

December 22, 1977

Dear José,

Would you be willing to meet and talk with a student of mine sometime in the beginning or the middle of January? I have been thinking of driving down for a short visit for my own purposes. But my student would like to see Bryn Mawr College and to meet you, and I've told him that if you could arrange to meet him at some point he and I could drive down and back together. Of course he is interested in applying to study at Bryn Mawr; but beyond all else he would simply like to meet you and talk with you--a little--about philosophy.

He is right now a junior, and when I perceived during his freshman year how fine his mind is I talked with him and persuaded him to major in philosophy instead of the psychology that his parents were trying to push him into. It was not hard to persuade him, for he had begun to suspect that psychology would not be hospitable to the kind of mind he has. He has intelligent things to say when he is a member of a class; he writes first-rate examinations; and his essays are superb. So far, in two courses, he has written six of them for me. Next term he will be in an elective course on Descartes that I'll be giving to some dozen or so students, and in that course he will write three more essays. During the two semesters of his senior year, he intends to work either with me or with Donald Coleman (whom you met once) on a senior essay. (The Philosophy Department at Fairfield is the only Department allowing its senior major students to work on a senior essay; Don and I, some years back, invented the notion and somehow got it turned into a reality.) This senior essay will require extensive reading from him in the fall as he focusses on a topic; and then in the spring he will write the essay itself, which must be at least thirty-five pages in length. Of course, this will serve him as a kind of practice for a master's paper.

I could send you a copy of one or more of his essays that he has already prepared for me if you would like to see them. Should he apply to Bryn Mawr later--which I think he will do--he certainly would submit papers in support of his application then. I've never had better ones from any other student.

He does not know Latin, but he is studying Greek now and will have a decent acquaintance with it by the time he graduates. (He intends to keep on studying it after he graduates, too.)

May I hear from you about whether or not you could talk for an hour or so with this young man sometime in January? I would myself stay with Yildiz van Hulsteyn who has invited me down for a visit; and I would need to arrange for accommodations for him somewhere. Needless to say, I myself would like to have lunch with you on some day, but that is less important than that Stephen should see you. He is, by the way, a very person, quiet-mannered, witty; and you would like him.

Sincerely,

If I don't hear from you in a week or ten days,
I'll try to get hold of you by telephone.

Julia