



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

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Dear Director:

This is a letter of recommendation for Kathleen (Kate) Kelso, who has applied for admission to the Stanford Law School. It is a pleasure to recommend Kate to you: she is a highly motivated student with extensive background, and an excellent choice for your program. I had the pleasure of teaching Kate in one course and, later, serving as a member of her Honor's Thesis committee.

Kate's performance in Interpersonal Communication was superior, an impressive feat for someone in a course with 160 students. She was able to apply the course work to situations outside the classroom and to bring those examples to the class in an attempt to provide a real-life context for what we were studying in the textbook and readings. Also, her ability to grapple with difficult and new material stood as an example for the others, as did her well-developed interpersonal skills. Her willingness to apply course material in intense and penetrating ways (on several projects throughout the semester) made it quite evident to me that she is willing to open her relationships to the kind of close scrutiny that few have the courage to do.

"Courage" is a good word to describe Kate's academic career: she is willing to tackle projects and to put herself in situations others might find particularly stressful. For example, her semester abroad at the Universidad de CUYO, in Argentina, ensured she would have to adapt to a new language and culture (she is fluent in Spanish and has worked as a translator), just as her varied work experiences guaranteed that she would have responsibilities others might shy away from, such as managing fashion shows and fund raising for an important organization, the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

For me, the best example of Kate's courage came when working closely with her on her Honor's Thesis, *Bubi and Beibeleh*, a highly personal script and production based on a series of ethnographic interviews (over six-months) with her grandmother, a Holocaust survivor. The script, which was the basis for an extremely powerful, engaging show, showed Kate's grasp of ethnographic research, the requirements of in-depth interviewing, good writing, and what constitutes "good theater."

Certainly, Kate's academic credentials and non-academic experiences put her in the top group of applicants. Her grade point average of 3.91 is close to perfect. She earned her place as a Carolina Scholar (which included a four-year, full-tuition merit-based academic scholarship), received my department's Sherrill-Pence Award for outstanding contribution in applied communication, was awarded a grant from the Office of Service-Learning for ethnographic work with traditional African American churches, was on the Deans' List every semester, worked in the Honors Program, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and the Golden Key International Honor Society. This is an amazing list of awards and accomplishments!

For many reasons, Kate is one of those students teachers enjoy teaching. She questions, discusses, and makes an effort to understand different perspectives; in other words, her presence challenges all of us in the classroom, and these challenges make the course a better one for everyone. She is not afraid to speak her mind, yet, clearly, she is respectful of others' opinions.

Kate is committed to earning a law degree. She is certain it would provide her with the tools necessary to put into action ideas that are important to her. As she told me, "With the powers of active listening and the ability to give law counsel, there is potential for creating tangible differences in someone's life." I sincerely hope you give her the opportunity. I have no doubt that she will excel in your program.

Lastly, and certainly most importantly, Kate is a good person. She clearly considers others' well being as personally important and is willing to work hard for others as well as for herself. She should make a fine addition to your School.

Please contact me if you have any further questions—I am happy to recommend her to you.

Sincerely,

Lawrence B. Rosenfeld