December 8, 2008

Social Work Admissions Review Committee:

I have been asked by Caitlyn Diebold to write a letter of recommendation in support of her application to the MSW Program at San Francisco State University; I am delighted to do so. I have known Caitlyn for six years; she was a student in my Introduction to Sociology, Introduction to Social Problems, and Collective Behavior classes. Previously, I wrote a letter of recommendation in support of her application to study abroad. Knowing Caitlyn for six years has allowed me to see her develop as a student and mature as a person. Hopefully, I can share this with you in the letter.

Academically, Caitlyn is one of the best students that I have had at San Diego State. During the time that I have known her, I have taught approximately 3,000 students, and Caitlyn ranks in the top 1%-2% of those students. She received As in all three classes. She did well on the exams, the papers, participated in class discussions, attended regularly, and interacted well with the other students. She also took advantage of my office hours to discuss the ideas and issues raised in class.

I think that which would be most relevant for her application to the Social Work program would be the concern and maturity that she has demonstrated through the years in her papers and class participation for the suffering of oppressed groups. In Collective Behavior her papers on the Rwandan genocide and Hurricane Katrina, which I reviewed prior to writing this letter of recommendation, demonstrated an intelligent sensitivity to the issues that were brought up in the class. And she demonstrated a genuine engagement with the social problems discussed in the Social Problems class. I believe that Caitlyn’s strengths, maturity, caring, and intelligence, are those that would make her successful in the Social Work Program and in the field of social work. I can give her my highest recommendation without qualifications. If you would like anything further from me, I can be reached at San Diego State at 594-5906 or by email [psemm@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:psemm@mail.sdsu.edu).

Sincerely,

P. Tom Semm