for any language related activity, yet her year abroad at the University of Gießen (Germany) provided her with the cultural knowledge and the language competencies needed for a teaching job. As a passionate teacher of German myself, I am delighted that Elizabeth is excited about sharing her knowledge about German and German-speaking countries with a generation of students that will be even more effected by an ever increasingly globalize world and growing multicultural societies.

Mrs. Gurney took two courses with me at Clemson University, Ger 316 (German for International Trade I) and its continuation (Ger 416). I serve as the advisor for all Language and International Trade students, and naturally met with Elizabeth on a regular basis. Especially before and after sending students abroad, we spend lots of time preparing students, addressing concerns and answering questions, helping with the logistics of an exchange and hear about their experience when they come back. Elizabeth participated in extra-curricula activities, such as the German Club, and I therefore had additional opportunities to get to know her. Our German program is relative small and we enjoy the luxury to be in such close contact with our students. What I valued highly about Elizabeth was her professionalism, seeking assistance only when absolutely needed, yet at the same time she was always present. Her academic work was as professional (she received all As in my classes), timely and thorough as her engagement outside of the classroom. I also had the pleasure to hear her perform, she is a gifted musician who's talent in this area will contribute wonderfully to any German instruction at all levels.

When Elizabeth came to Clemson, she had already some German language preparation—exempting 11 credit hours of German—and thus she started with Ger 202 (fourth semester language). She took a difficult 20<sup>th</sup> century literature course, as well as a culture course. As part of her study abroad year in Gießen, she successfully completed an independent study (L&IT 401) that required her to write a 10-page paper in German, entitled "Deutschland als ein Einwanderungsland," which I directed. In order to complete the assignment, students have to research a topic, develop an outline and produce several drafts, all in German. Needless to say that the result was very favorably and proved her understanding of immigration in Germany.

I would like to point out that Elizabeth did not choose to take the easiest route, she took a demanding literature course whereas easier where available; she decided to spend a full year at a university instead of a summer program; took all of her classes in Germany in German (more and more universities in German-speaking countries offer courses in English); and above all she selected an excellent university that is not highly populated by Americans, enabling her to fully engage in German student life. At Gießen, she took additional language courses (required for all foreign students) as well as business, marketing, history and *Germanistik* courses. During only a short conversation after her return from Germany, I recognized immediately that she had fully immersed herself in the language, the culture, studied the history and the people.



DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES

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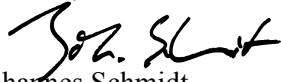
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The Language and International Trade program here at Clemson is intended to prepare students for an international career. Yet, we acknowledge that our students are highly successful in many areas, hired by prominent companies such as BMW, for non-profit and governmental organizations, are accepted into some of the best graduate schools (Duke Law School), and become successful in the educational sector. The reason for the broad application of the skills and knowledge acquired is twofold: first, as mention above, our program is small, hence we as teachers have the chance to work closely with our students and thus preparing them for various occupations; secondly, our program focuses on cultural understanding and awareness of the German-speaking countries. In the German business world it is more important than in other cultures to acquire a serious knowledge and understanding of the history, the culture, the literature, and the people of Europe. We train our student to be able to function in a broad variety of new, different, and ever changing circumstances and situations. Elizabeth Gurney took fully advantage of what we had to offer, and she made the most of it by spending a full year at a Germany university.

Elizabeth is exceptional in several ways; here at Clemson she understood early on what it takes to become an expert in German. I know that she fully understands this new challenge and that she will respond to an offer by your school in a professional, skilled, knowledgeable and responsible manner. She asked me to write this recommendation on a short notice, I would not have agreed to happily provide it if I had not been convinced that she will exceed your expectations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail or by phone, I will be more than glad to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



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