

Dear Dr. Braun Guitler,

To obtain at a Dutch University a doctorate in the physical sciences at the age of 24, is one of the less frequent occurrences. You may justly be proud to have achieved this.

When you came to Leiden two and a half year ago, you were not yet so well acquainted with the field of statistical mechanics and in particular with the problems concerning transport theory and irreversible behaviour in general, in which we are interested here in Leiden. It did not take very long, however, before you had studied a sizable fraction of the more advanced literature on this subject and started working on a number of smaller research topics. You finally undertook to study problems connected with the behaviour of a particle in harmonic oscillator assemblies, and as a result presented the thesis on which you obtained a doctorate today. The questions considered by you are of importance for the understanding on a microscopic basis of Brownian motion, and therefore of irreversible behaviour and for instance relaxation phenomena in general. It is for these reasons that the work contained in your thesis has already received much attention in this country and abroad. I especially want to compliment you for the ingenuity you have shown in solving the complications arising in the study of the quantummechanical aspects of the problems you have discussed.

You intend, Dr. Braun Guitler, to return to Mexico in the near future where you will work at the University of Puebla. I hope you may pleasantly remember the time you spent here in Leiden and that you will be successful in your new entourage and give more and more signs of the scientific talents that you so clearly possess.

May I also extend my congratulations to you wife and to you parents who were able to attend this ceremony.