

Former Academic Colleague 1

Extract from letter of 29 June 2000 written by Professor Jonathan Majer, Head of Department of Environmental Biology, Curtin University:

*(E-copy of original letter available on request to Joan Osborne at **stats4us**.)*

"I offer my unreserved support for the nomination of Associate Professor Joan Osborne for the Curtin Student Guild Excellence in Teaching Award. ...

Despite her long length of continuous service, she has been able to maintain her immense enthusiasm for teaching at all times. In addition to her valuable contribution to teaching, she has developed a well-regarded R & D program, concentrating in the area of minesite rehabilitation. She now (i.e. as at June 2000) has a highly active research laboratory, with two PhD students, undergraduate project students and research assistants.

...Joan is a qualified teacher. She is therefore well equipped to carry out her teaching to the highest standards possible. Joan is a clear lecturer who is able to make difficult statistical concepts intelligible to all her students, even those who have a poor mathematical background. I have recently seen the results of a written questionnaire that was administered to her Quantitative Biology 201 students, many commented on the quality and clarity of her lectures.

...Throughout the years she has been regarded as someone who can help out a student with personal or study program problems. For the past three years (and subsequent seven years) she has been Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies, devising study plans with individual students and helping them with any problems that arise. She does an excellent job in this role.

Joan has a good rapport with the students... Her knowledge of biostatistics and animal biology is extremely sound. She conveys her lectures with great enthusiasm and her students achieve good marks.

Finally, Joan has developed a series of workbooks to assist students with their learning, and has always updated her unit contents and delivery techniques.".