

# NOTES

## FROM DEAN CLARK

June 6, 2016

Dear members of the Hajim School community:

Each spring members of our **Baja SAE** team have traveled as far as Portland, Oregon, to compete in a series of endurance tests against other University teams that have designed and built off road vehicles. **This week you can see our team in action right in our own back yard**, at the Rochester Institute of Technology-hosted Baja SAE event. One hundred teams will participate from across the United States, and even from Brazil, Mexico, India and Venezuela. The event opens with a series of **"static" events on Thursday and Friday at RIT's Gordon Field House** at 149 Lomb Memorial Drive. These events include engine check, technical inspection, brake inspection, sales presentations and a design competition. **"Dynamic" events on the weekend will include grueling hill climb, acceleration, suspension and maneuverability competitions on Saturday and a four-hour endurance race on Sunday at the Hogback Hill Motocross**, 4343 Hogback Hill Road in Palmyra. This is an exciting event for students and onlookers alike. Please drop by if possible at any of these events to show support for our team. Read more about the team [here](#), and click [here](#) for more information about the competition.

Special kudos to our Baja SAE team for **also serving as student ambassadors for Team Helios from India**, whose 14 members will be **assembling their vehicle this week in the Fabrication Studio at Rettner Hall**. UR team members will provide space, tools and camaraderie during the vehicle assembly and will help transport the India team's truck to the competition venues.

Our students benefit when they can interact on projects with alumni who practice engineering in the "real world." And so do our alumni. For example, **Eric Janosko '08**, a chemical engineer at ORAFOL Precision Technology Solutions, **has sponsored senior design teams each of the last two school years** for the Department of Chemical Engineering. (Read more [here](#).) "The projects are extremely valuable in giving the seniors a taste of a true professional project, and I love seeing what they come up with," said Janosko, who worked with one senior design team during the fall semester of 2014, and two more teams this past school year. "The projects are also mutually beneficial; **I am working on implementing or adapting ideas from the students and have probably learned as much from them as they have from me.**" Thanks to Eric and all our other alumni and external sponsors of senior design projects. **If you have a project you would like to sponsor, contact Jim Zavislan**, our associate dean of education and new initiatives at [james.zavislan@rochester.edu](mailto:james.zavislan@rochester.edu). Please include "design day" in the subject line.

**Stephen McAleavy**, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering, and Daniel Mruzek, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, **have launched an IndieGoGo campaign**, hoping to raise \$32,000 in order to **mass produce a device they have created that can help parents better potty train children with autism**. They hope to eventually interest an entrepreneur in using the device as the basis for a start-up company. Read more [here](#).

Congratulations to **Danielle Benoit**, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering. Along with **J. Edward Puzas**, the Donald and Mary Clark Professor of Orthopaedics, she has **developed a peptide-based approach to deliver drugs directly to the bone** for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of musculoskeletal diseases and disorders. The therapeutic agent is **being commercialized by Taithera, Inc., a New York City-based biotech company, and UR Ventures**, the University's technology commercialization office. This exciting approach can help in the treatment of osteoporosis, bone cancer, bone fracture, bone allograft rejection, bone autograft rejection, and Paget's disease.

The **Benoit lab**, by the way, will hold its **7th annual fundraiser this weekend in support of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation**. Donations help pay for research to find **better treatments and cures for childhood cancer**. Drop by the lab's stand from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Rochester Public Market, 280 N. Union St.; from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Brighton Farmers Market, 1150 S. Winton Road; or visit their [website](#).

Congratulations as well to 11 Hajim School student-athletes who qualified for **Liberty League All-Academic teams** in their respective spring sports. This entails **maintaining a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.2**. They are: **Gabriela Alatorre** '18 Mechanical Engineering (softball); **Kathleen Dupre** '16 Mechanical Engineering (rowing); **John Ghyzel** '18 Audio and Music Engineering (baseball); **Haberly Kahn** '18 Chemical Engineering (softball); **Kayla Kibling** '16 Engineering Science (softball); **Gianna Macri** '18 Computer Science (rowing); **Jona Scott** '17 Computer Science (golf); **Garrett Sweeney** '17 Computer Science (golf); **Matthew Todd** '16 Biomedical Engineering (baseball); **Rebecca Walton** '18 Mechanical Engineering (rowing); and **Lindsey Willstatter** '16 Optical Engineering (rowing).

Among the many memorable moments at our recent diploma ceremony for the Class of '16 was the opportunity for **Prof. Stephen Burns to hand out the diplomas** for the Department of Mechanical Engineering, in recognition of **his many contributions to the department over the years** as teacher, researcher and faculty mentor. Stephen is **retiring as of July 1**, but will continue to pursue his research interests and interact with students and faculty members as an emeritus professor. Read more [here](#).

**Faculty members interested in creating and leading a short-term, study abroad program for students next summer** can apply for a **\$20,000 grant from CIEE** (the Council on International Educational Exchange). The program would last a minimum of two weeks, for at least 10 students. Application **deadline is Aug. 31**. Click [here](#) for more information or contact [Heidi Kozireski](#) in our Center for Education Abroad.

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

Robert L. Clark  
Professor and Dean



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