

November 3, 2006

Office of Graduate Studies
P.O. Box 1002
Millersville University
Millersville, PA 17551-0302



Dear Graduate Admissions Committee:

I am very happy to have the opportunity to recommend Ed Kozaczka for acceptance to Millersville University's MA program in Literature. I have known Ed for four years, since he declared his English major, and – even given the quality of student that I'm sure you're used to seeing – he is pretty amazing. I give him my highest recommendation.

I met Ed when he enrolled as a student in the gateway course to the English major, Introduction to Literary Studies. Ed's first few papers were tentative; he had never worked at the college level before, and the course is extremely challenging. Ed is that rare student, though, who thrives on constructive criticism and takes it eagerly to heart. Soon he visited my office before and after every paper, drafting possibilities for each assignment and working to make every paper dramatically better than the last. His comments in class were astute and pertinent, and he took the lead in small group discussions and peer review sessions. I have worked with him in several classes since then, including ENG 3376 The Novel and ENG 4401 Satire and Sentiment (the capstone seminar). I have never seen a student so willing to learn, and to develop his natural capacity as a writer and scholar. I think he is well suited to graduate school, and your program will be lucky to have his rare combination of talent, ambition, and modesty.

Ed is one of the most motivated, enthusiastic and naturally talented students I have worked with in my 15 years of teaching at the university level. His push to work at the graduate level and to revise and polish undergraduate work to make it eligible for graduate-level consideration illustrates this. He was, without question, the most consistently excellent student in my senior capstone seminar last semester. The conversations I had with him during that course not only showed me the progress of a budding scholar, eager to find new ways to approach texts – it also showed a colleague in the making. Ed's questions and comments helped me to see Frances Burney's *Evelina* in a new light, which surprised and delighted me. I also worked with him extensively to revise and polish the paper written for that course, "It's Only a Name: Homosocial Relationships and Identity in Frances Burney's *Evelina*" for future conference submission. Throughout this paper, Ed illustrates skills that are worthy of graduate level work: a clear and original project, careful consideration and presentation of evidence, cogent application of theory, and insight that moved well beyond the assignment.

I know that recommendation letters often overstate students' abilities, but I want you to know that Ed truly deserves my praise – and I know that he will energize your department as he has ours, and that your program will give him the chance to continue shaping himself as a scholar.

I would be more than happy to talk further with you about Ed and about how he might fit into your program. Please feel welcome to contact me at my office, 570-662-4588, or via email at tdoerkse@mnsfld.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Teri Doerksen", is written over a horizontal line.

Teri Doerksen
Associate Professor of English
Department of Languages and Literature

Letter of Recommendation for Mr. Edward J. Kozaczka



Mansfield, PA 16933

13 November 2006

To the Admissions Committee:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Mr. Edward Kozaczka's application for graduate study in English at Millersville. I have known Mr. Kozaczka for the last two years, primarily in my capacity as department chair, and have come to regard him as one of our most promising candidates for graduate study. Prior to that, I knew of Mr. Kozaczka because I was hearing very good things about him from my colleagues. He is the sort of student about whom faculty become excited and eager to have in their classes. Indeed, Mr. Kozaczka stands out from among his peers as a student whose critical work consistently and productively engages literary texts with contemporary theory – particularly gender studies and queer theory, two of his primary theoretical interests. In his final research essay in ENG 4401: Seminar in Literary Studies, for example, entitled "It's Only a Name: Homosocial Relationships and Identity in Frances Burney's *Evelina*," Mr. Kozaczka argues that the homosocial relationships between men in *Evelina* have a dominant/submissive dynamic that influences female identities throughout the novel, and that class, age, and setting establish the boundaries for the dominant/submissive relationships among the male characters. Mr. Kozaczka's public presentation of his project last spring was one of the highlights of our annual senior seminar presentations (all 4401 students must present their projects to the campus community in a public forum).

In addition to completing his English degree, which requires intermediate proficiency in a second language (Spanish, in Mr. Kozaczka's case), Mr. Kozaczka is currently completing a minor in Anthropology, which complements his interest in gender studies and queer theory. His academic accomplishments are reflected in his strong quality point average; as of this writing, his overall QPA is just above a 3.5, while his English QPA is above a 3.6. In addition, Mr. Kozaczka was honored last spring semester when two of his essays, "Language Lock: Male Dominance over Language in Smith's *Emmeline*" and "Sensuality, Secrecy, and Sex: Homoeroticism in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*," were nominated for our departmental Outstanding Essay Awards.

As I've gotten to know Ed better these last two years, I've come to respect him as a personable, responsible young man and a mature writer. He is certainly active, well known, and well liked within his department, to be sure, but I am even more impressed by his willingness to reach out beyond our department and even beyond the university to make positive contributions elsewhere. He is an active member of CURV (MU's gay/straight alliance), for example, and he has also organized and implemented a writing center in a local high school, staffed by undergraduate English major volunteers who interact with the students both face-to-face and virtually.

