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Department of Mathematics and Statistics

January 27, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of recommendation for Stephanie R. Jones, who is applying for a position in your department. I have known Steph since she enrolled here as a graduate student well over 10 years ago. While I have heard her talk about her very interesting research several times, I am not an expert in her area. Thus I will confine my remarks to her teaching.

Stephanie is easily one of the best TAs I have ever had the opportunity of working with. She has worked with me in a number of different courses, including a large, 125 student sophomore level differential equations course and a smaller dynamical systems course taught to sophomore and junior math and math ed majors. She worked so well with the students in both of these courses that I later supported her on a local grant I have to be my "pinch-hitter" in these courses, i.e., she would fill in for me during several periods when I was away from campus. I distinctly remember the students groaning each time I came back to class. There was no doubt who the students wanted teaching the class! And there is also no question in my mind that she is simply a superb instructor who relates well to and cares for her students at all levels and in all environments.

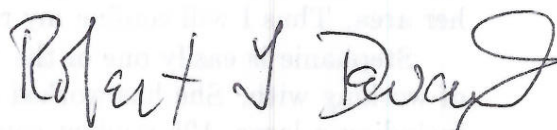
I must also mention several unique contributions that Stephanie has made in her role as a teacher here. One year I had a grant to make some animations that would illustrate ideas from dynamical systems theory at a level that was accessible to high school teachers and students. Given her broad background in dynamics, her teaching ability, and her knowledge of graphics, she was the natural person to turn to for help. As always, Steph responded with first-rate work illustrating in "dynamic" fashion some of the bifurcations that occur in complex dynamical systems. Some of these are available over the web at my website math.bu.edu/DYSYS/explorer.

We also run "Math Field Days" here at Boston University for area high school students and their teachers. These events are quite successful, bringing over 1,000 students and teachers to campus on two Tuesdays each October for a day of mathematical activities. At these events I and several other colleagues try to show these students some new and exciting ideas in mathematics. We rarely ask grad students to participate, but we did make

an exception several times while Stephanie was here. As always, she handled this assignment impeccably. She is such a wonderful presenter who really serves as a great role model for the high school young women that many of the participating teachers singled her out for their highest compliments afterward. I understand that our Physics Department had also asked her on several occasions to take part in their outreach programs.

So, in summary, I cannot say enough about Steph as a teacher. She is not only wonderful in the classroom, but she excels in many different roles outside of the classroom as well. I recommend her to you most enthusiastically.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Devaney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Robert L. Devaney

Professor of Mathematics

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