

October 22, 2008

Dear Judge,

I am writing in support of Distinguished Service Professor Victor Skormin and to inform you of his achievements. Professor Skormin is a true “ambassador of the University” who has created new partnerships locally, nationally, and internationally that are mutually beneficial to the State University of New York, Kazakhstan, and the world.

Professor Skormin received his Ph.D. from the Institute of Steel and Alloys in Moscow. After serving on the faculty of the Polytechnic Institute in the U.S.S.R, he joined the Department of Electrical Engineering at the State University of New York at Binghamton in 1986. He is an award winning researcher in modern control theory and its applications to a wide variety of engineering challenges from motion control and high-performance hybrid laser positioning systems to computer network/information security and immunocomputing. His work has been supported by over \$4,000,000 in externally funded grants from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and corporate partners. His research has resulted in five books and numerous publications during his tenure at State University of New York at Binghamton. He has served his profession in numerous capacities including as a reviewer on grants, book reviews, reviewer for publications, and organizer of several international symposia and meetings. He has also served as the editor of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers journal *Aerospace and Electronic Systems Transactions*.

Professor Skormin has helped to establish new and innovative partnerships across the world that highlight the research and opportunities at Binghamton and the entire State University of New York system. In the words of Charles R. Westgate, former Dean of the Watson School, Professor Skormin is “an enthusiastic and energetic professor who (provides) an extraordinary level of invaluable service to the school and to the professional community in his field” by creating new partnerships, learning opportunities, and linkages with industry. Truly, Professor Skormin's service beyond the Binghamton University campus and the State University of New York System is unparalleled.

Through partnerships with the Air Force and other exchanges he was instrumental in establishing with Eastern European institutions, Professor Skormin has advanced the University's and State University of New York System's goal of internationalization at every opportunity. His actions have had far-reaching benefits, as collaborator John Graniero, Director of the Information Institute at the Air Force Research Laboratories (AFRL), writes: Professor Skormin "greatly increased the value of a major Air Force research investment with the Saint Petersburg Institute for Informatics and Systems through acting as an editor of the research results to ensure understandability and usefulness of the results to Air Force and other researchers." Mr. Graniero continued, "He makes a remarkable

contribution to the international research community as an organizer of the bi-annual information assurance workshop in St. Petersburg, Russia, funded by the U.S. Air Force and Navy ... One of his direct contributions to the Air Force is two AFRL researchers who completed their doctoral dissertations under his guidance."

In addition to his extensive work with the AFRL, Professor Skormin three years ago initiated an exchange program for professors and scholars with the Czech Technical University in Prague. Dr. Michael Pecoucek, Head of the ATG Group with the Czech Technical University's Department of Cybernetics and his colleague, Professor Vladimir Marik, Head of the Department of Cybernetics, write that the exchange "represents a quite unique opportunity of professional growth for both our students (getting the chance to listen to outstanding lectures of the State University of New York lecturers) as well as our academic staff members (getting the chance to deliver their lectures to the State University of New York)."

From the St. Petersburg Institute for Informatics and Automation of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Director Rafael Yusupov and Chief Scientist Vladimir Gorodetsky, write: "We can testify that Professor Skormin played a pivotal role in the development of the cooperative research program between our institution and the U.S. Air Force. He helped us in establishing personal contacts with leading researchers of the U.S. Air Force. He helped the Air Force Research Laboratory to identify and establish ongoing cooperation with leading researchers of our institution. He made a great contribution to the joint research program as the editor of our publications, organizer of major Russian-American research forums and invited speaker. He promoted the spirit of friendship and international cooperation."

Professor Skormin has not only reached out to colleagues internationally. He has also used his technical expertise to benefit students and researchers around the globe through development of a virtual engineering laboratory accessible via the Internet. Wrote Shlomi Arnon, Director of the Satellite and Wireless Communication Laboratory at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev: "Victor is always thinking of how to reach out to other people all over the world and provide them with the best education. He formulated the concept of an Internet accessible engineering laboratory, which makes it possible for students all over the nation and beyond to perform experiments with real equipment via the Internet."

Professor Skormin's service to research, learning and outreach has been praised by colleagues both locally and abroad. Sergey Lyshevski, Gleason Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology, writes what others have echoed: "Dr. Skormin provides an outstanding service in terms of his research (scholarship), learning (teaching and training) as well as outreach. Dr. Skormin served as an advisor to the European Office of the Aerospace Research and Development. He is credited for establishing and promoting several sizable international collaborative research projects and conferences funded by the Air Force and Navy."

Perhaps Professor Skormin's greatest success, if one had to select only one, is his establishment of partnerships in Eastern Europe that are revitalizing research there. Paul Losiewicz, Chief of the Air Force European Office of Aerospace Research and Development, writes that "Dr. Skormin was involved in the revitalization of the research programs of a number of Eastern European universities after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and it must be a great source of personal pride for him that the relationships he fostered in the Czech Republic and Russia with the Air Force Office of Scientific

Research led to world class basic research that is now finding its way into prototype operational systems funded by the Air Force Laboratory."

In summary, he has been recognized internationally for his efforts in research partnerships. In 2002, he was elected a member of the Russian Academy of Navigation and Motion Control Sciences. Furthermore, his international partnerships are especially notable in Kazakhstan. In 1999, he was appointed an Honorary Professor of the Kazak National Technical University in Almaty, Kazakhstan. This is a relationship that has continued and that appears to have been mutually beneficial. It was in this regard that Professor Skormin was working during his current visit to Kazakhstan.

It is my sincere hope that the court recognizes that Professor Skormin's contributions at the state, national, and international levels are exceptional. We are eager for his safe and expeditious return to the United States, so that he may continue his important work.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lois B. DeFleur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lois" and last name "DeFleur" clearly distinguishable.

Lois B. DeFleur
President

LBD/ss

c: Barbara Westbrook Scarlett, Campus Attorney