

To Whom it May Concern,

Dr. Cynthia Cudaback taught the honors section of an introductory oceanography course which I had the pleasure to take during my junior year in college. During the run of the semester I came to know Dr. Cudaback not only as an expert on the subject of oceanography but also as an inspiring and caring teacher. I have no doubt she will be quite successful in her new venture improving ocean science education in grade schools.

The curriculum of the introductory course I took was widely varied as was the academic backgrounds of the students in the course. Dr. Cudaback was able to break down the material into elements that everyone in the course could understand and then assemble the pieces to tell the whole story of each subject. She also took extra measures, such as daily assessments of our understanding, to ensure that all students were mastering the material at the level of an undergraduate honors course. By the end of the course I feel that all the students in class benefited from the thoroughness with which the material was covered.

Dr. Cudaback taught at an academic institution that strongly encouraged its professors to excel in academic research outside of the classroom. At such a place it was easy to find professors who did not place as much emphasis on being prepared for class or putting forth the extra effort to make sure their students succeed. This was certainly not my experience with Dr. Cudaback. It was clear that she cared about her students and wanted us to succeed – and that she was always willing to go the extra mile. Whether it was preparing near daily experiments and visual aids or incorporating her love of story-telling into the lectures, Dr. Cudaback was always energized and interesting inside the classroom. She held captive the attention of each student in the classroom; indeed a rare occurrence at the collegiate level.

Dr. Cudaback easily became a beloved professor of many of her students and I have no doubt that a student of any age will benefit greatly by having Dr. Cudaback in their classroom.

Sincerely,
Casey D. Burleyson
NCSU Alumni 2007