



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

Department of Psychology

June 18, 2010

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a genuine pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Carlos Ossa for a position teaching Spanish at the secondary school level. I have known Carlos for just over five years; he came very highly recommended by a colleague who was taking a beginning level. My background is a bit different; I had lived and worked in Latin America for three years right after college, but had lost quite a bit over the three decades since and wanted to renew my fluency and vocabulary. Carlos is the best Spanish instructor I've ever had! This is a comparison based on three teachers in high school and five in the Peace Corps, half of whom were also native speakers of Spanish.

Carlos is an excellent role model for teaching. He has both the formal background (Master's degree from the University of Chile; MS in Education and NY State certification) and the experience of growing up as a native speaker of Spanish, but also has a wonderful teaching style. He makes it a pleasure to rise early on Saturday mornings to attend an advanced conversation class. He is always on time and ready to go, with assignments designed to improve the learning challenges posed by a heterogeneous class of advanced students. We include formal study of grammar, vocabulary, and literature during the first hour, but then switch to more open conversation. His corrections of our errors are gentle and pleasant, and he is always supportive of our attempts to learn more. He has also provided us with extensive materials on a website that we can study on our own.

I give Carlos Ossa my highest recommendation, and hope you will decide favorably on his application for a position. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at jhastrup@buffalo.edu or my UB office number 645-0217 (it may be necessary for me to call you back as I am often out of the office).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice L. Hastrup".

Janice L. Hastrup, Ph.D., M.S.
Associate Professor