

Stacey Hahn Mentor's Statement

I was very pleased when Courtney Zimmer asked me to be one of her mentors for her Honors College thesis. I have enjoyed working with Courtney and watching her project grow from an idea to a full blown thesis. The evolution of the thesis has taken a very interesting course with many twists and turns, that have led to what I believe is a very fertile and positive journey. One of the challenges of Courtney's thesis trajectory has been the pursuit of a project that would fully integrate her various interests and talents into one coherent whole. It has been most gratifying to see Courtney succeed in creating a thesis that focuses her enthusiasm and interests so thoroughly.

When I first met Courtney, she wanted to travel to France in order to write a handbook for students wishing to study abroad. Although this project would have been invaluable to students contemplating study abroad, the project had to be abandoned because the opportunity to travel abroad evaporated. It seemed at that point that the project was stymied. Over the summer, however, Courtney took a film course that examined the process of adapting novels and other literary works to film. This course sparked an idea: Why not take a French literary work and make it into a screenplay? A project such as this would allow Courtney to integrate many of the tools she garnered as a French major (knowledge of French literature, culture and translation) with her creative talents and interest in theater and film. The academic portion of Courtney's thesis would entail the delicate dance of translation on two levels; namely, the transition from literature to film and the cultural and linguistic challenges of translating one literary work and time period into another. The end result of her academic endeavor would be the screenplay that would allow Courtney to combine her literary and translation skills with her creative impulses. The movement from detailed analysis to creative screenplay is an invaluable process that will

help prepare Courtney for a future career in either academia, if Courtney wishes to pursue her interests in French, theater or film in graduate school, or in the film industry, if she wishes to create more screen adaptations of French into English.

At present, Courtney will be working this summer in France as an *au pair* with a French family. I do hope that her thesis project, together with her experiences in France this summer, will give her the basis for making an enlightened and informed decision regarding her future.