

January 20, 2018

**Appendix 1. Section V. G. Domain 2 Evidence: Student Nominations
for the Jack E. Cermak Advising Award**

To Whom It May Concern:

As a student who has benefitted greatly from Dr. Christianne Magee's mentorship and teaching, I wholeheartedly support her nomination for the Jack E. Cermak Advising Award. Her progressive teaching style and enthusiastic attitude have brought inspiration to a subject often dismissed as too hard, too dry, or too boring. Beyond the classroom, Dr. Magee demonstrates a willingness to help and a level of connection that makes her stand out among professors I have worked with over the years.

I was among the first class of animal anatomy students that Dr. Magee taught, when she took over the course in 2012. She immediately instituted ways to make the material more relatable to students by providing clinical veterinary perspectives, and began incorporating different teaching methods to try and make anatomy accessible to a broader range of learners. Under her instruction, I developed a love for the subject and began cultivating a mentorship with Dr. Magee; she encouraged me to apply for the graduate program in Biomedical Sciences as a path to veterinary school.

As a graduate student, I was fortunate enough to not only learn from Dr. Magee as a student in her animal dissection and veterinary case studies courses, but to work alongside her and the other anatomy faculty as a graduate teaching assistant. She also asked me to join the team responsible for producing the Virtual Animal Anatomy tools used by students within the department. Working with Dr. Magee allowed me not only to learn more about anatomy and veterinary medicine, but to explore my own ideas about teaching. She regularly solicits feedback from her students and teaching assistants, and was always open to student perspectives on how class material could be improved. With her guidance, I was given the freedom to explore my own interest in teaching, by helping present class material, writing lectures and exams, and running laboratory sessions. This invaluable experience was no doubt instrumental in my admission to, and success in, the professional veterinary program here at Colorado State.

Beyond the classroom, I believe what sets Dr. Magee apart as an adviser and mentor is her ability to guide students into roles in which they can succeed, by recognizing their individual strengths, needs, and interests. She takes the time to meet with any student who asks for her time, and is always willing to create new avenues for students to explore anatomy – I have seen her work with students to develop their own independent study projects, encourage students to participate in honors discussions or case studies, and invites clinicians to bring veterinary medicine into the classroom so pre-veterinary students can gain exposure to specialties like ophthalmology or theriogenology. She works with the pre-veterinary student groups to give extracurricular workshops, as well as offer application advice, and hosts question-answer sessions or open forums to help guide potential veterinary school applicants. I am only one of the many veterinary students who have Dr. Magee to thank, in part, for putting together a successful veterinary school application.

Although Dr. Magee always believes in setting students up for success, there are inevitably students who face challenges, both academically and personally. It is her ability to reach out to these students individually that exceeds my expectations of what a professor does. She will listen to extenuating circumstances and make fair accommodations for students to receive extra help if needed, and will advocate for students to the appropriate resources. I have seen her work with students who are struggling to handle major life events, such as family deaths or traumatic incidents, and in every case she is professional and empathetic, and provides these students with a resource for support. Her ability to make connections, communicate honestly, and instill trust in students make her an asset to CSU as a teacher and adviser.

Sincerely,

Anna Bracken, MS
DVM Candidate 2018

January 15, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

Please consider the following as my endorsement for Dr. Christianne Magee as Colorado State University's premier outstanding advisor and nominee for the Jack E. Cermak Advising Award. I have been fortunate to call Dr. Magee my advisor while enrolled in a second bachelor's, master's, professional, and soon a PhD program here at CSU. I thank you for providing me the opportunity to not only share my personal and professional interactions with her, but also my observations of her as an advisor for others.

If you are seeking a task that requires little time or effort I challenge you to find an instance to observe Dr. Magee listening to a student. Recommendations for accomplishing this include finding her before or after a class, in her office, research lab, or really anywhere her day might take her. Truly, any interaction is an opportunity to catch her doing one of the things she is best at. When someone speaks with Dr. Magee everyone can see her processing and remembering what was said. She projects her respect to those around her by actively attempting to understand their thoughts, and before providing input she asks relevant questions and clarifies their intentions and concerns.

As a student, I can confidently state that what makes her so approachable is that she always appears to listen to you.

Dr. Magee is very familiar with the processes and policies associated with her field and if your conversation aligns with her expertise you can expect a response tailored to your level, and not hers. This is the behavior of someone who clearly remembers what it was like to be on the other side of experience. She is more interested bridging gaps than building herself up. Sometimes this means adjusting the complexity of her answers and explanations, but other times it involves a calculated question to remind the student how capable they already are.

Many good advisors attribute their success to selecting students with similar professional interests. This is a logical approach and a fine strategy when goals remain parallel, but when interests diverge far too often so too does their ability to advise. The string of letters that follow Dr. Magee's name (DVM, PhD, DipACT) are reflective of her academic focus, however she stands out from other well decorated faculty by the energy she emits to best illuminate her student's proposed paths. This energy is the manifestation of her professional and personal interest in her advisee's achievements even when they diverge from her own.

When I first arrived at CSU my primary advisor was an expert on getting students through their academic program. She knew what classes were able to satisfy a department requirement, but she couldn't tell what classes satisfied me. My attempts to take greater control over my education were met with resistance. Not from the department, as they never actually said no to my requests, but rather from my advisor who continued to encourage me to pursue paths that were already well established.

Dr. Magee took a dramatically different approach than my first advisor. When I informed her of my interest in a dual DVM/PhD in Education she focused not on the fact that Education was not associated

with the Department of Biomedical Science (which contains the DVM degree), nor the fact that there was no such combined degree to apply for, nor even the fact that dual programs are notoriously difficult to get into (even when it already exists), but rather on providing the resources I sought. She took the time to reach out to faculty and staff across the University to seek answers to my questions and would forward their responses to me as soon as they arrived. Together we were able to develop a plan that would help me earn both degrees.

I know, from firsthand experience, that she treats the objectives of others with the same sense of urgency she treats her own.

To Dr. Magee I hold many titles. I am her student, researcher, employee, undergraduate teaching assistant, graduate teaching assistant, and mentee. As a result, those titles have afforded me an opportunity to observe her as an advisor beyond our own relationship. I have already made a point to discuss how comfortable students are around her, and how serious she takes their needs, but I would be remiss if I did not share the most important reason why she is a great advisor.

The fancy letters after Dr. Magee's name, DipACT, identifies her as theriogenologist. She is a specialist in equine reproduction. This would explain many of the journals she reads and writes for. These post-nominal initials reveal her area of research and the types of courses she teaches. What it doesn't explain are the rest of the articles she reads, or why some of her research is so focused on learning theory. It definitely doesn't explain the seminars she so often frequents in her already full schedule.

It doesn't explain it until you see her do the same talk twice. Dr. Magee is constantly evaluating herself and the way she approaches problems. The passion to be a better veterinarian shares the same drive to be a better educator. Just how she improves her lectures, and surgical techniques every time performs them, so does she seek with every experience she has with a student she to get the most out of the interaction. The seriousness she approaches her role forces her to reflect and seek out how to become a better advisor.

Dr. Magee seeks constant feedback so that she can improve her efficiency and technique as an advisor.

To her students she comes across as taking personal interest in them. That is my experience when I work with her, and is one of the most repeated remarks by my peers. The significance she holds for others is genuine, and it shows in her attention and concern for everyone she works with. Dr. Magee is Colorado State University's premier outstanding advisor because she doesn't know any other way be.

Sincerely,

Jason Martin, BA, MS, DVM Candidate 2020