

February 1, 2007

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Catherine Baum, who successfully completed an internship during Syracuse University's fall 2006 semester at the north bureau of The Post-Standard. During her time here, Catherine exhibited many strengths, was quite willing to take direction and constructive criticism, and, in turn, grew in several areas as a young journalist.

Catherine brought with her a willingness to learn, a determination to complete assignments on or before deadline and a professional outlook and presentation that helped her work well with her colleagues in the bureau and deal on a mature level with the sources with whom she came in contact.

Catherine worked hard to improve her interviewing technique, story organization skills, writing style and mastery of AP style. She succeeded on all counts. By the end of her internship, Catherine approached each subject and interview with much confidence after developing well-prepared questions. She produced a number of stories, particularly for our weekly Neighbors tabloid section, that needed little rewriting or reorganization and were technically clean.

She also showed much resourcefulness in tracking down subjects for stories. For example, she was able to reach and interview a local native serving as a Navy officer stationed in the Philippines. The ship he commanded had rescued stranded fishermen whose boat was sinking. When we needed to find and describe some of the best snowmobile rides in Central New York, Catherine quickly identified and interviewed members of a variety of clubs in the region. Interns before her had wrestled long and hard with similar assignments.

It is not by chance that she earned an A for her internship at The Post-Standard. It is with great pleasure that I recommend Catherine for a reporting job. She has demonstrated her ability to grow as a journalist and exhibited much potential.

If you have questions, you can reach me at dpadovano@syracuse.com.

Sincerely,

Dan Padovano

North suburban editor, The Post-Standard

Syracuse, NY