

Re: Tenure and Promotion

May 4, 2014

To whom it may concern,

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

I first met Dr. John Homer when he interviewed at ACU. Since that time, I have come to count him as a colleague and friend. I taught and researched closely with John for several years. While I believe John has made contributions to the university in many areas, I have chosen to address teaching and scholarship in this letter.

John has a passion for teaching and a desire to perfect his craft. One of his first assignments involved “taking over” our early programming sequence. Since I had recently revising the curriculum, I was reluctant to entrust it to anyone else, especially a new professor. My worries were quickly alleviated and I observed a number of significant improvements in the sequence before I resigned. I have no doubt he has continued to refine the courses and improve their effectiveness. Over the years, I regularly dropped in to observe John “in action”. His mastery of the subject allows him to employ a Socratic teaching style which gives the students the opportunity to explore the subject and “discover” the underlying principles. This method works well for John because he is able to create excellent rapport with his students that extends out of the classroom, allowing him to mentor students both educationally and spiritually.

In addition to teaching, we collaborated on a series of research initiatives including undergraduate assistance and culminating in several papers including some with undergraduate co-authors. In many ways, this research was rooting in a desire to improve teaching; we designed and tested teaching methodologies, using the results to inform changes in our curriculum, sometimes as soon as the next semester.

In general, I believe Dr. John Homer to be an excellent teacher, researcher and huge asset to the School of Information, Technology and Computer, and specifically to the Computer Science program at ACU.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dwayne Towell', written in a cursive style.

Dwayne Towell, Ph.D.
CIO, Docket Navigator
325-320-4726