Application Related Information

Application:	Application Not Verified	Iteration Name:	202510_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MES	Program Name:	MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Frances Griswold	Recommenders Title:	Sedimentary Lab Manager
Recommenders Institution:	University of Massachusetts Amherst	Contact Name:	Emily Marraffa
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	12/29/2023 06:56 AM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant without reservation.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000112243427	Recommendation Owner:	Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:		Applicant ability as self-directed learner:	
Time since last contact with applicant:		Applicant as productive member of group:	
Relationship with Applicant:		Applicant most significant strengths:	
Ability to complete rigourous grad program:		Responsibility/reliability:	
Communication Skills - Oral:		Communication skills - written:	
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:		Ability to work independently:	
Ability to handle stress:		Ability to think critically:	
Ability to analyze/problem solve:		Ability to think creatively:	
Openness to feedback:		Potential for leadership:	
Ability to work in a team:		Personal/professional reflection:	

Description Information

Description:		Form URL:	https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu

Other Information

Created Time:	11/16/2023 01:08 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	12/29/2023 06:56 AM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Emily Marraffa for her application to the Master of Environmental Studies program at The Evergreen State College. I had the honor of both teaching Emily and working with her at UMass Amherst. I feel that I can speak to who Emily is both as an inquisitive learner but also as a careful, capable, and reliable co-worker. The qualities that Emily possesses, in and out of the classroom, are evident to all who meet her, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to share some of my experiences of teaching and working with Emily over the years.

My first interaction with Emily was as her Lab Instructor for Introductory Geology at UMass Amherst. This course was during the peak of the pandemic, when all classes at UMass were online, posing an additional challenge to learners and instructors alike. Emily stood out among her peers as one of the most engaging students. She always had her camera on for the duration of the lab, asking great questions, taking notes, and helping to further the learning of the others in her Zoom groups. Her tenacity and inquisitive nature made her stand out among the other students in the class, and her understanding of the material reflected the effort and time she put into the learning process. The effort, attentiveness, and collaborativeness that Emily brought to our Zoom classroom made teaching remotely so much more enjoyable. As the semester progressed, I looked forward to trying to figure out how to make a very hands-on lab experience accessible to remote learners, and I accredit Emily with making a difficult situation more enjoyable.

From the positive experience I had in teaching Emily, I gave her a high recommendation to my advisor, Jon Woodruff, to help with fieldwork in the Sediment and Coastal Dynamics lab where I was a Ph.D. Student. We had extensive fieldwork throughout New England working in salt marshes along the coast of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Having someone reliable, intelligent, and capable of problem-solving on the fly was invaluable. Emily proved herself to be trustworthy, both in the lab and in the field, which is not an easy thing to find. Graduate students, much to our detriment but also in an act of self-preservation, are not always very trusting of other people with our data and data collection. So much work is put into something, and it can be difficult to allow someone else to potentially cause setbacks to an already long and arduous process. I never worried about the data that Emily collected. I was always able to depend on her to follow through with instructions fully, to take detailed notes, and to call for clarification if needed. The ability to ask for help and make sure that a task is being completed properly is a very valuable skill, and something that I was sure to encourage in her throughout our time working together.

After these experiences, I am proud to say that Emily and I have become friends. As her friend, I have seen her face challenges, life changes, and setbacks but she has never lost hope. The resiliency that Emily possesses is admirable, and it will serve her well in any graduate program. She has an innate ability to take a difficult situation and have the self-awareness to

take a step back, reevaluate, and then find the best path forward. I have seen tangible growth in Emily since I first met her, and a lot of this is due to the careful work she has put into herself. This growth has allowed her to show up more fully in her work, for her community, and for those she works with.

In every interaction I have experienced, Emily has presented herself with a deep care for her those around her and a determination to build others up as she continues to grow. Above all else, Emily is a dedicated student who has a bright future ahead, one which I am excited to hear about. I am confident Eimly will be a great addition to any graduate program, and I give my highest recommendation.

If you have any requests or questions about Emily, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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