

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

December 16, 2003

Biocomplexity Faculty Search Committee  
c/o Prof. Rob de Ruyter van Steveninck  
Biocomplexity Institute  
Indiana University  
Swain Hall West 117  
Bloomington, IN 47405-7105


Dear Prof. van Steveninck:

I am pleased to strongly support the application of my ex-student, Gregory Kenning for your faculty position. When Greg came to MSU from Canada, after completing a Masters Thesis in theoretical physics, he was more mature and theoretically sophisticated than our typical graduate student. He quickly passed our examinations and I took him on as a Ph.D. student. After examining a few alternative projects, he decided to explore the possibility of measuring effects of dimensionality on spin-glasses, working jointly with Prof. J. Cowen and me. His thesis project turned out to be very fruitful, attracting NSF funding and generating several invited talks. Greg contributed both ideas and effective effort to its development. In addition to learning a wide variety of experimental techniques, he also did theoretical analysis to pin down potential alternative interpretations of what he found.

As Greg was finishing his Ph.D. thesis, I recommended him highly for a post-doctoral position with Ray Orbach, then at UCLA. Greg subsequently moved with Ray to UC Riverside where Ray went as President. Greg has published some nice papers with Ray who, I believe, has been very pleased with him. Over the years Greg has also broadened his experience in new directions, including now some biophysics, and has had some success as an entrepreneur.

Greg is a hard worker who is able to understand the physics behind the projects he works on. He is very personable, gets along well with people, and communicates well. I'm not surprised to see that students at UC Riverside rated his teaching highly. All in all, I am able to recommend Greg Kenning highly to you. He is a self-starter who has a broad range of experience and gets work done efficiently and well. He has several potentially fruitful ideas for research projects and should be able to succeed in the competitive world of academic science.

Sincerely yours,



Jack Bass  
Professor of Physics



*Dr. Jack Bass*  
Professor of Physics

COLLEGE OF  
**NATURAL SCIENCE**

**Department of  
Physics and Astronomy**

Michigan State University  
4220 Biomedical Physical Sciences  
East Lansing, MI 48824-2320

TEL: 517/355-9200 x2201  
FAX: 517/353-4500

Email: Bass@pa.msu.edu