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Chair, Instructor Recruiting Committee
Department of Computer Science
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z4

December 1, 2003

Dear Recruiting Committee Chair,

I am writing to apply for the tenure-track Instructor position which you advertised on the CRA website. I am a Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington and expect to graduate this June. My teaching and research background make me an excellent candidate for this position. I am ready and excited to teach introductory and core computing courses as well as advanced, interdisciplinary courses based on my scholarly work — such as artificial intelligence, human computer interaction, and educational technology — and to advise students in research.

My teaching experiences, as a TA and as an instructor, have been extremely successful. My students' accomplishments are the best illustration; they have created projects featured at the university's Engineering Open House, served as TAs themselves (three of them on my staff in a later course), and pursued research projects (four of them working with me). One of these undergraduate researchers has already published once with me, and we have a second paper under review for the CHI'04 human computer interaction conference. I have also been honored with several teaching awards including the University of Washington Excellence in Teaching Award, given to only two of the more than sixteen hundred graduate teaching assistants at the university each year.

I am active in curriculum development and scholarly work on teaching. My experiences as an instructor led to the well-received "Lemonade" paper on positive aspects of large classes at the SIGCSE'02 computer science education conference. I will present again at SIGCSE'04 in a session on exercises that target untapped learning styles. I help organize two weekly departmental seminars on teaching and learning and have presented several times at college and university teaching seminars. With my research group, I developed a new experiment-based introductory computer science curriculum for a freshman survey class. I also informally assisted in rewriting my department's introductory curriculum.

My Ph.D. dissertation focuses on education. I studied interaction in the classroom through technological interventions. My efforts led to valuable classroom technologies and better understanding of classroom interaction processes. This research — as well as my prior artificial intelligence research — prepares me to collaborate on the educational technology research at UBC. Furthermore, my work with nine undergraduate research assistants has prepared me to advise students.

These experiences position me well to teach, advise, research, and develop curriculum as a an Instructor in UBC CS. I have accompanied this letter with my curriculum vitae, my research and teaching statements, and two of my teaching evaluations. Letters of recommendation will follow under separate cover. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Wolfman

P.S. Although I reside in and am a citizen of the United States, I am also a Canadian citizen.