May 23, 2016

Dear members of the Hajim School community:

For an excellent, up-to-date overview of inertial confinement fusion using lasers, be sure to take a look at the review by Riccardo Betti and co-author Omar Hurricane recently published by Nature Physics. They assess what's been accomplished at the Laboratory for Laser Energetics and other facilities using five approaches to ICF, and the challenges that still must be overcome to realize this potential source of abundant energy. Riccardo, an internationally recognized expert in this area, is our Robert L. McCrory Professor at the Laboratory for Laser Energetics and Professor of Mechanical Engineering; Omar Hurricane is chief scientist for ICF programs at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. You can also read a summary here.

Hitomi Mukaibo, Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering, has been doing some interesting work with the Brighton School District involving STEAM -- incorporating art into STEM classes as way to further stimulate student interest in science, technology, engineering and math, and to help them think creatively about the major challenges that scientists and engineers confront. Listen in at 1 p.m. this Friday, May 27, as Hitomi and the Brighton teachers she's been working with discuss STEAM on the WXXI-AM 1370 Connections show with Evan Dawson. You can also read more about Hitomi's project here.

My deepest thanks to Lisa Norwood, our Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies, and to all who helped her in organizing our Commencement ceremony (our first ever with a jumbotron), to our faculty who turned out in force to assist in handing out diplomas and to show their support for our graduates, and, of course, to Ed Hajim, for sending the Class of ’16 out into the world armed with his sage counsel and advice. Remember those four “P”s!

What an exciting way to end the school year -- with a memorable sendoff for our graduates, and the announcement of Wendi Heinzelman as our new Hajim School dean. It doesn't get any better than that!

Enjoy the Memorial Day weekend; next issue of this memo will be June 6.

Robert L. Clark
Professor and Dean