Feb. 1, 2016

Dear members of the Hajim School community:

Congratulations to Angela Ryck, master's student in the Center for Medical Technology and Innovation, who is winner of the University's third annual "America's Got Regulatory Science Talent" competition, in which students suggest solutions for issues confronting the Food and Drug Administration in any of eight priority areas. Angela's idea involves a universal card that could be used at stores or restaurants when a person buys food. The card would be linked to their contact information so that, in the event of a recall, those who purchased the recalled item could receive direct notification. "Stores like Wegmans and Costco are already doing exactly this, but it is not yet widespread or used by restaurants," Ryck explained. She has also devised an online survey to help the Food and Drug Administration get a sense of how people in different geographical areas have received and/or understood past communications. She will travel to Washington, D.C., later this spring to present her idea to the FDA.

Jonathan Ellis, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, was recently invited to appear on “The Amp Hour,” which is a weekly electronics podcast with about 10,000 regular listeners. He discussed academia, his own research, and research in general. Here's the link if you'd like to listen in:
http://www.theamphour.com/

Carlos Sevilla, who received his master's degree (2007) and PhD degree (2012) from our Department of Biomedical Engineering, is now Director of Corporate Social Responsibility at Thermo Fisher Scientific. Click here to see a video in which Carlos describes the company's STEM outreach program for students in the Boston public schools. Those who worked with Carlos here when he was a student and technology transfer associate have described him as "an extremely intelligent, insightful, and driven professional with a positive personality that fosters collaboration," and "one of the finest students that we have had at the University in the past 13 years." I think you'll see that reflected in this video.

I encourage our faculty and grad students to attend Ron Faibish's presentation Wednesday on ARPA-E, the Department of Energy agency that funds transformational Research and Development in energy. This can be an important funding agency for many of our researchers. Faibish, Senior Advisor at the Advanced Research Projects Agency, will give an overview of the agency's mission, future R&D trends, and opportunities for universities to engage with ARPA-E. His talk will be at 9 a.m. in the Gowan Room on the second floor of Wilson Commons.

The Society of Women Engineers is hosting an information session about the Los Alamos National Lab next Tuesday, Feb. 9, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Dewey 1-101. The Lab hires students in the fields of chemistry, environmental science, engineering, management, and administration; this is a great opportunity to network, learn about the lab, and work for the lab in the future. Interested students may sign up here. If you have further questions, contact Marina May.

Thanks to our department chairs and department administrators who met with Hajim School senior
leadership team members last week to update their progress on various enrollment, student retention, study abroad and external funding goals that we're working towards. I am impressed with the progress being made. All of us in Lattimore are committed to working hand in hand with our colleagues at the department level, and we very much appreciate their hard work.

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

Sincerely,

Robert L. Clark
Professor and Dean