



DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION & MARINE BIOLOGY  
PHONE: (805) 893-3511  
FAX: (805) 893-4724

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-9610

June 13, 2005

College and University Teaching Certificate Advisory Board

Dear Colleagues:

Mr Michael Behrens was my co-instructor of record in the spring quarter Upper Division course on the Higher Invertebrates in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology at UCSB.. This is a 5-unit lecture/laboratory course. Mike shared half the burden in syllabus preparation, ordering supplies and animals for the labs, preparation of and grading the exams and preparing, coordinating and conducting the field trips. He also gave half the lectures and led half the Primary Literature Reading Groups.

As his Faculty Mentor, I met with Mike after every one of his lectures, discussing strengths and weaknesses. We also met at least weekly to oversee the laboratory sections and prepare for the field trip. Grading was conducted together based on a carefully articulated grading philosophy.

Mike is simply a born and outstanding teacher. He focuses a very broad background in natural history, ecology and physiology such that any question leads to a surprisingly comprehensive and generalized answer. This enables students to see the big picture while simultaneously motivating them to learn the needed details. He is also an outstanding field biologist and has the eyes and the knowledge to lead students into the field for a remarkable educational experience. He is very well organized and empathetic; yet he does not let that compromise his high pedagogical standards.

Along with a strong classroom and laboratory performance, Mike has also frequently served as a mentor for undergraduates and younger graduate students.

Based on his performance as my co-instructor I support the award of the CCUT Certificate to Mr Michael Behrens with enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

Armand Kuris  
Professor of Zoology