

5515 Cedar Parkway
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Dear Educators:

We are delighted to write in support of the application of Caroline Buetow.

By way of background, Gail has a BFA from Cornell and is a practicing artist in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Her work focuses on representational painting and drawing. Saul is a color-blind lawyer with no artistic training, who, by reason of marriage and fatherhood, is now a patron of the arts.

We first met Caroline in September 2004 when we enrolled our daughter Rebecca in a drawing course at the Corcoran on Saturday mornings. At the time, Rebecca was fourteen years old, and the course was the first serious drawing class that Rebecca had ever taken. Rebecca had exhibited considerable talent in drawing, but had no formal training. As a result, Rebecca was more than a bit apprehensive and uncertain about taking the class. At the time, Rebecca was also adrift in the usual teenage girl experience, highly susceptible to peer pressure and lacking a sense of confidence in her own individual talents.

Because of Rebecca's anxieties about the Corcoran class, Saul accompanied Rebecca to the classroom the first day. His first impression of Caroline captures who she is: An extraordinary bundle of energy, enthusiasm and warmth. As a result, Rebecca quickly became not only comfortable with the class, but genuinely enthusiastic about it. It was also clear to Gail that Caroline has terrific teaching skills. The works that Rebecca began to bring home showed continual improvement and sophistication. And, in Gail's view, the comments and suggestions that Rebecca was receiving from Caroline were appropriate and helpful. We also began to see that Carolyn was developing a strong positive supporting relationship with Rebecca.

With Rebecca's full support, we enrolled Rebecca for the same course with Caroline in the Spring of 2005 and Fall of 2005. Rebecca continued to show remarkable progress in her drawing skills and increasing confidence and interest in her own artistic skills.

Because of the terrific relationship that Caroline had developed with Rebecca, we were delighted when Caroline agreed to provide individual tutoring to Rebecca during the Summer and Fall of 2005. In these sessions, Caroline alternated between one-on-one drawing and painting sessions in the studio at our home, and visits to the many art museums and galleries in our area. By then, it was clear that Caroline was not just an art teacher to Rebecca, but also a mentor and a friend.

We were very sad to learn in late 2005 that Caroline was headed off to Chicago to pursue her own artistic training. We were somewhat apprehensive that Rebecca might not continue to pursue her interest in art without Caroline's support.

But we are happy to report that Caroline had given Rebecca everything she needed in terms of skills and confidence to continue on her own with art teachers who have not always been as warm, enthusiastic and supportive. Rebecca has since taken a number of pre-college portfolio development classes at the Corcoran (including a four week summer program). Rebecca is now a junior in high school, and she is interested in pursuing art at a liberal arts school.

It is clear to us that Caroline was instrumental in helping Rebecca develop both the interest and confidence in what will likely be a lifelong pursuit of drawing and art. It is also clear to us that Caroline was helpful in guiding Rebecca through some tough adolescent times.

We could not be more grateful for our eighteen months with Caroline. She is a gifted artist, teacher and a wonderful person. We recommend her without qualification.

Sincerely,
Gail Goodman
Saul Goodman