

Reinhard "Ron" F. Hahn

Friday, April 6, 2004

International Office
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
Mrs. A.H.T. Korringer-de Wit
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THE NETHERLANDS

Re: Kenneth Rohde Christiansen

I have known Kenneth Rohde Christiansen for well over one year and during this time have worked with him on a number of language- and Internet-related projects. In one way or another, all these projects deal with information about language varieties of the Netherlands, Belgium and Northern Germany, and with ways of affording lesser-represented language communities access to electronic communication and thus to give them their deserved places within the European and global communities.

Apart from personal connections in Groningen and other parts of the country, Kenneth has a true passion for the Netherlands and has carefully cultivated skills and connections to further pursue this passion. He has invested much time and effort in learning Dutch. He has developed a special interest in Groningen and in Low Saxon language and culture, encompassing also the closely related "Low German" dialects of Northern Germany, dialects that greatly influenced his native Jutish and Danish. It is mainly in this area that I have been collaborating with him, mostly with regards to creating educational material about Low Saxon and its closest relatives.

I am greatly impressed by Kenneth Rohde Christiansen's power of vision, conviction and determination, as well as by his intelligence, resourcefulness, clarity of thought, and swiftness of learning. Furthermore, he is a good instructor, is very sociable and kindhearted and clearly has enormous leadership potential. Especially impressive is the apparent ease with which he acquires computing and language skills. His vision of a truly united Europe and of the world as a better place, his believe in the principle of enhancing unity by respecting diversity, as well as his affection for all the world's people are most touching and inspiring.

I would love to see Kenneth progress toward his goals by being afforded opportunities at an excellent institute of learning and research in the Netherlands, especially in Groningen. On the basis of my interactions with him and on the basis of my experience as a student and applicant adviser at the University of Washington, I feel safe in predicting that Kenneth Rohde Christiansen would make a very successful student in any high-level educational setting.

Respectfully,



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