Daniel M. Lofaro is a Ph.D. Candidate that has been an active member of my lab, the Drexel Autonomous Systems Lab (DASL), since early 2007. Since 2008 he has been lead on the NSF-PIRE project where he is primary caretaker and researcher on the full-size (130 cm tall) humanoid robot Jaemi Hubo. His work has culminated in multiple live demonstrations of his research. Most recently Daniel made Hubo throw the first pitch at a Major League Baseball game. This was a successful demonstration in front of nearly 46,000 spectators plus everyone watching on TV.

I have faith in Daniel’s professional skills. I have full confidents that he will complete all tasks he says that he will complete. Two demonstrations of my faith in Daniel are when I appointed him to the position of workshop chair for the NATO-ASI 2010 two week workshop in Turkey. He was in charge of organizing six separate group that had workshops that were created by universities from around the world. 27 (is that correct?) separate countries participated and the event was as success. I also assigned Daniel to be a technical assistant for the ICRA 2012 international robotics conference that I was Program Chair. He was a key person that made ICRA 2012 a successful and well-organized event.

Daniel represented the United States as well as my lab in an optimal manor when he spent 8 weeks in South Korea working at the Hubo Lab at the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology via a NSF-EAPSI Fellowship. Daniel helped solidify our partnership with Hubo Lab and has been an integral part of the project. Daniel also emerged himself in the culture and it commonly referred to by friends as a “honorary Korean.”

Daniel’s proposed Fulbright project of mobile manipulating UAVs (also known as drowns with arms) is a natural transition from his Ph.D. work in end-effector velocity control for legged robots. Daniel’s knowledge and experience in the subject makes him uniquely qualified to make significant contributions in this bleeding edge research.

I know that Daniel is a self-driven and motivated man with a “go getter” attitude. This is shown threw the two small businesses he has started. One is a consulting firm where he became an independent consultant for UAV companies. The second he just started where he is constructing a smart phone app for a professional community, the details of which he does not want me to share until it is released.

I have full faith that Daniel will represent the United States as well as my lab in a gracious and professional manor that will provide groundwork for future collaboration. Daniel’s “go getter” attitude will ensure that he will prosper in his research, personal/professional relationships, as well as form future business ventures.