

EMORY UNIVERSITY

Department of Psychology

J. J McDowell, Ph.D.

Atlanta, Georgia 30322
404/727-7438
FAX 404/727-0372

Office: 404/727-4135
Laboratories: 404/727-7443, 404/727-4171
email: psyjmd@emory.edu

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Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am happy to recommend Dr. Andrei Popa for a faculty position at Connecticut College. I have known Dr. Popa since he came to Emory as a first year graduate student. After working with Dr. Phillip Wolff for several years, he decided to change his research direction and I agreed to take him on as a graduate student in my laboratory for mathematical and computational behavior analysis. I was initially reluctant to accept him into the lab because I already had a number of students to whom I devoted considerable time, and because I did not know Andrei very well, having only had him as a student in my graduate course in advanced statistics. However, I am glad that I decided to accept Andrei because he turned out to be an excellent graduate student.

I served as Andrei's thesis advisor for his Master's research and as his dissertation advisor for his Doctoral research. I also worked with him on a number of other projects in collaboration with other graduate and undergraduate members of our lab. I have heard Andrei lecture in classroom settings (including as a teaching assistant in my own classes), in departmental colloquia, and at national and international professional meetings. I have also observed him interacting with other graduate students and faculty, as well as with undergraduate students, in both professional and social settings. In short, I have observed and interacted with Andrei in many settings, and I know him very well.

Andrei is an excellent scientist. His research is innovative while still being carefully conducted, analyzed, and discussed in a broader scientific context. His work has entailed both data collection, including experiments with human subjects, and the formal development and testing of quantitative mathematical and computational theories of adaptive behavior, so his research training and experience has been quite broad. Andrei's analytic skills are excellent. His graphical representations of data are always exceptionally informative, and are often inspiring. He is also an excellent writer. Andrei has conducted all of his empirical and theoretical research with intelligence, enthusiasm, conscientiousness, and professionalism.

Andrei is also an excellent teacher. For example, our department holds a research festival each fall where various labs present overviews of their work. A number of years ago, my lab was invited to participate. Because our research deals with mathematical and computational models of adaptive behavior, it requires patient and careful explanation, especially to a general audience. I volunteered Andrei to present the overview of our lab's research because I knew he

would do a good job. I was not disappointed. His talk was excellent. It was entertaining, informative, and inspiring. Most importantly, he effectively conveyed the nature and substance of our complex research program. I was very pleased with Andrei's performance, and I can honestly say that I could not have done a better job myself.

Andrei has given similarly excellent talks at several international conferences, and has impressed many of my colleagues with his work, and with his communication skills in a lecture format. His performance as my teaching assistant also was excellent. He interacted well with the undergraduates, was patient with them, and was helpful in review sessions (which he conducted on his own), and during office hours. Many students told me that he was a great TA, and that he had been very helpful to them.

In conclusion, I am happy to give Dr. Andrei Popa a strong recommendation for this position.

Sincerely,

J. J McDowell, Ph.D.

J. J McDowell, Ph.D.
Professor