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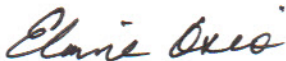
REFERENCE FOR LITA BARRIE

During our lengthy acquaintance at California State University, Los Angeles, I have both observed and discussed Ms. Barrie's teaching philosophy with her on multiple occasions. As a result, I am delighted to recommend her for a teaching position.

In addition to her in-depth knowledge of literature, she also possesses impressive credentials in art theory and philosophy, both of which she has taught at such highly-regarded institutions as Claremont Graduate University, Otis School of Art and Design, and Art Center College of Design. In addition, Ms. Barrie, as she did in her native New Zealand, continues to produce cogent, thought-provoking art reviews and criticism; the clarity and elegance of her writing, coupled with the originality of her insights, so far removed from the jargon-filled prose of so much contemporary writing on the visual arts, fully absorb the reader. She has a truly original voice.

This ability to convey extensive knowledge clearly and without condescension makes Ms. Barrie a first-rate classroom instructor as well. Whether her subject was Composition, Gender Studies, Film Studies, or Children's Literature, she always respected her diverse body of students by offering them syllabi that challenged and engaged them simultaneously; the readings in her Freshman Composition courses, for instance, were frequently focused upon those world myths and tales that underlie so much of literature, whether classic or contemporary. During classroom discussions of the material, Ms. Barrie consistently demonstrated not only her skill in clarifying slippery and complex concepts, but also her talent for eliciting meaningful, exciting responses from the students themselves. She challenged with dynamism and humor, and her students, both in their in-class dialogues and in their essays, were stretched beyond their self-perceived abilities.

In short, Ms. Barrie is a first-rate teacher. Her focus on cultural contexts from which to situate the readings of literary texts, her ability to communicate her wide-ranging intellectual interests cogently and powerfully to classes filled with students of varied backgrounds and abilities, and her intellectual rigor coupled with her flexibility and easy rapport with her students will make her a true asset to your program. I recommend her without reservation.



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