

October 10, 2008

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Tenure Review Committee
C/o Dr. Mark Butler
University of Dubuque

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing on behalf of my valued colleague Dr. Dale Easley. He is, in my judgment, an outstanding member of our faculty and I strongly support him for tenure.

For the past two years, Dr. Easley and I have developed and team taught a course entitled "Wilderness Ethics." This course is a collaborative effort between the Philosophy Department and the Department of Natural and Applied Sciences. It grew out of our mutual interest in stewardship of God's creation and outdoor education. I teach the moral philosophy part of the course and Dr. Easley teaches the scientific and environmental aspects of the course. The capstone is a major trip into the wilderness. The first year we took our students to the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area in Minnesota and this past summer we took 14 students camping and backpacking in Wyoming. We finished by climbing a 14,000 foot mountain in Colorado. I mention these details because I have had abundant opportunity to observe D. Easley's interactions with students both in the classroom and "in the field." I judge him to be a master teacher who is deeply concerned that his students develop intellectually as well as socially and psychologically. It has been a pleasure and privilege for me to teach with him.

Second, I have also been able to observe Dr. Easley's administrative abilities. For several years he has been head of DNAS, but he has also shouldered the primary administrative burden of our summer trips. In that capacity, he has done an outstanding job of looking after finances and making certain our trips ran smoothly and well within budget.

Finally, Dr. Easley is, in my judgment, exactly the kind of professor we need at UD. His knowledge in his own field (geology) is immense; his ability to communicate that knowledge to students is outstanding; his concern for the well-being of his students is exemplary; as a colleague, he is highly valued; and, he supports the mission of UD by word and deed.

For all these reasons, I strongly and enthusiastically recommend Dr. Easley for tenure.

Cordially,

Paul Jensen