



Rolla, MO, March 6th, 2015

Recommendation of Mr. Ahmed Abdelrazik for the DJ Belarbi Graduate Scholarship

Dear Mr. Shaw, Dear Missouri ACI Chapter Officers,

I am writing this letter to strongly support the application of Mr. Ahmed Abdelrazik for the DJ Belarbi graduate student scholarship. Ahmed has joined our concrete technology research group as a graduate student of Dr. Khayat in the Fall semester of 2013. My main contacts with him were during the 2014 Rheology summer workshop and a special research topic Ahmed took with me during the Fall semester in 2014.

As main characteristics, I noticed that Ahmed is very perseverant in what he does, critical towards data and results and he does not hesitate to challenge his fellow students and advisors (which is something I like a lot, but we don't see this very often). He also helps out fellow students whenever necessary. For example, Ahmed willingly shared his own data with a starting fellow graduate student, keeping in mind that another set of eyes may significantly alter his results. And the inevitable happened, the two graduate students interpreted the rheological measurements differently, leading to some significant alterations in conclusions. Thanks to the effort of Ahmed and his willingness to share his data, we have are currently taking actions to ensure adequate and consistent interpretation of data, a process Ahmed is involved in.

Ahmed is also a hard worker, being able to combine the extensive requirements of his research project on fiber-reinforced (semi-)self-consolidating concrete, in terms of the number of concrete mixtures and the extensive testing of each mixture, with the strict timeline imposed by the project and his advisor. In addition to the hard work in the laboratory, Ahmed is excellent in his time-management, being able to produce high-quality results and maintaining an excellent academic standing. Briefly stated, he puts the bar high, for himself first, but also for others, but he's not hesitant to perform according to his standards.

Awarding one of the DJ Belardi graduate scholarships to Mr. Abdelrazik will definitely motivate Ahmed to work even harder in his research and application of fiber-reinforced flowable concrete mixtures to enhance the quality and service life of new structures. I'm convinced that Ahmed will not disappoint ACI Missouri when he gets the honor of receiving the scholarship.

Dr. Dimitri Feys
Assistant Professor