

NOTES

FROM DEAN CLARK

April 18, 2016

Dear members of the Hajim School community:

The members of **Prof. Robert Boyd's group** in Optics — including **Omar S. Magaña-Loaiza, Mohammad Mirhosseini, Robert M. Cross, Changchen Chen and Seyed Mohammad Hashemi Rafsanjani** — continue to publish intriguing research -- most recently regarding twisted light, which makes a sort of corkscrew shape as it propagates, and holds potential for applications in quantum communications. In a recent paper in *Science Advances* they **show that fluctuations in "twisted light" could be exploited for a range of applications**, from detecting rotating black holes to object detection by lidar, the light-equivalent of radar. (Read more [here](#).) In *Physical Review Letters* they describe overcoming experimental challenges to demonstrate a new way for getting a full picture of twisted light. (Read more [here](#).) This is exciting work!

Congratulations to four Hajim School students who will receive **Student Life Awards** on Thursday. Sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Students, the awards **recognize undergraduate students who have significantly and positively impacted the University or the surrounding community** through service to others, investment of talent and time, and pursuit of excellence. **Syed Muhammad Miqdad '19** of Chemical Engineering will receive the Andrew Fried Prize for a male student showing outstanding qualities of character, superior moral judgment, and interest in serving his fellow students during his freshman year. **Pedro Vallejo-Ramirez '16** of Optical Engineering will receive the Seth H. and Harriet S. Terry Prize given to the male member of the senior class who, by his industry, character, and honorable conduct, has done the most for the life and character of the undergraduate community. **Omar Soufan '17** of Biomedical Engineering and Mathematics, and **Ibrahim Mohammad '17** of Mechanical Engineering will receive the Social Entrepreneurship Award, which is given to a student or group of students who have pursued an innovative idea with the potential to enhance community or to address a pervasive community issue, on or off campus. Omar and Ibrahim organized a rehabilitation center in Lebanon, sponsored by the Syrian American Medical Society, which tends to wounded Syrian refugees.

Our **Society of Women Engineers chapter** received the **Region E Collegiate Small Section Membership Award** at a recent SWE regional conference in Newport News, Va. Click [here](#) to read more about the conference, and what our students learned there.

Attention graduating seniors: We have recently been notified by the Registrar's Office that **any changes or revisions to clusters, majors or minors will only be processed until Monday, April 25. After that, any new major/minor declaration forms will need to be accompanied by an Administrative Committee Petition.** Any and all documents submitted for a senior after April 25 will NOT be processed or reviewed until AFTER Commencement. Since there are nearly 50 Hajim School seniors who are simply missing paperwork in order to be cleared for their diplomas, it is extremely important that you pay attention to this information. Questions? Contact [Kelly Johnson](#).

Juniors, seniors and first-year graduate **students who might be interested in pursuing a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship** can attend an information panel from **1 to 2:30 p.m. this Wednesday, April 20, at Dewey 1-101**. The panel will include faculty members who have served as readers for the national competition, and recent successful student applicants. Participants will get an **orientation to the fellowship program and tips on preparing a competitive application**, to help them jump start their applications this summer, or be better prepared to apply in in a year or two.

Anyone who has glanced in the Fabrication Studio in Rettner Hall recently, or any number of other labs in our departments, will know that **Design Day is fast approaching**. Mark your calendars for **April 28**, when posters and prototypes will be on display from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Goergen Athletic Center. Read more [here](#).

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

Sincerely,

Robert L. Clark
Professor and Dean



HAJIM SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER