Dear members of the Hajim School community:

Congratulations to Nick Vamivakas, associate professor of quantum optics and quantum physics and of physics and astronomy, who is the second recipient of the Mandel Faculty Fellow Award. The award is given every two years by the Department of Physics and Astronomy in honor of the late Leonard Mandel, a longtime University physicist and pioneer of quantum optics. The award includes a grant of $25,000 to support the research of young faculty members whose interests are in quantum optics and atomic, molecular and optical physics — the same areas that Mandel championed. Read more [here](#).

I am pleased to note that three additional new faculty members are joining the Hajim School. Gilbert "Rip" Collins, currently director of the Center for High Energy Density Physics at Lawrence Livermore National Lab, joins the Department of Mechanical Engineering as professor this summer, with secondary appointments as professor of physics and astronomy, and senior scientist at the Laboratory for Laser Energetics. His work on matter at high energy density, from thousands to billions of atmospheres, finds applications in planetary science, stellar evolution, and controlled fusion. He will lead an area of increasing importance at the University, exploring the behavior of matter under extreme pressure.

Chenliang Xu joins the Department of Computer Science as an assistant professor, after finishing his PhD at the University of Michigan. Chenliang works with streaming media, including problems in video understanding, such as video segmentation, semantic segmentation, action recognition and video-to-language. Chair Sandhya Dwarkadas says Chenliang will bolster departmental strengths in computer vision and will likely find plenty of opportunities to collaborate with his colleagues in artificial intelligence and possibly parallel computing.

The Department of Computer Science is also bringing on board Tamal Biswas as a lecturer. Tamal, who finished his PhD this year at SUNY Buffalo, will teach the Introduction to Programming class for nonmajors and a course on Computer Networks. Tamal’s research interests center around human decision-making; he has conducted empirical studies comparing the move preferences of human chess players of various skills to the move preferences of strong chess engines.

We also welcome Arturas Jukna, head of the Department of Physics at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University in Lithuania, who is joining Prof. Roman Sobolewski’s research group for the coming year with a Senior Fellowship from the Baltic-American Freedom Foundation. Prof. Jukna is an expert on electromagnetics and high-temperature superconductivity.

For a good example of why our audio and music engineering program is growing by leaps and bounds, check out this [podcast](#) that lecturer Stephen Roessner’s students put together after hosting their inaugural Open Sessions live concert earlier this spring. Stephen came up with the idea of inviting local or touring bands to drop by the audio studio at Rettner Hall for free
concerts, with University students providing a live audience, and his students recording, mixing and mastering the music. For this session, David Kunstmann and Erik Nunez were the recording engineers, Kurt Li was mixing engineer and Jillian Donahue was mastering engineer. Two Philadelphia bands, Cape Wrath and F. Woods, performed. Stephen hopes to offer more of these concert/podcasts as the program grows.

We extend our condolences to the family of Edwin Carstensen, professor emeritus of electrical and computer engineering, who died June 24 at his home at age 96. Prof. Carstensen, who joined the University in 1961, was an internationally recognized expert on the impact of electric and magnetic fields and ultrasonic waves upon living things. His 1987 book, Biological Effects of Transmission Line Fields, is considered a landmark in the field. Carstensen, the first director of the University's Center for Biomedical Ultrasound, was one of the first scientists to study the potential side effects of diagnostic ultrasound. Scientists from around the country gathered in his honor here in October 1991 for a two-day festschrift, or "writing festival," to present work that was either spawned by Prof. Carstensen's work or was closely related to it.

Your dean,
Wendi Heinzelman

HAJIM SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER