

Rolla, MO, March 6th, 2015

Recommendation of Mr. Ehsan Ghafari for the DJ Belarbi Graduate Scholarship

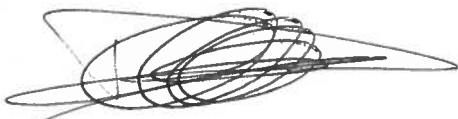
Dear Mr. Shaw, Dear Missouri ACI Chapter Officers,

I strongly recommend you to award one of the graduate scholarships to Mr. Ehsan Ghafari, who has tremendous capacity of multitasking and completing every job beyond expectations. Ehsan is also a good manager and a solid team player, he challenges himself and other people intellectually, has a broad interest into different subjects related to concrete materials and impeccable work ethics. He is a flourishing talent who will leave significant traces in how we look at concrete as a material in the future.

Ehsan Ghafari arrived in October 2013 as a Ph-D student under my supervision. He is working on a research project identifying critical physical and chemical properties of cement that significantly influence workability and rheology of cement pastes. Ehsan also works as a teaching assistant for the laboratory exercises in the CE3116 construction materials class. The combination of research, classes and teaching has shown that Ehsan has a great capacity of multitasking, planning and executing work, to perform every task beyond what is expected from him. I trust Ehsan having the lead on the project on the cement characteristics, where he needs to balance the input and requests from a material scientist (Dr. J. Smith) and a concrete rheology advisor (myself).

Furthermore, Ehsan's work ethics, profound interest in the subject and intellectual capacity make him a great Ph-D student. He is not afraid to analyze critically his own results, to compare them to literature, to discuss them personally with me or within our research group. Furthermore, he is always available to help other students, whether by physically helping them in the lab during the experiments, or by asking questions and making suggestions on other students' work, relieving me partly from this duty. Ehsan is very well respected among the undergraduate and the graduate students.

The research work that Ehsan is performing is interdisciplinary, a challenge he willingly accepted. With his working ethics, precision and accuracy and his great personality, I think awarding the DJ Belarbi graduate scholarship would give Ehsan a significant sign of appreciation. His gratitude will be beneficial to the Missouri ACI Chapter and the concrete industry.



Dr. Dimitri Feys
Assistant Professor