

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kevin Karsch and I am an undergraduate at the University of Missouri. I would like to present you with a brief synopsis of my experiences with Dr. Kolenikov in and out of class because he has undoubtedly been a key factor to my success at MU.

In the spring semester of 2007, I enrolled in Dr. Kolenikov's course, Statistics 4710, a required class for my computer science degree and an elective for my math degree. There were no statistics pre-requisites for this class, and I had not yet taken a course based purely on statistics my entire life. However, Dr. Kolenikov wonderfully presented the building blocks of statistics in the first few weeks of his class while at the same time introducing more complex concepts that would be necessary later in the course. I thought this style of teaching was unique and welcomed by much of class, and it certainly helped with my progress of learning material that I had not been exposed to. Most professors will not even bother briefly explaining material that *may* have been covered in other classes, but Dr. Kolenikov was able to seamlessly make this necessary addition in his lectures without sacrificing class time.

Through all of my courses at MU, I have not met another professor who invests as much time in his students' education as Dr. Kolenikov. During the first few weeks of classes, Dr. Kolenikov had everyone in both of his lectures (each lecture had 30-40 students) schedule a time to have a one on one meeting with him so he could get to know each of his students personally. I have never had another professor initiate this first interaction; usually the role is reversed. Also, Dr. Kolenikov came to class motivated and prepared to teach every day. The enthusiasm in his voice while lecturing provided evidence of this, and our class always went the full fifty minutes. While this is not a unique trait, from my experience this enthusiasm and great use of class time is not observed by many professors. His immense knowledge of the subject was also evident because of his ability to answer students' questions with no hesitation, always replying with a more than satisfactory answer. In terms of participation, Dr. Kolenikov constantly encouraged his students to participate by working out problems on the board. His use of "learning by example" in class greatly aided in my understanding of the material, and by working problems in front of the class I was able to gain more confidence in my problem solving ability. Dr. Kolenikov gave the class weekly anonymous surveys in order to assess his teaching methods, the material being covered, and what could be improved. Using these evaluations, Dr. Kolenikov could dynamically make necessary changes to the curriculum and his teaching habits to best fit each individual class of students. This is also something I have never seen any other professor do, and it provides further evidence of how much Dr. Kolenikov cares about the education of his students. Even after the course ended, Dr. Kolenikov has offered his support to me at any time. For example, last semester I had a question that my research professor in the computer science department could not answer. However, Dr. Kolenikov was able to provide a solution, and the resulting research from his solution was presented at a recent international engineering conference. Also, Dr. Kolenikov has been helpful with any questions I have had concerning graduate schools, tips for succeeding as a graduate student, and sources for funding.

Overall, I felt that Dr. Kolenikov taught his class with more enthusiasm, care, and devotion than any other professor I've had during my studies. Although he taught the material in an outstanding manner, I still had to put a great deal of work into the course at home, much like

any course that results in receiving a great education. What I learned from lecture combined with my work at home made the class exceptional, and this material has aided me in both of my areas of study as a computer scientist and as a mathematician. The quality of the education I received from Dr. Kolenikov has fueled my ability to succeed in higher level math courses as well as allowing me to complete graduate level research in the computer science department. Therefore, I feel that Dr. Kolenikov is a great faculty because of his incredible and, to me, unmatched ability to teach students at the college level.

Sincerely,

Kevin Karsch