

January 23, 2013

Professor Klibanoff,

I am currently a multimedia journalist at WLTZ NBC 38 in Columbus, Georgia. I graduated from the Emory Journalism Program in 2011 and took three classes with Sissel McCarthy. While I learned valuable lessons from each professor in the program, I have to say Sissel had the greatest influence on my writing, my career, and most importantly, my passion for journalism. As one of the few students in my class who wanted to go into broadcast journalism, Sissel quickly became my mentor. Not only did she help me perfect my writing skills in class, she met with me frequently outside of class to discuss my work and future career path.

Sissel's News Video class was hands down the best class I took at Emory. I believe the most important tool in broadcast is experience, and Sissel has decades of it. She understands exactly what it takes to break into today's broadcast world; that it's not just about writing well and looking good, but it's about doing it all—from proper filming techniques to writing to your video. She was the first professor to put a camera in my hands and guide me on my way to making my first ever news package. She showed everyone's work to the class because she understood the importance of feedback in order to improve. I still use the skills I learned in that class everyday at work; making sure my video is cut to the pauses in my voice, that I am always telling a compelling story, and to never EVER have jump cuts (minus ten points for each).

Getting a job in broadcast isn't easy, and it certainly isn't like getting a job in any other field. But because I had Sissel in my corner, I felt confident in my skills when I entered the job market. Most of the reporters in Columbus graduated from Auburn, UGA and other big schools with big broadcast journalism departments. They brag about their daily campus news shows and fancy equipment. But I can honestly say I am a better writer, communicator, critical thinker and all-around journalist because of Emory and because of Sissel. She was there for me every step of the way and I know as I begin the process of finding my second job, she will be there for me once again. Emory should be proud to have such a talented, passionate and innovated professor on its campus. I know there is not one student in any of her classes who can say she has had a negative impact on his or her life.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Sara Belsole
Reporter
WLTZ NBC 38
(813) 786-8980
sbesole@gmail.com

To the reviewing committee of the Emory Journalism Program:

Before I met her, Professor Sissel McCarthy's reputation as a teacher preceded her. As an Emory freshman on track to major in journalism, I had heard about her impressive background in broadcast journalism, her rigorous courses, and her challenging teaching and grading style. By graduation, I had taken several of Professor McCarthy's courses; she had become my advisor within the program; and we had met numerous times in her capacity as my professor and, more importantly, as my mentor.

Professor McCarthy has always been acutely aware of the preparation her students need to be successful in the journalism industry, planning her lessons around the everchanging media world. Her News Video class, which I took as a sophomore, is the most notorious of all journalism classes, in that it requires the most outside classroom time, work and effort from its students--as it should. I gained the essential practical knowledge and skills that make Emory journalism graduates competitive in the job search. Professor McCarthy teaches through example, using prior student-work, current professional work and her own previous career experiences to round out the curriculum.

She has always been supportive of the journalism program at Emory and its progress. With her help, she secured camera equipment for the broadcast journalism classes and an off-campus outlet to display their work. To further this endeavor, I sought her advice and guidance when putting together a student-run newscast during my junior year. She connected me with valuable resources across campus and within the greater broadcast community in Atlanta. Although it was not a lasting success at Emory, I would not have been able to make it a reality without Professor McCarthy's help.

As my graduation date approached, Professor McCarthy truly showed she cared for my success and my happiness. She gave me helpful career advice and supported my job application decisions. She also allayed my doubt about the path I was choosing and encouraged me to take some time to explore other options, especially when I was considering teaching in Spain for a year rather than diving headlong into broadcast journalism. At the end of my four years, I believe Professor McCarthy's teaching and guidance were influential to my hiring at NBC Network News. Professor Sissel McCarthy is more than deserving of a senior lecturer position within Emory College. Her dedication to providing her students with the best knowledge of the journalism industry and with the right tools to make important life decisions makes her invaluable to Emory University and to its students.

Best Regards,
Lindsey Bomnin 12C
News Associate
NBC News

To Whom it May Concern,

I write to recommend Professor McCarthy for the position of senior lecturer. As I explain below, Professor's McCarthy's interesting career path, her exceptional teaching ability, and her commitment to her students all make her an excellent candidate for this position.

When I enrolled in Professor McCarthy's News Literacy class on a whim in the second semester of my freshman year, I had no idea how much it would influence my path at Emory. And yet, even on the first day of class (often largely taken up with mundane administrative tasks) I remember being enthralled. It was not just the subject matter that captivated my attention that day, but also Professor McCarthy herself. As she spoke about her three careers thus far, I felt a sense of awe and admiration begin to grow for this woman who had so confidently participated in such demanding professions. In those first few moments of class, I knew already that I had found a new role model.

