

NOTES

FROM DEAN CLARK

March 21, 2016

Dear members of the Hajim School community:

Congratulations to **Robert Boyd**, Professor of Optics, who is **recipient of the Optical Society's 2016 Charles Hard Townes Award**, named for a pioneering researcher whose contributions to masers and lasers led to the development of the field of quantum electronics. Robert, whose citation is for "**fundamental contributions to the field of nonlinear optics, including the development of methods for controlling the velocity of light, of quantum imaging methods, and of composite nonlinear optical materials,**" said he is "deeply honored to have been accepted to receive this award, especially in that Charles Townes was my own thesis supervisor."

Gina Bolanos '18 of Mechanical Engineering is a fine example of the **first generation college students** we encourage to enroll in the Hajim School. "Ever since I was in the 6th grade, I knew I wanted to go to college," Gina told [NBC News](#) recently. "But it was difficult for me." Her parents — Mexican immigrants who didn't complete elementary school — "were there to help, but they could only support me so much." She credits the University's **First Generation and Early Connection Opportunity** programs with giving her a good start here. "If I don't know something, I find a way to get a solution," she said. "I have my parents to thank for that." I know from my own experience what a big step it is to be the first person in your family to attend college. I commend Gina and all the other first generation students at the Hajim School. Our [STEM-Gems](#) program is specifically designed to help our first generation, low income and/or underrepresented minority freshmen successfully navigate their first year here — and beyond.

Casey Waldren '17 of Computer Science shares some interesting [insights](#) from his **study abroad last semester at the Aquincum Institute of Technology in Budapest, Hungary**. He was able to transfer two of the three upper level courses that he took at AIT to satisfy requirements for his degree. He gained some really close friends, broadened his network of people from different colleges, and, above all, gained a "real appreciation for the differences between our culture and Hungarian (and European) culture."

Speaking of study abroad, this spring's edition of our [Full Spectrum](#) newsletter — just off the press — includes a story about **various Hajim School initiatives to encourage study overseas** and the positive responses of students who have done so. You can also read stories about the **growing popularity of our audio and music engineering program**, and the unique opportunity that is provided to our **Center for Medical Technology and Innovation** masters students to **immerse themselves in clinical settings** before designing the next generation of medical devices.

As always, keep me updated, and have a great week.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Clark
Professor and Dean



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