UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER
800 West Main Street, Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190-1790
College of Letters and Sciences

Sept. 28, 1988

Promotions Committee
College of Letters and Sciences

Dear Committee:

This letter is a recommendation for Professor Malvina Baica, currently a member of the Mathematics and Computer Science Departmentof the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. I have known Dr. Baica as a colleague for more than four years. In this letter I will analyze and assess her accomplishments in the areas of research, teaching, and service to the University.

Although she received her doctorate as recently as 1980, Dr. Baica has already published seven research papers in reputable mathematical journals, with 3 more papers in the works. Quite simply, she is the most productive and competent researcher the Mathematics and Computer Science Department has ever had. Even more, she is one of the very few University faculty members to have achieved a national, indeed an international, reputation in their field. In recognition of her accomplishments Dr. Baica was given the 1988 Univeristy Research Award.

While still a graduate student, Dr. Baica co-authored a paper with the late Helmut Hasse, one of the preeminent number theorists of the twentieth century, and in his capacity as Director of the Mathematical Institute at the University of Gottingen, the intellectual successor of Carl Friedrich Gauss, the legendary "Prince of Mathematicians." Her work has been praised, in writing, by such prominent contemporary mathematicians as Leonard Carlitz of Duke University, Paulo Ribenboim of Queens University, and the late Leon Bernstein of Illinois Institute of Technology. Dr. Baica has delivered mathematical addresses in locations as diverse as Evanston, Minneapolis, Tucson, Berkeley, and Quebec. During the summer of 1986 she spoke at the International Congress of Mathematicians, a quadrennial event that attracts top mathematical scholars from around the world. In August 1988 she delivered a paper at the Centennial Celebration of the American Mathematical Society, the Flagship professional organization of American Mathematicians. Indeed, she has received more speaking invitations than she has been able to accept, as a result of time constraints and lack of travel support from the University.

It never ceases to amaze me that Dr. Baica has managed to accomplish all this in spite of the onerous teaching load of twelve hours per week, with forty or more students per class, that prevails at the University. Dr. Baica has received neither released time nor outside support of any kind. That she is compelled to pay technical typing charges out of her own pocket remains a shabby blot on the University's commitment to scholarship.

I must hasten to add that Dr. Baica's magnificent research record has not been achieved at the cost of neglecting her teaching and service obligations. I have personally visited her class on several occasions. In addition, my office being adjacent to hers, I have been able to observe her interactions with students on a one-to-one basis. On the basis of this evidence I feel that Dr. Baica is a dedicated and conscientious teacher with a genuine interest in having her students learn mathematics. She brings a brisk, business-like approach to the classroom and maintains strict standards. Scrutiny of course evaluations reveals that the vast majority of students respond positively to her teaching style and quite a number have gone on to take additional courses from her. I feel that Dr. Baica is especially effective when working with students on an individual basis. She has cheerfully given independent study courses, on an overload basis, to several advanced students, assisting them in exploring areas of mathematics not otherwise covered in our curriculum.

In the area of service, it should be noted that Dr. Baica is a member of several departmental committees, dealing with calculus, discrete mathematics, business mathematics, and curriculum revision. She has presented two colloquium talks to the department and assisted in bringing in an outside speaker to a third talk. Moreover, she has audited an introductory computer science course and written several Pascal programs in an effort to broaden her background and acquire a basic understanding of this cognate field.

Dr. Baica's distinguished achievements in research and deep love of mathematics serve as a model and inspiration for her colleagues and fellow scholars. She is an asset to the University and would be a valuable member of any mathematics department that prizes dedication and scholarship.

Sincerely,

Edwin M. Klein
Associate Professor
Mathematics and Computer Science

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