

NOTES

FROM DEAN CLARK

June 27, 2016

Dear members of the Hajim School community:

Please join me in congratulating **Diane Dalecki**, who takes over as **chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering** on July 1. She **succeeds Richard Waugh**, who founded the department 15 years ago. Diane has been associated with the department from the beginning, as undergraduate coordinator, as one of its first faculty members, and as an innovative teacher and researcher. As Rick notes, "She's always been there, extraordinarily dedicated and devoted to the department, and I think everybody senses that."

And congratulations as well to **Rick Waugh for the superb job he has done building this department from scratch**. BME graduated 10 students in 2000; this past academic year the department enrolled 368 undergraduate students, representing 21 percent of all Hajim School undergraduates, and 70 graduate students. It leads the school in numbers of female faculty and in percentage of female undergraduates. Its faculty members, 14 of whom are tenure-track, maintain a robust research program with average expenditures of \$5.1 million over the last eight years. This has been one of the great success stories of our school, and is one of the reasons Rick was recipient of our [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) in 2014. Well done, Rick!

We have some **talented new faculty members** joining us this coming academic year.

Edmund Lalor from Trinity College in Dublin and **Ross Maddox**, finishing his postdoc at University of Washington, will **both join biomedical engineering**, Edmund as an associate professor, and Ross as an assistant professor. Both are hired in partnership with the Department of Neuroscience; **both are experts in neuro-engineering** -- using signals from the brain to control a prosthetic, for example, or to help improve hearing. Their expertise will contribute to major initiatives in this area at the Medical Center, and further strengthen our opportunities for collaboration across Elmwood Avenue.

Jaime Cardenas, now a research associate at Columbia University, will **join The Institute of Optics** as an assistant professor. His research focus is **creating next generation photonic devices** integrated on a chip using novel 2D materials -- and **solving the critical technological problems preventing integrated photonics from becoming mainstream** in consumer applications. This dovetails nicely with the goals of the AIM Photonics initiative.

Stephen Wu, **joining electrical and computer engineering in January** as an assistant professor, is an Argonne National Laboratory postdoc and expert on semiconductors, who made headlines last year when he **discovered that you don't need a magnetic material to create spin current from insulators**. This has important implications for the field of spintronics and the development of high-speed, low-power electronics that use electron spin rather than charge to carry information.

And as mentioned in a previous memo, **Jessica Shang**, joining Mechanical Engineering as an assistant professor, will bolster that department's growing strength in fluid mechanics. Jessica, who is currently a postdoc at Stanford, **studies the interaction of flexible surfaces with the fluids around them**, which could have applications ranging from military to medical.

As I move on this week to my new duties as the University's Provost, is it any wonder that I do so with every confidence that the Hajim School is in good hands?

Please join me in giving **Wendi Heinzelman**, my worthy successor, the full measure of your support. She's going to be a great dean.

It has been an honor to serve the Hajim School. I will enjoy watching the school become ever better!

My best wishes and heartfelt thanks to you all . . .

Robert L. Clark
Professor and Dean

(Due to the July 4 holiday, there will be no memo next Monday.)



HAJIM SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER