

NOTES

FROM DEAN CLARK

May 9, 2016

Dear members of the Hajim School community:

Edmund A. Hajim '58, our school's chief benefactor and chair of our University's Board of Trustees, will **receive the Eastman Medal** during Commencement ceremonies this coming weekend. The medal is named after George Eastman, the Eastman Kodak Company founder whose gifts and guidance were pivotal in transforming our University into a modern institution of higher learning. The award **recognizes outstanding achievement and dedicated service**. I cannot think of a more deserving recipient; Ed has poured heart and soul into helping our University and school become ever better!

Two of our faculty members from The Institute of Optics are equally deserving of the major teaching awards they will receive from the University this weekend. **Duncan Moore** '74 (PhD), the Rudolf and Hilda Kingslake Professor of Optical Engineering, **will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award in Graduate Education** for his ability to inspire students with his boundless enthusiasm for new approaches to teaching, technology and business. Duncan has taught 15 optics courses ranging from introductory to advanced graduate classes; he has advised nearly 60 master's and PhD students. **Andrew J. Berger**, Associate Professor of Optics and Biomedical Engineering, **is the 2016 recipient of the Edward Peck Curtis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching**. His students appreciate Andrew's willingness to listen, to explain difficult concepts clearly, and to make use of videos and other tools to free classroom time for discussion. Click [here](#) to read more about these and the University's other top awards.

I am especially pleased to recognize these outstanding students, who are recipients of the following Hajim School awards (click [here](#) for a list that also includes awards presented by our departments):

The **Charles L. Newton Prize** -- recognizing engineering students who show a special proficiency in an engineering subject and have conducted research, given a presentation or published a paper -- is awarded to **Andrew Stern** '16 of Electrical and Computer Engineering and **Pedro Vallejo-Ramirez** '16 of Optical Engineering.

The **Donald M. Barnard Prize** -- awarded to junior or senior engineering students on the basis of personal qualification and achievement -- goes to **Jiashi "Maggie" Han** '16 of Optical Engineering, **Robert Harding** '16 of Chemical Engineering, **Marlen Mahendraratnam** '16 of Biomedical Engineering, **Kiara Osolinsky** '16 of Electrical and Computer Engineering, **Alan Shramuk** '16 of Electrical and Computer Engineering, **Rabi Shrestha** '16 of Electrical and Computer Engineering, **Allison Stiller** '16 of Biomedical Engineering, and **Sean Wang** '16 of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The **Richard Eisenberg Engineering Award** -- which recognizes hard-working undergraduates with an interest in metallurgy -- is presented to **Yatong Ge** '16 of Chemical Engineering.

The **Robert L. Wells Prize** -- presented to senior engineering students for demonstrated competence in both engineering and the humanities, based on the highest-ranking seniors in the Hajim School as of the fall of their senior year -- is awarded to **Jonathan Boualavong** '16 (T5 '17) of Biomedical Engineering, **Madeleine Laitz** '16 of Chemical Engineering and **Frank White** '17 of Audio and Music Engineering.

The **Tau Beta Pi Prize** -- for Tau Beta Pi seniors who, through academic achievement, proven leadership and sterling character, have excelled and inspired fellow students -- is awarded to **Daniel Mangino** '16 of Mechanical Engineering and **Steven Tau** '16 of Chemical Engineering.

The **G. Harold Hook Prize** -- presented to a student who has demonstrated outstanding interest in engineering -- is awarded to **Sean Reid** '16 of Optical Engineering.

Congratulations as well to several of our students who did well in two recent entrepreneurship contests. First place at the annual **Charles and Janet Forbes Entrepreneurial Competition** went to Pollinate Publicity, whose team members include **Jeff Hrebenach** '17 of Data Science and Economics and **Wilfred Wallis** '17 of Computer Science. There was a tie for second place between two teams of biomedical engineering seniors: **Syed Reefat Aziz** and **Rose Mbaye** of AnesthEZ and **Marlen Mahendraratnam** and **Samuel Perakis** of Scoliosis Brace Compliance. In addition, the **NullSpace VR team** won second place and \$5,000 in the nanotech/advanced tech category at the 7th Annual \$500,000 **New York Business Plan Competition**. Team members include **Jordan Brooks**, **Morgan Sinko** and **Lucian Copeland**.

This will be my last commencement as Dean of the Hajim School. Please join me at this weekend's [ceremonies](#) as we celebrate another group of outstanding graduates. I am confident they will make the world a better place.

Meliora!

Robert L. Clark
Professor and Dean



HAJIM SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER