Date: 08/11/2015

Dear immigration judge

We are writing to you as a matter of urgency to ask for the release of Mr. Yan Ou from ICE detention center. The below signatories are Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) current students and alumni, who consider Yan Ou as a friend, and more importantly a person of good character.

Yan has the nickname of “Mentor Ou” among his friends. We call him “Mentor Ou” not only for fun, but also because we consider him as a trustworthy, respectful and responsible man.

Yan is an easy-going and reliable friend. People like to hang out with Yan, as he is such a peaceful and open-minded person. We love to have his company whether it is playing games, having food, watching sports, or simply taking a walk on campus. Yan serves as a board member of the RPI Chinese Students & Scholars Association (CSSA). We are grateful to him for all the time he has spent to organizing many social events for the community.

Yan is caring and helpful. When the new student came to Troy for the first time, he was always the one who volunteer to pick him/her up at the Albany airport. When a RPI student was stuck in Troy on a snowy day without a car, he was always the one who volunteer to give her a ride when it is needed. When a RPI student involved a medical accident, he was the one to call the ambulance and drove him/her home from the hospital.

Yan is an honorable person who lives by his principles. He always has the courage to pursue what is right. During his 5-year study at RPI, he has been diligently seeking academic success. Among his peers, he has been the graduate student to look up to and admire. Yan has published 13 articles on the top conferences and journals in the field of robotics and control. According to Google Scholar, his publications receive a total of 169 citations, which is an outstanding achievement for a junior researcher. Earlier this year, Yan received the job offer from Facebook. He quickly became the popular senior to seek advice from among junior graduate students.

This is the “Mentor Ou” we know and love: a self-disciplined and respectful man. There is no reason to think Yan is either a threat or dangerous to this society. Moreover, Yan has been serving the RPI community for the past 5 years, and we all believe that he will be serving the society with great diligence and talent in his bright future. Therefore, please release Yan from ICE detention center.

Sincerely,

Yi Qian (F1)

PhD student at Cornel University. RPI Alumnus, 2010 - 2013

Yan Ou and I became close friends soon after we met at RPI in 2010. We kept in touch after I left RPI in 2013.

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