September 6, 2016

Dear members of the Hajim School community:

I hope everyone is well rested after the Labor Day weekend and ready to make the most of the academic year that has just begun.

One way for our undergraduates to do that is to study abroad. A global experience is one of three key experiences outside of the classroom — internships and hands-on research being the others — that will build your confidence, broaden your horizons, strengthen your resume, and help you better understand engineering and refine your career goals.

Consider, for example, these testimonials from Hajim School students who studied abroad last spring:

Abdulwahab Alhaji ’17 of electrical and computer engineering was thrilled to visit the Prado, the main Spanish national art museum, during his spring semester at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. "These paintings had centuries of history in their strokes and personal anecdotes in their uniqueness," Abdulwahab says. He also became more fluent in Spanish, took three courses that count toward his degree, and another towards his cluster. Read more here.

Grace Caza ’17 of mechanical engineering was skeptical when she heard how study abroad can change a person’s life. Not anymore. Her semester at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, she says, “had an incredibly positive impact on my academic and professional goals.” Two courses counted toward her major, and another toward a cluster. She visited more than 13 cities in Spain, enjoyed bird watching, a visit to a local winery, cheese maker and the famous windmills along the trail that Cervantes described in his tale of Don Quixote. Read more here.

Emily Grey ’18 of biomedical engineering managed to engage in a global experience, an internship, and hands-on research while studying at the University of Sydney in Australia. She took two courses that will count toward her major, and enjoyed scuba diving and whale watching, climbed Sydney Harbour Bridge, and even went swimming in an extinct volcano. Read more here.

"Nothing compares to actually traveling to a different country," says Michael Kaplan ’17 of mechanical engineering who studied at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. He spent “the best 48 hours of my life” exploring rain forests, snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef, and skydiving in Cairns during spring break. Three of his classes counted toward his degree requirements. Read more here.

Zoe Tiet ’17 of computer science and digital media studies says she "really grew as a person" during her semester abroad at the Aquincum Institute of Technology in Budapest. "I was traveling alone, meeting new people, and learning about new cultures." The Versailles in Paris was one of her stops. Two of her courses counted toward her degree requirements. