

To whom it may concern, I am writing on behalf of Sara Woolley. I have known Professor Woolley since 2018. I continue to consider her a valuable resource for advice about possible residencies or jobs, upcoming gallery shows/ webinars, critiques of my portfolio, and I enjoy occasionally exchanging photos of our studio cats. In this letter, I will explain how her mentorship has beneficially impacted me as a student and continues to after graduating from New York City College of Technology.

While a student, She was my introduction to illustration professor. Her class challenged me to meet deadlines and combine drawing with digital software like Photoshop. Her class offered my favorite prompts/ projects in my entire college career, from editorial illustration to redesigning movie posters. Professor Woolley continued to stay in touch with students post-completion of her class. She would encourage students to build their creative networks and to sell their art while knowing their worth.

There was a point in my college career when I was considering dropping out. It was the beginning of my third year, I couldn't see any of my accomplishments and was relentlessly self-critical of my ability. Professor Woolly took notice and made the time to meet with me. She encouraged me to keep on route and not quit on myself. She assured me that the Communication Design staff had noticed my ability and they believed in me. Having an educator who cared as much as Professor Woolly during that dark time in my life was no small feat. I went on to graduate with a 3.8 GPA in 2020 and was an illustration senior project finalist.

After graduating, She helped me get a job at the Society of Illustrators, which allowed me to combine two of my interests, hospitality and art institutions. I am grateful to have had an educator like Professor Woolley, who cares as much as she does for her students. She possesses a strong work ethic rivaled by no one I know. I recall once leaving class. Professor Woolley, still with the warmest smile, exclaimed, "Off to ink some pages." After having taught, worked office hours, advised the ink club, and supported senior project students all while working on illustration projects outside of school. She definitely inspires me to never stop making time to make art while juggling a plethora of projects. I strongly recommend Sara Woolley.

Best Regards,
Mahnoor Sheikh
