



الجامعة الأمريكية بالقاهرة
THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO
Journalism and Mass Communication

March 10, 2002

To whom it may concern:

This is a strong letter of recommendation for Cornelis (Kees) Hulsman for an academic position at your university.

I've known Kees since 2000 when I first came to Cairo and he was an adjunct professor in the journalism and mass communications department. We worked closely together in reorganizing the beginning news writing class, considerably increasing the classroom rigor and individual attention to students, most of whom were learning to write journalistically in a second if not a third language. To say that Kees' effort was exceptional would be an understatement. He was a superb teacher. His students have turned out to be some of my best reporters at *Caravan*, the student newspaper I advise. None of them has had to take remedial tutoring, which some others require to bring up their skill levels. Other journalism professors report similar findings. Quite simply, students taught by Kees have demonstrated superior writing skills compared with those in other sections.

In addition to teaching multiple sections of the beginning news writing class, Kees also taught a section of the campus-wide Introduction to Mass Communication course from a sociological perspective that had differed from previous approaches and put the subject into a real-life context for students, most of whom were not majoring in journalism.

Kees got stronger as a teacher each semester he taught, modifying his lesson plans to suit his students' changing needs and interests. Without qualification, Kees was the hardest working, most dedicated faculty member we had even though he was part time. He worked extremely hard to help students master journalistic writing, and he was rewarded in the Fall Semester with the highest student evaluations in the department, near perfect scores in both sections he taught (5.0 and 4.95 on a 5.0 scale).

At the same time, Kees worked on his publication record, co-authoring a coffee table book for AUC Press, and conducting research into the Egyptian news media's coverage of the Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrahim case. His co-authored paper was delivered at the Western Social Science Association Convention in 2001. That work for the first time typologized the Egyptian media, which other scholars have since used. He is also working on research that should lead to a better understanding of how credibility of sources is determined by Middle East journalists as compared with Western media professionals, an important study. In all matters, he has been extremely congenial as well as collegial in sharing his ideas and research topics.

He has lectured on trans-religion understanding at international conferences including the International Press Institute in Vienna in November 2000, the German Pontifical Mission Aid society Mission in Berlin, September 2001 and March 2002.

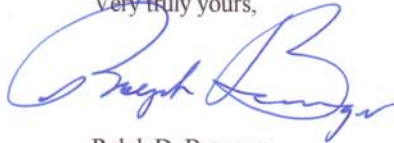
A practicing journalist and long-time board member of the Cairo Foreign Press Association, the third largest such organization in the world, he is regularly published internationally on issues pertaining to cross-religion understanding.

As founder and chief executive of the Religious News Service of the Arab World (RNSAW), Kees has kept a growing list of subscribers informed of what the Arab media is reporting about sociological aspects that impact understanding between religions in Egypt. In that regard, he has become fluent in English and his native Dutch and is functionally conversant in Arabic and German.

A family man with an Egyptian wife, a young daughter and three young sons, Kees fully understands the sensitivities of living in a culture that is different from his native one. He has lived in Egypt on and off for over a decade since 1976. His knowledge of the socio-political order in the Middle East is impressive. His colleagues have found him a valuable resource with a perspective on the media that is without equal.

Without reservation, I whole-heartedly recommend Kees Hulsman to your university. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information you might require.

Very truly yours,



Ralph D. Berenger
Journalism Unit Head