

Date: 8/24/2007

To: Whom It May Concern

From: [REDACTED]

Subject: My Views on Professor Rusi Taleyarkhan as My Mentor

My name is [REDACTED]. I am beginning my [REDACTED] semester as a PhD student and my [REDACTED] year as a Purdue student overall. I earned my BS in Nuclear Engineering in [REDACTED] and my MS in Nuclear Engineering in [REDACTED]. I was inducted into Alpha Nu Sigma (the nuclear engineering honor society) at the end of my sophomore year and have been a long standing member of the American Nuclear Society; Purdue chapter and National.

I met Professor Taleyarkhan when I took his course 'Nano-Macro Scale Applications of Nuclear Engineering' as an undergraduate student. This was the course that prompted me to remain at Purdue for graduate studies in nuclear engineering. In this course, Professor Taleyarkhan introduced us to a wide range of applications beyond the nuclear power industry, the area for which Purdue is so well known and most undergraduate courses are geared to. I could see where I could use the engineering skills that I had acquired in these other areas. I began working with Professor Taleyarkhan as a graduate research assistant in [REDACTED] and decided to continue through the end of my PhD studies. As I finished my MS degree, I had planned to find a job in the nuclear engineering field. Professor Taleyarkhan assisted me in my job search and opened many doors even though he desired that I continue on for my PhD. He fully supported whatever I thought was best for myself. In the end I decided the best thing for me was to do my PhD.

During the past three years working as a research assistant I have engaged in research concerning [REDACTED] and sonofusion. From these experiences I have found Professor Taleyarkhan to be an excellent mentor. He motivates me to perform at levels I did not realize I was capable of and always makes a point to acknowledge the achievements of the members of our research group. He welcomes all ideas from everyone in the group. This time in Professor Taleyarkhan's lab has shown me the ups and downs of experimental research in which sometimes it feels that nothing ever works correctly. During these times of frustration and doubt Professor Taleyarkhan has always been there with an encouraging word and just enough insight to help me solve the problem and come away learning as much as possible. As my mentor, Professor Taleyarkhan has helped me grow as an engineer, researcher and person.

My high level of admiration for him as a scientist and as a person has grown stronger as I see his professionalism in handling the terrible accusations that have been made against him in the past few years. In my experience as a student it seems that many professors often forget that the students are one of the major reasons they are at the university. As a result, I have seen students suffer for reasons they had nothing to do with. Professor Taleyarkhan is at the other end of the spectrum. Our education as students is of the utmost importance to him. He has never lost sight of this, even when times were extremely difficult for him.

In closing, I have and will continue to recommend Professor Taleyarkhan as a high quality, knowledgeable, fair and ethical instructor, mentor and advisor.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]