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Dear Recipient,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Department of Communication Systems at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. I was studying in the department towards the B.Sc. degree (2001-2005), the M.Sc. (2007-2009), and towards the Ph.D. degree (2009-2013).

Being intrigued by the area computer networks, I started my undergraduate studies at the department in 2001. I really enjoyed the studies, especially the mixture of a deep theory, practice of programming and computer networks fundamentals. All the lecturers were highly knowledgeable and very pleasant, so the atmosphere was very nice and encouraging. The administrative staff was great: Hana and Judith were always very professional, very responsive and always willing to help students.

The B.Sc. degree I earned at the department along with the final project experience (programming of a cutting-edge network processor), opened me unique opportunities on the industry job market. It took me no more than one month to get several job offers at the leading communication companies. I could feel my advantage in the communication area (communication networks principles, protocols and algorithms) over the electrical engineering and computer science graduates. I was successfully employed for 2 years at the "*VocalTec Communications*" company where I was responsible for programming network processor and the drivers for an embedded Voice-over-IP gateway hardware.

Then, I heard that our department opens the M.Sc. studies and immediately applied. I wanted to gain more in-depth knowledge in the area of communication systems. The new M.Sc. program was very challenging and research oriented: I finished it with 2 publications. After finishing M.Sc., I decided to continue to Ph.D. which turned out to be an interesting and challenging journey which resulted in 14 publications. I owe this success to my great advisors: Chen Avin and Zvi

Lotker who helped me and encouraged me during the whole process. And of course, I would not be able to complete the M.Sc. and Ph.D. studies without the generous financial support of the department and my advisors.

After finishing the Ph.D., I got several job offers in industry (including companies like *IBM Labs* and *Ericsson Research*), and from several universities for Postdoctoral positions. All this due to the unique specialization I gained in the department which is the mixture of theory and practice.

I decided to join *UT Austin* (in Texas, United States) for a Postdoctoral position. Nowadays, I'm finishing my Postdoctoral year and starting to investigate opportunities for extending my abroad experience. I see a lot of interest in my specialization in the industry and I already received several job offers (one of them is from *Amazon*).

I don't know yet what career path I will eventually choose, but I know that the plenty of great options I have are due to the unique specialization and experience that I've gained during my undergraduate and graduate studies in the department of Communication Systems Engineering at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Finally, I want to wish the Communication Systems Engineering department many more fruitful years of producing great communication systems engineers and the high quality research. As a minor suggestion, I would like to see in the department a, very relevant today, specialization of data-center networks, software define networks, and network virtualization. I think that theoretical and practical knowledge of these areas would give even more advantage to the CSE graduates on the current job market.

Sincerely,

Michael Borokhovich.