

Palaiseau, September 19th, 2014

Dear Rhodes Trust,

I am writing on behalf of Matthew Feldman regarding his candidacy as a Rhodes Scholar. I am the principal investigator of the Biophotonics Laboratory at the Institut d'Optique (Palaiseau, France) and had the pleasure of supervising his research here during the summer of 2013. I highly recommend him for your program, as I can attest to his academic ability and personal integrity.

In the period of time while Matthew worked in my lab, I noticed that he was hard working, self-motivated, and intelligent. He demonstrated exceptional resourcefulness, independence, and efficiency when it came to designing the optics setup and creating the program to run his experiment. Even during challenging periods of his project, he showed only focused perseverance, the ability to be creative and innovative, and a very high frustration tolerance. His work was very thorough, as he was a critical thinker who always asked insightful questions to ensure he had a fundamental understanding of the concepts before applying them. He also showed a large amount of finesse and care when it came to working with sensitive and hazardous lab equipment.

Matthew also had very good interpersonal skills, since he worked very effectively with others in the group despite the language barriers. The other lab members had a positive experience working with him and enjoyed getting to know him while he was here. He was very attentive to every cultural detail, putting extreme effort in being respectful and responsive inside and outside of the lab. Even when placed in difficult and adverse cultural situations, he always acted with maturity and composure.

For the reasons mentioned above, I strongly believe Matthew would be an outstanding candidate for the Rhodes scholarship. I am certain that his academic talent and personal character would make him an asset to your program, and I sincerely hope that you will be able to accept him. If you have any questions or would like further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Arnaud DUBOIS, Professor



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