



State University of New York

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October 12, 2008

To whom it may concern:

Re: Letter of Support for character of Dr Victor Skormin

The purpose of this letter is to express my personal support for and attest to the character of Distinguished Service Professor Victor Skormin. I am aware that Professor Skormin is currently under custody and awaiting trial in Kazakhstan on charges of currency smuggling. I have read the translations of all documents sent to me regarding his case and the ongoing proceedings. I also realize that Professor Skormin used poor judgment in regard to the cash currency he was carrying. However, I sincerely believe that he did make an "honest" mistake, as he says, with no illicit or tax evasions intentions in mind.

Ever since I joined Binghamton University as chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in August of 2006, I have come to know that Dr. Skormin is one of the most energetic senior researchers in the ECE department at Binghamton. For example over the past three years, he has published a total of 4 journal papers, 12 conference papers, and co-edited 4 volumes of conference proceedings published by Springer-Verlag. Last year two of his PhD students graduated, both having received awards for their work; currently he is supervising the work of 4 PhD students. Dr Skormin is a leader in the department in the area of information security. He is director of the Center for Advanced Information Technologies (CAIT) at our university.

The department of electrical and computer engineering at Binghamton University sorely misses Prof Skormin. He is one of our best instructors and excellent mentor for graduate students. I respectfully ask you to resolve this case promptly, and let Victor return home and get back to work.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen A. Zahorian".

Stephen Zahorian
Professor and Chair
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering