April 11, 2013

Julie Charernsuk has asked me to write a letter of recommendation in support of her application for admission to medical school; I am delighted to do so. I am a professor of sociology at San Diego State where I have taught for twenty years. In that time I have taught both upper and lower division undergraduate courses and I have taught more than five thousand students. I mention this because this is the group with whom I will be comparing Julie. I have known Julie for four years and, in the time that I have known her, I have come to be extremely impressed with her intelligence, her desire and commitment to learning and her maturity. Julie was a student of mine in three courses and she excelled in all three courses. She graduated last year and we have maintained contact since her graduation.

The evaluation process for Contemporary Social Theory is, I believe, the best indicator of her academic ability and provides a good indication of Julie’s potential for doing well in medical school. The evaluation process consists of three exams, two papers and small group assignments. Julie did well on all three exams. She did exceptionally well on the essay questions of the exams which required comparing and contrasting social theories. The two papers required the analysis and evaluation of selected contemporary theorists. Both of Julie’s papers were well written, thoughtfully argued and demonstrated both analytical and evaluative skills. Her contributions in the small group assignment and class discussions were constructive and articulate. I believe that Julie is in the top ten percent academically of students that I have taught.

I got to know Julie a little better than most students not only because she took three classes from me, but also because she took advantage of office hours. She came frequently to the office to discuss the theories and issues that were raised in the class. In these visits to the office, it was easy to see that she was intelligent, articulate and she wanted to learn and was committed to learning. The classroom, office and subsequent interactions after graduation have helped me come to know Julie a little more as a person. My conclusion is that she is mature, highly motivated, and committed to the goal of becoming a doctor. I believe she would be successful in medical school, in the profession, and she would be a wonderful representative of the school. I highly recommend her without qualification. If I can be of further assistance I can be reached by email at [psemm@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:psemm@mail.sdsu.edu) or at my office phone 594-5906.

Sincerely,

P. Tom Semm

Professor, Department of Sociology

San Diego State University