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January 12, 2013

Dear Colleague,

This is a letter of recommendation in support of Ahmed Rashed's application for a postdoc position in theoretical physics with your group. I have known Ahmed for four years, since he joined our department in the 2008-2009 academic year. During this time, he has taken two graduate courses with me (statistical mechanics and gravitational theory) and has done very well in both of them. I have also seen him give various talks in the department, including a colloquium on his work on a proposed model for neutrino mixing; the talks were always well organized and delivered, and he showed good command of the material. As Graduate Program Coordinator for our department, I recently nominated him for a Dissertation Fellowship for the Spring 2013 semester, and the Graduate School has decided to award him the Fellowship.

Ahmed is a student with a very solid background, technical capabilities and motivation, easy to interact with but able to work independently as well, who works hard and has the ability to take initiatives. In terms of papers written, his research output is higher than that of any other graduate student we've had in the theory group, and in terms of academic performance he ranks in the top 10%–15% of students who have gone through our department in recent years (during this time we've typically had a total of about 30 students enrolled in our graduate programs at any given time, and I am comparing him to a total of about 100 students). He has already worked in various areas of theoretical particle physics, including neutrino, top quark and Higgs boson physics, and he is the sole author of one of his papers. I am confident that he will remain a productive physicist and I highly recommend him for a postdoctoral position. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Best regards,

Luca Bombelli

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