

To whom it may concern:

I recall my time at Emmanuel School of Religion with fond memories of quality classroom instruction and the forging of lifelong relationships. I was delighted when Jennifer Rice, an intern with whom I ministered and supervised at Chaparral Christian Church in Scottsdale, AZ, expressed her interest in and subsequent plans to pursue a Master's of Divinity degree at Emmanuel Christian Seminary. I value this institution for fostering my ability to think critically and theologically in order to serve as a faithful and responsible minister in a local church. More specifically, I value the professors who have dedicated their lives not only to their academic discipline but to their students.

Christopher Rollston ranks at the top among those instructors in my graduate and undergraduate studies who genuinely attended to the intellectual and professional development of their students. Drawing from his rich educational background and extensive research, his courses were challenging and deeply informative. I believe Dr. Rollston is a real gem and an asset to ECS; his expertise is evident in his prolific publications. Personally, I feel very grateful to have not only studied under his instruction but to have sustained a relationship with him beyond the classroom and my time at Emmanuel. He has gone above and beyond what might be expected of a full-time professor/scholar to provide continued encouragement, insight, letters of recommendation, and general wisdom to me in my pursuit of further higher education (I am presently at Duke Divinity School on track to complete a Master's of Theology degree in the spring of 2013). I greatly appreciate the time Dr. Rollston has invested in me both during and since seminary, and I know that I am not alone. Rather than hide away in his office behind a closed door, Dr. Rollston has maintained an openness to discussion and a pastoral presence in the lives of past and present ECS students. It would be enough if he were only a reputable expert in Old Testament and Semitic studies or a caring and encouraging mentor, yet he embodies both.

Dr. Rollston played a crucial role in my seminary education and I am thankful to have attended Emmanuel when I did. The narrative and textual issues we discussed in class continue to be helpful as I, like every Christian, remain a student of the Bible. As I expected, my seminary education brought me to a fuller and more comprehensive understanding of the biblical texts. It is from that well of knowledge (which Dr. Rollston helped deepen) that I and other alumni draw from to preach and teach the story of God's past relationship with God's people to the present day people of God.

Sincerely,

Travis Armes  
MDiv, 2007