As the semester progressed, News Literacy easily became my favorite class. Our assignments, which included reading the New York Times and AJC daily and writing analytical papers, were time-consuming but always interesting, and I found my writing drastically improved by the end of the semester. Professor McCarthy's comments on papers were insightful and she was easy to meet with outside of class if I needed guidance polishing my ideas. The class itself was the highlight of my Tuesdays and Thursdays, its hour and fifteen minutes a refreshingly interactive break from my large Chemistry and Biology lectures. While Professor McCarthy did present information to us through lectures in most classes, her PowerPoints were always constructed in a way that maintained students' attention, incorporating images and video clips every day. She also generally included a section of class in which we actively used our newly-acquired knowledge. For example, when we learned the seven news values, she gave us different types of stories and we identified what made them "news." She even incorporated humor into class whenever possible, often through presenting us with outlandish stories that had somehow been published.

At the end of my freshman year, I had been so enthralled by Professor McCarthy's class that I wanted to explore more courses in Journalism, a field I had never previously thought of entering. Since then, journalism has only continued to grow on me—so much so that I have chosen it as one of my majors. Not surprisingly, I am thrilled that Professor McCarthy has agreed to be my advisor.

Even before she was officially my advisor, however, Professor McCarthy was a trusted mentor and the person I felt most comfortable approaching for counsel regarding my future at Emory. I have always felt that she was genuinely invested in my success, and her own many successes help me to feel that I can accomplish my goals. She is as approachable and entertaining to talk with one-on-one as she is in the larger setting of the classroom.

In short, Professor McCarthy is an exceptionally gifted professor and an inspiring mentor. I often recommended her News Literacy class simply because I think she is one of the best professors at Emory and as many students as possible should have the benefit of learning from her. I cannot imagine anyone more deserving of this senior lecturer position. If you have any questions or wish to discuss Professor McCarthy further, please do not hesitate to contact me at aaveril@emory.edu.

Sincerely,

Abi Averill
Emory 2015

Dear Professor Klibanoff,

As a student in the 2013 Fall News Literacy class and now the Spring Advanced News Reporting and Writing Class, I have had the privilege of getting to know Professor Sissel McCarthy both in and outside of the classroom.

Professor McCarthy teaches her classes in a way that truly stimulates and involves everyone. She always conducts her lessons with great poise and enthusiasm for the subjects she covers. There is no doubt she has a true passion for Journalism and for sharing her knowledge. She has proven this not only through teaching her own Emory students, but also through engaging the greater Atlanta community. Professor McCarthy organized a Service-Learning project, in which groups of students planned news literacy lessons and taught at underserved elementary and middle schools. This undoubtedly took immense preparation and emphasizes her dedication to teaching eager minds across the entire community.

While she encouraged us to reach out to younger students with new literacy lessons, she also broadened our perspectives by bringing in prominent journalists to speak in our class. She also invited students to attend stimulating journalism lectures outside of the classroom.

While it is clear she always enters class with an organized and thorough lesson plan, she always allows flexibility, encouraging students to engage in class discussion. The classroom is always lively and interactive. She encourages questions and always provides a clear, thoughtful answer- even if that answer requires her to do extra research. She realizes that students learn in multiple ways, and I believe she caters to every type of learner. Through in-class and take-home writing assignments, research presentations, and group projects she gives every individual the opportunity for self-expression. She not only provides students with the opportunity for creative expression, reflection and analysis, but she also responds with comprehensive feedback. The depth of her comments on every single assignment reflects her commitment to helping students learn and improve.

The manner in which she conducts her class really speaks to her as a person. She has a true understanding of people and knows how to connect on both a personal and professional level.

It is obvious she is truly invested in her students and is always more than willing to meet outside of the classroom. I have personally gone to her office multiple times both for advice on how to improve my journalistic skills and for more casual discussion concerning career paths.

My News Literacy class with Professor McCarthy has been the most enriching class in my two years at Emory University thus far. Through her class I have learned to more quickly organize my thoughts and express myself more succinctly. I am more engaged than ever before in current events and am a much more skeptical, aware and discerning consumer of news. One thing that has struck me is Professor McCarthy's emphasis on the ethics of communication. These skills and perspectives are important in the field of journalism, but are also crucial as life skills. I have gained confidence in myself and in my ability to perform academically, and I really do owe much of that to the classes Professor McCarthy conducted and the support she provided along the way.

