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UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

The Tenure Review Committee for Professor Andrew P. Black
Computer Science Department
Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science
Post Office Box 751
Portland, Oregon 97207-0751
USA

Philosophisch-
naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät

Institut für Informatik und
angewandte Mathematik (IAM)

**Software Composition Group
(SCG)**

Bern, November 10, 2004

Dear Tenure Review Committee,

As a Ph.D. student in Switzerland, I first had the opportunity to meet Professor Andrew Black in the fall of 2001. At that time, Professor Black was visiting the Software Composition Group at the University of Berne for a few months during his sabbatical. Since then, I have visited him and his group at OGI for over two months in total and have had an extremely fruitful and pleasant collaboration with him.

I benefited greatly from his excellent technical knowledge and practical experience, be it while designing new programming language mechanisms or when implementing these mechanisms in our pair programming sessions. Of even more value was Prof. Black's exceptional skill in helping me refine and express my ideas. Even when I only had raw ideas and was not able to express them in a very coherent way, he not only listened to and encouraged me, but was able to see the underlying concepts and help me extract and refine them.

Although Prof. Black is not one of my official supervisors, he has had a great impact on my course of study. He encouraged me to explore the direction which ultimately became the topic of my thesis, and together we wrote five significant papers that contain much of the material for my thesis.

I am very thankful to Prof. Black for providing me with such excellent support during the course of my Ph.D. It has been a pleasure to collaborate with him and I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to work with him.

Sincerely,

Nathanael Schärli

Nathanael Schärli
Neubrückstrasse 10
CH-3012 Bern

+41 31 631 35 47
+41 31 631 33 55
schaerli@iam.unibe.ch
www.iam.unibe.ch/~schaerli