

Former Academic Colleague 2

Extract from letter of 5 August 2005

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

"I have known Joan for almost 30 years, first as a teacher, later as a colleague and now as a friend. I first met her in 1976 when I was enrolled in the Bachelor of Applied Science (Biology) degree at Curtin University and completed three of her units. Joan's dedicated teaching and insistence on high standards, was an invaluable preparation for further study when I transferred to UWA and completed an Honours degree in Science in 1983 and a PhD in Science in 2003. For example the strong grounding in basic statistics that I gained from her enabled me to successfully teach tutorial classes in statistics at UWA for 2nd year students, when I was only a 3rd year student myself. Furthermore I have been aware of drawing on the skills that Joan fostered in me, throughout the course of my studies over approximately 25 years.

Joan has been a colleague as well as a teacher and in this role was a particularly valuable mentor. ... I worked as a tutor and then an Associate Lecturer in the School of Environmental Biology at Curtin University. During this period I worked closely with Joan tutoring in Quantitative Biology, demonstrating practical classes in Invertebrate and Vertebrate Animals and often attending Joan's lectures. I found Joan had lost none of her energy or commitment to delivering very thorough, professionally presented and well supported courses to students in the period since I had been a student myself.I saw Joan maintain her commitment to give of her best and to insist that her students and those who worked for her, sought to find the best in themselves. At the same time Joan was compassionate towards students, and as one of her staff, I found her a very supportive person to work for. ... I considered Joan's advice to be particularly valuable because it was clearly driven not by self interest on her part, but rather was given to truly help me in my own professional development. This is the quality of support I have experienced over the period of my long association with Joan and which I am sure others have also experienced....

Joan is a person of the highest integrity. ...She has made a strong contribution to the lives of many of her students and colleagues and has made a significant contribution to Curtin University over a long period. ... I was recently conducting a workshop for PhD students enrolled in the School of Animal Biology at UWA. One of the students had completed his undergraduate degree at Curtin in 2003 and spoke very highly of Joan and her contribution to his development as a scientist."