I consider Professor McCarthy to be not only my professor, but also a mentor and role model. Professor McCarthy possesses the skills, passion and dedication to excel in any position she may pursue, and I whole-heartedly believe Professor McCarthy would be an outstanding senior lecturer.

Please contact me at 713-826-4441 or lecobur@emory.edu if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,
Laura Coburn

To whom it concerns:

My name is Rose Cohn, and I am a senior at Emory University, pursuing a career in journalism. I have been fortunate to have taken two classes with Sissel McCarthy: Advanced News Reporting & Writing (2010) and News Video (2011). Emory's journalism program is closing soon; it's a shame that prospective journalists will miss the opportunity to have Professor McCarthy as an instructor. That's why I am enthusiastically endorsing her as a candidate for senior lecturer.

Professor McCarthy is not the easiest instructor. Only the students who devote the necessary time and effort, pay close attention in class and practice their skills outside of class get A's. Professor McCarthy wants us to excel in the job market when we graduate. So, rather than falsely inflating our grades, she provides thorough and constructive feedback on assignments so that we can improve on subsequent assignments. Professor McCarthy had me constantly striving to produce my best work. Now, relentlessness in my journalism endeavors has become habitual.

I have recommended Professor McCarthy to rising journalism majors by saying simply, if you want to become a better journalist, take her class. She has an eye and an ear for all facets of storytelling -- from investigative reporting and bare-bones writing to multimedia forms. My capstone piece in News Video was a package on Occupy Atlanta in which I was responsible for all aspects of the project: investigating, reporting, writing, shooting and editing. I am currently a video editing intern at a social networking medical site where I get to use the skills I garnered in News Video. Those very skills indeed landed me the internship, and I could not be happier in the position. In fact, were it not for Professor McCarthy's dedication, encouragement and quality feedback, I cannot say I would even be pursuing a career in journalism right now.

Sissel McCarthy has had a greater impact on my development as a journalist and as a student than has any other instructor at Emory. The journalism program may be closing, but aspiring storytellers deserve the privilege of learning from Professor McCarthy. Without reservation, I urge you to consider her for a position as senior lecturer. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for further comment.

Sincerely,

Rose Cohn
(561) 758-6129
rcohn2@emory.edu

Xue (Leon) Dong

5157 Cabot Creek Drive ~ Sugar Hill, GA 30518 ~ (678) 294-7688 ~ xue.dong@emory.edu

Dear Professor Klibanoff,

My name is Leon Dong and I am a graduating senior majoring in Mathematics and Economics. I am writing on behalf of Professor Sissel McCarthy in support of her application for senior lecturer.

I enrolled in Professor McCarthy's Journalism 260 course, News Literacy in a Digital Age, as a writing requirement but I left the class with much more than I ever could have expected going in. As a major in quantitative subjects, I do not get the chance to take many courses like Journalism 260. However, Professor McCarthy's course really opened my eyes as to why students are encouraged at Emory University to partake in a wide liberal arts education.

The course was very well organized stemming from the amount of effort and preparation Professor McCarthy placed in the course. From the great discussion-encouraged lectures to the guest speakers and class outings, I believe I have gained more real-world applicable knowledge from this course than any course I have taken so far in the college.

Outside of class, Professor McCarthy was always willing to meet and even encouraged students to meet with her for any reason, even if it did not pertain to the course. I think a good professor gives the full effort to make sure students exceed in the class but great professors like Professor McCarthy make the extra effort to help students succeed outside of class as well. When I was interviewing for full-time positions last semester, Professor McCarthy made sure to check in with how my job search was coming. I was even able to use my knowledge of current events gained from the course to aid me in my interviews.

I will be starting my post-college life at Capgemini Consulting and I owe a part of my success to Professor McCarthy and her extraordinary impact on me inside and outside the classroom. I hope that she will be promoted to senior lecturer and other Emory students will receive the joyful experience of taking her courses.

Please let me know if you need any more information and do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Xue (Leon) Dong

Dear Professor Klibanoff:

I am privileged to write in support of my professor and mentor, Sissel McCarthy. I had the pleasure of meeting her through the Journalism 301 class two years ago and developed what I consider to be one of the most valuable relationships in my college career.

Journalism 301 was one of my favorite courses at Emory. Through the course, I gained the fundamentals of writing broadcast script in an engaging way. Professor McCarthy encouraged me to immerse myself in a story and cover it from all angles and was always available for one-on-one meetings to help guide me. Professor McCarthy emphasized improvement and gave detailed written feedback on the first drafts of my stories. Additionally, the class participated in peer review days where we were able to share and comment on one another's stories. In the end, I was able to produce polished pieces of work that I use as samples when applying for internships.

