

NOTES

FROM DEAN CLARK

Jan. 25, 2016

Dear members of the Hajim School community:

I know many of you are interested in how the **AIM Photonics** initiative is progressing. The New York State Photonics Board of Officers, of which I am a member, met **for the first time last week and affirmed Rochester's role**. The board, charged by Gov. Andrew Cuomo with implementing the investment of state funds in AIM Photonics, agreed that: 1) the business headquarters and technology accelerator will be at Legacy Tower; 2) the workforce development center and incubator will be at Sibley Building; 3) manufacturing operations will be at Eastman Business Park, and 4) academic research and development at Rochester-based institutions will include SUNY Poly Canal Ponds, our University, and Rochester Institute of Technology. It is also worth noting that the funds will be **administered in accordance with the terms identified in the AIM application** and Empire State Development will be the fiscal agent. **This is a promising step forward** in this historic opportunity to bolster our nation's manufacturing of integrated photonics, transform the solid core of optics, photonics, and imaging companies in this region and open up new avenues of research and innovation for our faculty and students.

We've had some good success in obtaining federal grants in recent months. I've been especially impressed by the success of some of our young and early mid-career faculty members. **Nick Vamivakas** of Optics and **Danielle Benoit** of Biomedical Engineering, for example, have both received prestigious NSF CAREER awards; **Ehsan Hoque**, **Phillip Guo** and **John Criswell** all received funding through a new NSF program that recognizes "potentially transformative ideas" from computer science faculty members in their first academic position. These investigators are great role models for our younger faculty as we look to broaden our portfolio of research funding at the Hajim School. Indeed, **we have the overall depth of research talent at this school to pursue major projects on many fronts**. For more on that, see the current Research Connections newsletter [series](#) on University investigators who have undertaken such projects.

Speaking of external funding, Cindy Gary, our Assistant Dean for Grants and Contracts, notes that **some important changes in NSF and NIH grant application requirements go into effect today**. Click [here](#) to read more in the weekly newsletter she sends out to Hajim researchers; back issues can be found at our [website](#).

Applications are now being taken for the 2016 [Nakatani RIES: Research and International Experience Program](#), which connects undergraduates with the best of science and engineering research in Japan. U.S. students can apply to **spend up to 12 weeks in Japan in summer**, participating in language, cultural, and communication training and conducting hands-on research in a leading science or engineering research host laboratory. **Deadline to apply is Feb. 1.**

Hajim students can explore other opportunities to study overseas by attending the **Study Abroad Global Fair from 1-3 p.m., this Friday, Jan. 29 in Wilson Commons, May Room and Bridge Lounge**. There will be information tables for all UR study abroad programs, as well as other semester, year, and summer

international opportunities. Representatives from the Financial Aid Office will be on hand to advise students and a travel agent will be present to provide information about transportation and International Student ID Cards. You'll even be able to apply for a passport on the spot and have passport size photos taken. Read more [here](#).

Be sure to see the current issue of the *Campus Times*, for an article about sophomore **Shira Katz** of Mechanical Engineering, **describing her trip to the 2015 Pan American Maccabi games in Santiago, Chile**, during winter break with the U.S. Women's Volleyball team, which took a silver medal.

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

Sincerely,

Robert L. Clark
Professor and Dean



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