His writing skills, his maturity, his energy, and his commitment to learning all indicate to me that Ed is ready for a rewarding course of graduate study. I recommend him to you most highly. If you need further information or have any questions, please contact me by phone or email at the address below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Ulrich".

Dr. John M. Ulrich
Chair, Department of English and Modern Languages
Mansfield University
Mansfield, PA 16933

110B Belknap Hall
570-662-4585
julrich@mansfield.edu

Confidential Recommendation for Edward Kozaczka

I am writing to lend my strong support to Ed Kozaczka's application for admission to your PHD program in English.

I have known Ed for approximately two years, primarily as a student in a graduate seminar on the Romantics and then as an informal advisee. Although Ed's primary interests are Queer and Gender theory and the Eighteenth Century novel, he did excellent work for me on Shelley. He writes very well in a distinctive, readable style. He chooses and engages sources skillfully and discusses his ideas clearly and with enthusiasm.

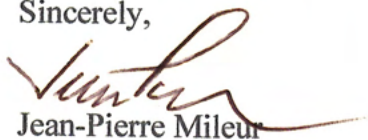
Ed has an excellent personality for teaching. In fact, he took over the graduate class twice as discussion leader when I was called out of town. After both classes, I received e-mails from other students praising his ability as a teacher and expressing appreciation for his skill in leading a good discussion among peers-- a potentially sensitive situation.

As you can no doubt conclude from this episode, Ed is considered a generous and useful colleague by our other graduate students, suggesting that he would potentially be a good faculty colleague as well.

Based on my own experience (30 years in the University of California and SUNY systems, including service as a Graduate Dean and Dean of Arts and Sciences), I would predict that Ed would do well in a good PhD program, not only because of his intellectual ability but because he has the requisite drive and interest in the profession of letters to carry him through the dissertation and on to an academic career.

More specifically, at this point in his development, Ed compares very favorably with several graduate students I have trained over the years who now enjoy successful academic careers. Therefore, I recommend him with confidence.

Sincerely,



Jean-Pierre Mileur
Professor of English

18 October 2006

Dear Committee Member:

I write to recommend Edward Kozaczka for your Master's program in English. I have the pleasure of knowing Ed as a student both inside and outside of the classroom and can attest to his academic abilities, his maturity and his determination.

As a student in my American Realism and Naturalism course, Ed served as a model participant and engaged listener. One occasion stands out in memory, however, as exemplifying the type of dynamic influence he has over his classmates. After reading Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, Ed frequently visited me during my office hours to discuss some of the ideas he had about the work. Ultimately, he decided to write his seminar paper on the text and as he continued working through the ideas, he contributed them to our classroom discussions. Ed reads carefully and with an eye toward originality and the ideas he shared in class brought the other students into his literary context. The ensuing discussion sparked debate, deeper analysis and excitement and helped him shape an essay of exceptional quality which I submitted to our annual departmental essay contest.

I watched Ed elicit the same sort of effect when he sat in on my American Romanticism and Naturalism course the following semester. Though not registered for the course, he attended throughout the semester, kept up with readings and regularly participated in discussions. Ed's carefully analytical and theoretical approach to both canonical and non-canonical texts often illuminates literature in ways that speak directly to contemporary issues. In short, his observations and his willingness to share them inspire other students to embrace sophisticated analyses of literature.

For most of Ed's career here at Mansfield, he has been a secondary education/English major, and many of the discussions I shared with him during my office hours involved questions of pedagogy. From these discussions I know that Ed's passion for literature extends beyond his own desire to research and analyze texts. He enjoys and in fact needs to share this passion with others. A quick wit coupled with a serious approach to studying literature makes him an effective and captivating educator who will inspire others to read and enjoy texts. The coursework and fieldwork he has completed from the education program will serve him well and will make him a better than average candidate for a teaching assistantship.

Finally, Ed takes his enthusiasm and commitment to sharing literature with others outside of the conventional university classroom, making him an asset to the community as well as the academy. Currently, he is organizing a writing center for high school students in one of the local public school districts which will be staffed by English majors here at the University. Last spring, as he completed his student teaching in the same district, I watched him bring innovative and challenging ideas to the classroom which sparked students' interest in literature. At the end of the semester he invited the class to attend his public presentation of his paper for the Senior Seminar class. This type of interaction with the community offers a positive example to students, peers and faculty.

It is without hesitation that I recommend Ed Kozacka to your graduate program in English. His intellectual rigor and enthusiasm will make him an asset in any course.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristin Sanner', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kristin Sanner, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Dept. of English
Mansfield University