Most importantly though, Professor McCarthy challenged me to think critically about not only the stories I produced, but also those that I consumed. Out of the context of the classroom, I have spent time in her office discussing how the media covered certain recent events and how they could have improved. She has always welcomed me into her office to chat and has even extended her availability to phone conversations over the weekend when it was urgent.

Through our many conversations, I have learned how much Professor McCarthy cares about her students and the Journalism program. Even though I was never one of her advisees, she has given me valuable advice on applying for internships and planning out a path that would help me achieve my future career goals.

I strongly recommend Professor Sissel McCarthy for the promotion to senior lecturer. She has been instrumental in fostering my development as not only a better journalist, but also a better critical thinker, active listener, and ethical decision maker.

Sincerely,

Nisha Giridharan

January 19, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am extremely pleased and honored to recommend Sissel McCarthy for a faculty promotion to senior lecturer status. I have known Professor McCarthy for almost three years as I was a student in her class for JRNL301: Advanced News Reporting and Writing during the fall, 2011 semester and I have had the privilege of becoming well acquainted with her since I declared as a journalism major.

Needless to say, I learned an incredible amount about writing, editing, and journalism while in Professor McCarthy's classroom. She was always prepared to challenge us with tasks that help students think critically. She engages students in the classroom and keeps everyone involved and interested in discussion. She reviews each student's work during class and uses clear examples to make her lessons compelling and memorable. After each assignment, we all received individualized notes and criticisms that were specific and helped us to understand strengths and weaknesses for future improvement. Professor McCarthy always made herself available for students to approach her with questions and concerns and during individual meetings, provided extremely helpful tips and ways to improve. She always returned comments and feedback in an extremely fast manner and her feedback always proved to be well thought out. She was highly responsive and interested in the development of her students. Throughout the semester her comments, meetings, feedback, and class engagement motivated me to work harder and perform better in class.

After completing the JRNL 301 course, Professor McCarthy continued to be an advisor, mentor, and someone I feel comfortable going to when I need advice. She always shows genuine interest in my projects, capabilities, and goals. She has truly been a confidant throughout my internship search and during past internships. Not only has Professor McCarthy taught me skills that I believe will help me throughout my life, but she also has given me career advice that has really helped me in figuring out where I want to go after graduation and what I want to do.

In the time that I have known Sissel McCarthy, she has been a professor who cares about her students, works extremely hard, motivates students, and teaches her students both in and out of the classroom. Her passion for

teaching and helping students really shines through and I am tremendously lucky and grateful to have gotten to know her and have her at Emory. Whether as a professor, advisor, or mentor, she has always been there for me as well as other students who wish to achieve and benefit from her great knowledge and insight. I feel this promotion would be a well-deserved recognition of an intelligent, thoughtful, hardworking, and kind-hearted professor. She has inspired and influenced me and exemplified a true professional role model and expert in her field. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

Emily Lorsch
Emory University Class of 2014
elorsch@emory.edu

January 21, 2013

Dear Professor Klibanoff,

I am writing this letter today to recommend Professor Sissel McCarthy for the position of senior lecturer. As one of her students and a "pseudo" advisee, it is with great enthusiasm that I say Professor McCarthy is overly qualified for this position. She is a passionate, talented and caring professor whose number one goal is to always ensure that her students are engaged and are getting the most out of every single lesson she delivers. By the end of each of her courses, Professor McCarthy's students leave with not only improved journalism and writing skills but also with an increased capacity for critical thinking and ethical decision-making.

The skills learned in Professor McCarthy's courses carry far beyond the classroom. In her News Literacy in a Digital Age course, students are taught how to be informed consumers of news. The ability to weed out what is useful, trustworthy information allows for students to be knowledgeable, high-functioning members of society. In News Reporting and Writing and News Video, journalism majors are given their first insights into broadcast and long-form writing, editing, recording and producing and learn tips and methods that are the industry standard, putting them at an advantage in the real world. Professor McCarthy is known for being a tough-but-fair grader; her feedback is often plentiful but is always constructive. Though you may receive your first draft of an article or script back with more red ink than you could imagine possible, her comments are always useful and her demeanor and tone are constantly supportive.

For students who are struggling or are in need of advising, Professor McCarthy is extremely accessible outside the classroom. Although she was not assigned to me as my advisor for journalism, I have always sought out Professor McCarthy for advising help. Her connections and constant push to strive for excellence have provided me with opportunities that many students my age have never been afforded. Since a producer came to speak to my News Reporting and Writing class in 2010 with Professor McCarthy, I have had three internships with CBS News that have provided me with experience and connections that will be invaluable in my upcoming job search.

