



February 1, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Greg Johnson was the acknowledged technology guru of Phillips Hall. His expertise with computer and digital technologies was legendary, as was his reputation for consistently going above and beyond his regular job responsibilities. As the Language Media Center (LMC) IT Support specialist, Greg was highly regarded for his willingness to engage totally in solving problems and completing projects, as well as for his kind, helpful manner. I have known Greg since fall 1983, when I hired him to be a computer/video lab assistant for the LMC. Even as a freshman he displayed the excellent qualities that are still true of him now—a computer expert who is also extremely thoughtful, obliging, committed, and multifaceted in his interests. When Greg applied for the LMC computer support position early in 2001, I was thrilled to welcome him back. I counted on his technical expertise and services and enjoyed his amiable presence until June 2015, when I retired from the university.

Greg handled technical responsibilities in multiple areas: (1) administration of technology resources in the LMC Multimedia Development Studio and the digital audio language laboratories; (2) development of multimedia curricular materials in collaboration with faculty and graduate students; (3) management of LMC administrative computing resources (including the server and client computers at the heart of the LMC catalog and circulation system); and (4) providing technological consultation and training. He performed his duties energetically, delivering exceptional support for the resources he oversaw and the faculty and students he served.

In 2010 the Division of World Languages, Literatures & Cultures (DWLLC) was created, combining all the language departments and programs in Phillips Hall and the LMC under one administrative umbrella. After this merger, Greg expanded his working sphere to take on Division activities and initiatives. He served on the Division publicity committee, including managing the digital signage for Phillips, and on the Phillips Green Team.

He regularly generated ideas for new services and refined procedures for the LMC and DWLLC. For example, in 2011 he won the IOWA for his initiative in creating the Video on Demand service that uses streaming video technology to provide web access to recordings of DWLLC and International Programs events and presentations. The Video on Demand service expanded the impact of our public events, providing an open connection to the intellectual vitality of UI departments and programs.

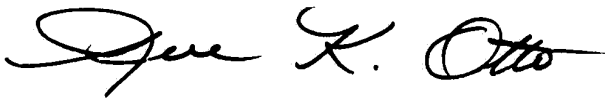
He enthusiastically pursued opportunities to learn about other languages and cultures, an avocation that enabled him to relate well to LMC clientele and the DWLLC community. He gained fluency in Spanish when he studied in Colombia as an undergraduate. After joining the LMC staff in 2001, he was inspired to learn American Sign Language (ASL), which he used frequently to communicate with our deaf faculty. He also studied Chinese and Hindi. This dedication to other languages and cultures, combined with his superior technical skills, paid dividends in the productive working relationships he built with Division faculty and graduate

students, which, in turn, resulted in strong multimedia programming in Division departments and programs.

I often received spontaneous glowing comments about Greg during his years with the LMC, many of them about his above-and-beyond attitude. He forwarded his office phone to his cell phone, so it was not unusual for him to get calls at odd hours of the night and on weekends to deal with tech-related emergencies. Such calls resulted in numerous Greg-to-the-rescue episodes, including one where he trekked at night through a snowstorm to help a professor who was working on an important project at his office.

Greg was a valuable member of the LMC staff, an esteemed colleague in the DWLLC community, and a genuine asset to the University of Iowa. His expertise, experience and fine personal qualities will make him a superb asset to any organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue K. Otto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sue" being the most prominent.

Dr. Sue K. Otto
Director, UI Language Media Center, Retired
Associate Professor Emerita
Department of Spanish & Portuguese and FLARE/Second Language Acquisition