



January 13, 2004

Professor James A. Glazier  
Director, Biocomplexity Institute  
Department of Physics  
Swain Hall West 159  
727 East Third Street  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
Bloomington, IN 47405-7105

Dear Professor Glazier:

I am happy to provide a reference letter for Lingchong You. I have known Lingchong since he joined the department for graduate studies six years ago. I was chair of graduate admissions in the semester in which we recruited Lingchong to the department so I remember his case well. We had a very successful recruiting year and Lingchong joined the department with about 17 other Ph.D. students in Fall 1997.

Lingchong chose John Yin as his thesis advisor and began working on the problem of modeling viral growth cycles at the genetic level. Lingchong next came to my attention in January 1998. His performance on the department's four written Ph.D. qualifying examinations was remarkable. He ranked first on two exams, second on one exam, and third on the fourth exam. Ranking that highly across all four examination areas is highly unusual.

I am sure Professor Yin will comment on Lingchong's research accomplishments; although I was not on his thesis committee, I also have some personal knowledge in this area. Lingchong and another student in John's group came by to ask me about some modeling and systems issues related to the mathematical models they are using. The questions involve nonlinear, stochastic differential equations, which raise some very challenging, difficult and technical mathematical issues. I was very impressed with Lingchong's willingness to tackle these issues; it is clear that Lingchong is paying close attention to the relevant mathematical and modeling issues as well as the biological science in his research. The ability to combine the best work from two fields is always a harbinger of emerging scientific maturity, and Lingchong has demonstrated this ability.

Lingchong was an obvious leader in Professor Yin's research group. He was the motivating force behind inviting several outstanding biological systems modelers to visit the UW-Madison campus. These seminars have had a large impact on the wider ChE department, and not just Professor Yin's research group. I attended several myself, and they have been outstanding. Attendance was routinely more than 50 faculty and graduate students.

On the personal side, Lingchong is full of energy and enthusiasm. His optimistic outlook is contagious. He collaborates well with others. I am confident he will make an excellent classroom instructor. The systems biology ideas Lingchong is pursuing are far from mature and the field is well positioned for continued growth and development. Given his excellent background and high energy, I think Lingchong will be highly visible and active during the development of this field.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James B. Rawlings', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

James B. Rawlings  
Paul A. Elfers Professor