As a teacher, an advisor and a mentor, Professor McCarthy is the best. I am extremely lucky to be able to turn to her as a student and advisee for anything from course work help to personal issues. Professor McCarthy is beyond deserving of the position of Senior Lecturer and when I was approached to write this recommendation letter, I jumped at the opportunity. Her courses are organized, her expectations are clear and her feedback is always useful. Feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Best Regards,
Ian Margol '13c

Rachel Rosenbaum
January 25, 2013

To whom it may concern:

Sissel McCarthy is a brilliant professor, mentor, and role model and I am so lucky I had the chance to study with her. Last semester, I was enrolled in Journalism 301 and I entered the class excited but nervous about the rigor of the class.

Professor McCarthy handled the new material with ease and explained the rules about broadcast style in a clear and concise way. Although the class introduced a completely new writing technique, I was able to employ it easily due to Professor McCarthy's clear teaching method. She always came to class prepared and she used every minute of class effectively. We were constantly engaged throughout class and, rather than lecturing to us for the entire class, Professor McCarthy ran an interactive classroom where we answered questions and critiqued each other's work.

I never would have anticipated that two weeks into the semester I would be able to and produce my own podcast, but under Professor McCarthy's guidance, I became comfortable with every aspect of the production process. Professor McCarthy eased us into the process initially with brief exercises and later had us write our own podcast script. The feedback she gave me on both my written stories and podcasts was phenomenal and I saw my work improve substantially throughout the semester. My favorite aspect of the class was the collegial environment. Professor McCarthy created as she had us share our work with our classmates and asked for feedback from every member of the class. I loved seeing how people with different perspectives reacted to my work and it definitely benefitted me.

Throughout the semester Professor McCarthy showed genuine concern for my success through her feedback and her accessibility. In one instance, I had

questions about a podcast script that I was rewriting and rerecording. Although it was a day that we did not have class, I emailed Professor McCarthy and received a quick response. She also sent her phone number and told me to call her if I needed more help. I ended up calling her and she didn't make me feel like I was imposing on her at all; I felt as though she cared about my progress and would stop at nothing to help me improve. I can honestly say I have never learned so much in a class before. Professor McCarthy single-handedly convinced me that broadcast journalism is a career I want to pursue in the future and I am so thankful for that.

Professor McCarthy did not only teach technical journalism skills but she also taught broader life skills. I learned critical thinking skills and how to communicate with people that are different from me. She taught me how to make ethical decisions and tough decisions I faced throughout the semester while researching and writing stories. While my writing and vocal skills improved tremendously throughout the semester, it was these life skills that I will cherish as I move forward with my education. I visited Professor McCarthy throughout the semester whenever I had a journalism question or even when I had an unrelated question about my academic plans and she could not have been more helpful or inspiring. I truly look up to Professor McCarthy as a role-model and I am looking forward to another semester with her. I strongly recommend Professor McCarthy for the senior lecturer position and I hope that other students get the chance to benefit from her dedication and passion for teaching.

Sincerely,

Rachel Rosenbaum

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the opportunity to work closely with Mrs. McCarthy as my professor and advisor for the past three years. During this time, she has served as my mentor and has had a significant impact on what I have learned and achieved thus far in the journalism industry both inside and outside of the classroom.

Mrs. McCarthy is an organized and hard-working professor, who has a passion for the material that she covers and the students that she teaches. Mrs. McCarthy brings energy and knowledge to her classes and uses a variety of teaching styles to engage her students. The courses are comprised of intriguing lectures, which in return incite lively class discussions. One of Mrs. McCarthy's strengths is her dedication to her students. Mrs. McCarthy has a high expectation for what her students can accomplish and pushes them to reach their potential. It is through her guidance and helpful critiques that she enables them to do so. Mrs. McCarthy is always open to meeting with her students to answer their questions or assist with the class assignments, and she often encourages them to do so.

In the courses that I have taken from Mrs. McCarthy, they have had a direct impact on how I have developed as a journalist over the past few years. Her in-class lectures gave me a strong understanding of what makes for good journalism, while her assignments provided me with the chance to apply those skills to my individual work. Mrs. McCarthy's classes have given me with the tools necessary to thrive not only in the journalism industry but also in any work environment.

Overall, Mrs. McCarthy is truly an exceptional professor who goes above and beyond to cater to her students. She is one of those few teachers that have made an impression on me that will last long past the classroom lectures. I know that when I look back, she is one of the people that I can sincerely thank for helping me become who I am, and I know that I am not alone.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Weinstein