

NOTES

FROM DEAN CLARK

May 2, 2016

Dear members of the Hajim School community:

I was a first generation student myself, so I know how hard it can be to reach for more when others think you are reaching too far. That is why I am so proud of our **STEM-Gems team**, which **received a University Meliora Award** last week for the incredible job they've done **supporting our first generation, low-income and underrepresented racial minority students**, especially during their freshman year. Thanks to **Lisa Norwood, Nicholas Valentino, Kelly Johnson, Rohan Palma, and Alvin Lomibao** of our staff, to STEM-Gems participants **Asia Ingram and Jenny Quintero** who wrote compelling testimonials, and to all the other **STEM-Gems students and tutors** for their efforts in helping us **dramatically improve our retention of "at risk" students** who have so much to contribute to our field. Read more [here](#).

Congratulations to **Prof. Laurel Carney** of Biomedical Engineering, who received the **Students' Association Engineering Professor of the Year award** at the recent Undergraduate Research Exposition. Click [here](#) to read more about how her deck of cards keeps her students on their toes! **Madeleine Laitz '16** of Chemical Engineering **received a President's Award** for her presentation on "Toxicology and Environmental Prevalence of Rare Earth Elements." **Sarah Bjornland '17** of Optical Engineering and **Andrew Stern '16** of Electrical and Computer Engineering **received Dean's Awards** for their presentations, "Ex vivo Two-Photon Autofluorescence and Confocal Reflectance Microscopy" and "Ultra-High Responsivity of Optically-Active Semiconducting Asymmetric Nano-Channel Diodes," respectively. And **Jonathan Boualavong '16 (T5 '17)** of Biomedical Engineering **received a Professor's Choice Award** for his poster presentation, "Electrochemical Harvesting of Photosynthetic Biocurrent from *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*."

Congratulations as well to **Dan Smith**, the Undergraduate Program Manager at the Institute of Optics. Dan is this year's **recipient of the Dottie Welch Student Enrichment Award**, named in honor of the former undergraduate coordinator in Biomedical Engineering. Dan has worked wonders in helping build the Institute's undergraduate program in recent years. He organizes the annual Photon Camp that brings high school students here for an introduction to optics. Above all, he **takes a passionate interest in the Institute's undergraduate students**, whether helping them solve a scheduling problem or dispensing some solid personal advice. "He supports us through everything, from being an administrator to life advice," said Michael Dupuis, a senior in optical engineering. "**He's always there for us.**" You can read more about Dan and his award [here](#).

Mary Bucklin '16 of Biomedical Engineering talks about **her research in the lab of Asst. Prof. Mark Buckley** in the current issue of *Campus Times*. Mary has been studying insertional Achilles tendinopathy, and says "doing research has motivated me in the classroom because I know I'm not just learning to get an A on the test. I'm learning to actually understand the material and apply it and make an impact on the world." Read more [here](#).

Six Hajim School students have received **scholarships to study abroad** this summer and fall. **Nicholas Boldt '18** of Biomedical Engineering has **received a Gilman scholarship of \$5,000 and a Freeman Asia award, which provides up to \$3,000**. Nicholas will be participating in a Japanese language program this summer in Osaka through CET Academic Programs. We have awarded five more **Hajim School International Experience Scholarships** of \$500. **Raymond Chin '18** of Biomedical Engineering (Germany), **Sheilah Kirui '19** of Biomedical Engineering (Chile), and **Jorge Sanchez de Llano '17** of Computer Science (Russia) will study abroad this summer. **Hong Chen '18** of Biomedical Engineering (Spain) and **Luke Dengler '18** of Chemical Engineering (Australia) will study abroad this fall.

Our **Baja SAE team** scored well in Sales (13th), Cost (13th), and Design (21st) out of 96 total teams entered in the recent Baja SAE event in Cookeville, Tenn., reports team president **Alycia Abbott**. "Unfortunately we had some trouble with the car, but we were able to work together as a team to address the issues and earn an overall place of 36," she said. Next up: the Baja SAE event hosted by neighboring Rochester Institute of Technology in June.

Our **Visiting Committee members**, here for their spring meeting, were duly impressed with the **74 posters and prototypes** that filled the Goergen Athletic Center basketball courts this past Friday for **Design Day**. Congratulations to all of our **seniors and CMTI masters students** for their excellent work, to **Jim Zavislan** and all who helped him organize this event, and to **John Major**, chairman of our Dean's Advisory Committee, for arranging the excellent talk given by our guest speaker, **Martin Cooper**, inventor of the cell phone. Click [here](#) for an updated list of senior design projects and photos.

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