

References for Robert Laurie

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21 January 2003

To Whom it May Concern:

I have known Robert Laurie for more than 22 years first as a graduate student and then as a faculty colleague. Bob taught here for three years total in two different periods primarily in the computer engineering area. When he has taught elsewhere, we have kept in touch.

Bob is an excellent, enthusiastic teacher, well-liked by students. However he does much more. He wrote a text for our introductory computer engineering course; the text was quite well done with many examples. He has great initiative and drive and worked hard to improve our computer engineering program, going well beyond the limits of his job. He has always kept up with the fast changing computer field and has developed courses for us, such as one in web design, and has been eager to teach courses with which he is unfamiliar in order to learn topics that are new to him, such as computer networks, in his most recent stint with us.

We would have loved to have him continue but Bob wanted to return to the Pacific.

In addition Bob is a person with very broad interests. His experiences in Germany, New Zealand, Japan, Korea and the Central Pacific have given him a wealth of understanding of people and cultures.

I believe Bob will do outstandingly at anything he undertakes and strongly recommend him for your position.

Sincerely,



Martha Sloan
Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Asian Division

09 December 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to recommend Mr. Robert Laurie for a teaching position with your institution. Mr. Laurie had taught as a full-time faculty member for the University of Maryland University College Asia since January of 1997. I have been his immediate administrative supervisor since August of 2001, when he joined the teaching staff in Japan.

Mr. Laurie has a broad range of teaching approvals in both programming and information systems management. These courses range from the introductory to the advanced undergraduate level. Examples of courses taught include IFSM 201 (Introduction to Computer-based Systems), CMIS 102 (Problem Solving, Algorithm Design, and Programming), IFSM 310 (Hardware and Software Concepts), CMST 385 (Internet: A Practical Guide), IFSM 410 (Database Concepts), and IFSM 450 (Telecommunication Systems Management). Consistent with our scheduling in Asia, he has offered these and other courses in an intensive format, with the academic terms running 8 weeks at a time. He has taught 2 courses per term, and 8 courses during an academic year.

As an instructor, Mr. Laurie has considerable strengths that include his strong background in computer technology, his ability to teach an often-difficult subject matter well, and his concern for his students. I have observed Mr. Laurie in class and have been impressed with how well organized he is and how adept he is at conveying his material. It is clear that he maintains academic standards that are appropriate to university courses, which he matches with a willingness to spend as much time outside of class as needed to assist his students. I am not surprised that his course evaluations, which are extremely positive, reflect his professionalism and dedication.

Administratively, Mr. Laurie has been very responsive. His syllabi are always ready prior to the start of class, and he is timely in reporting grades and meeting other administrative requirements. He has been especially helpful in planning the course schedules at the various locations at which he has taught, helping me gauge where students are in their programs and what they could best use in their curricula at a given point in time.

We had been pleased to have Mr. Laurie on the faculty and in fact awarded him the rank of Associate Professor last year in recognition of his work in the classroom. I am sure that should Mr. Laurie teach for you, you would be equally pleased.

If I can provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Greg von Lehmen, Ph.D.
Director, Japan Area Programs
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UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Asian Division

18 MSS/DPE

Unit 5134, Box 40

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DATE: January 10, 2003


TO: Whom It May Concern

I am very pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Mr. Robert Laurie. I have been the Coordinator for Computer Studies, the Director of Distance Education and have been associated with Bob as an administrator and faculty colleague for the last five years. I am most familiar with Bob as a faculty member for the Computer Studies Discipline, and as one of our Distance Education faculty members. In these areas, Bob was consistently rated among the best in his field of expertise and rated among the highest as a Computer Studies faculty member for UMUC - Asian Division. Bob's primary area involved Web Design, but was fully capable of teaching many of our Computer Studies classes.

Bob is an effective and dedicated instructor. He consistently receives positive evaluations from his students. This proves that he is genuinely concerned and involved in providing the best education to his students. Bob's subject area knowledge is exceptional but his people skills were most valuable in establishing positive and productive learning relationships with his students.

I know from personal experience that Bob is a highly dedicated professional on all relevant criteria: dependability, people skills, self-starting, self-improvement, attention to detail, and perseverance. He is highly respected by the administration, fellow faculty members, and the support staff throughout UMUC - Asian Division.

If I can provide additional information, please contact me at: bbrever@ad.umuc.edu


LeRoy J. Brever
Distance Education Director
UMUC Asia