NOTES
FROM DEAN CLARK

April 25, 2016

Dear members of the Hajim School community:

Congratulations to **Alexander Kotelsky** of Assistant Professor Mark Buckley's lab in Biomedical Engineering. Alex has been named a **recipient of a 2016 Edward Peck Curtis Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student**. "Alex is **more committed and skilled in undergraduate instruction than any graduate student I have come across throughout my career**," Mark wrote in a nomination letter. For example, as TA for BME 212 this semester, Alex "attends every lecture . . . (though he is not required to do so), helps plan and run two biweekly recitation sessions, holds several office hours a week and meets individually with any student needing extra help. A number of students have expressed to me how appreciative they are of Alex's help. One student wrote: 'I want to mention that Alex Kotelsky is a great TA and I appreciate how much effort he puts into our recitations. It is very helpful in my overall comprehension of the material.'" That is high praise indeed, and an indication of the vital contributions a good TA can make. Well done, Alex!

Congratulations as well to **NullSpace VR**, co-founded by Morgan Sinko '16, Lucian Copeland '15, '16 (KEY) and Jordan Brooks '15, **who won second place in the 2016 Rochester Venture Challenge**, including $5,000 cash and $2,500 rent credit for space at High Tech Rochester's Lennox Tech Enterprise Center. Twenty-nine companies in the greater Rochester region entered this year's competition.

The third annual **DandyHacks 36-hour hack-a-thon** at Rettner Hall earlier this month — organized by the Computer Science Undergraduate Council (CSUG) and RocHack — drew 140 students from our own University and from RIT, Syracuse University, Stony Brook University (NYC), and Waterloo University (Canada). "Both the students and the judges (John Pershing from 1010data, Prof. Chen Ding, Prof. Chris Brown and Prof. Henry Kautz) were truly swept off their feet by some of the projects that students came up with," said **Sasha Shanina** '16, the overall organizer. Click here for photos from the event and a list of winning projects.

Two of the most important events that showcase the achievements of our graduating seniors are almost upon us. Click here to learn more about attending **Design Day this Thursday, April 28** and to see the list of more than 70 projects, including team members, supervisors and sponsors. Click here for all you need to know about our **Commencement ceremony — and related school and departmental celebrations — on Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and 15**.

Each year, Hajim School undergraduates, individually or in teams, participate in **The Charles and Janet Forbes Entrepreneurial Competition** by submitting a business plan for a manufacturing or technical business (usually based on their senior design projects). Members of the Hajim School community are invited to attend this year's competition from **1 to 3 p.m. this Thursday, April 28, in Schlegel 102**. Students will present their plans to a panel of technical entrepreneur judges with prize money of more than $8,000 at stake. A reception will follow the presentations. Click here to register

to attend.

Registration is about to close for the University's Falling Walls competition on May 18. I encourage Hajim School students, grad students and junior faculty members who have an exciting research idea or project to consider entering. The winner will receive $500 and will travel to Berlin, Germany, this fall — all travel and lodging expenses paid — to pitch his or her research or entrepreneurial idea before some of the world's top scientists and thinkers at the International Falling Walls Competition. Click here to register. To learn more about this event, visit the official Falling Walls website or contact Adele Coelho.

Reminder to graduating seniors: **Today is the last day for processing any changes or revisions to clusters, majors or minors.** After today, 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 today will NOT be processed or reviewed until AFTER Commencement. Questions? Contact Kelly Johnson.

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