



University of Pittsburgh

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Department of History

December 1, 1990

Recommendation for Donald Collins

I have known Donald Collins since last winter term, when he took my course on Latin American Revolutions. I was very impressed by his performance in that course. In his papers and his active participation in class discussions, he showed himself to be an acute reader of various kinds of texts (in addition to historical monographs, some anthropological and sociological readings, a novel, and several films). He was clearly the best student in the class at seeing connections among these various sources (as well as among the various revolutions we examined), and integrating them in such a way as to address the central questions raised in the course. He also brought to the class an unusually strong command (for an undergraduate) of US and world history, which was helpful both for purposes of comparison, and for setting the Latin American revolutions in broader context. Judging on the basis of his performance in that course, Mr. Collins probably ranks among the ten best undergraduates that I have taught in my ten years at Pitt.

Over the summer and fall I have talked with Mr. Collins several times about his future. As of last year his plan was to proceed to law school. However, his talent for history (and, as his statement indicates, his enthusiasm for it) were so striking that I urged him to consider graduate school in this area, and he has decided to apply both to law schools and to several graduate schools. You have here an exceptionally talented young man -- I give him my strongest recommendation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reid Andrews".

Reid Andrews
Associate Professor