

October 30, 1997

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Jim Burwell who has worked at the American School of Guatemala during the school year of January through October of 1997. Jim taught Honors Social Studies, Health, and Public Speaking. The academic subjects which he taught are not included within the specific curriculum of the English Department, however Jim participated within the English Department, because his class was taught in English.

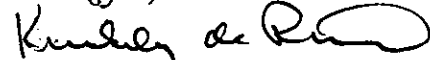
Motivated, innovated, talented, and hard-working are just a few of the words that come to mind when I think of Jim. His greatest strength lies within his extensive knowledge in the area of Social Sciences and most importantly his love of the subject. This year, Jim taught 12th grade Honors Social Studies and definitely demonstrated his ability to transform complex and abstract ideas into easy to understand language. He has a gift for stimulating higher level thinking through his class discussions.

Fortunately, I had the opportunity to observe Jim on several occasions. During one of those observations, Jim had prepared an in class project in which the students were to debate some of the pressing issues here in Guatemala. I was greatly impressed with Jim's creativity, but above all with the students interest and motivation. During this year, Jim has incorporated such teaching techniques as essays, investigations, debates, panel discussions, role-playing, and group activities only to mention a few.

As a member of the department, Jim has participated and shown that he is a definite team player. Because I also taught the same group of Honors students, Jim and I were able to work successfully on various interdisciplinary projects. These projects help reinforce material and ideas in a creative and innovative way.

I can not say enough in favor of Jim. He has been not only an asset to the school, but an enjoyable person to work with. I have no doubt that he will be a positive addition to any school that is fortunate enough to hire him.

Thank you,



Kimberly de Pivaral

English Department Head

American School of Guatemala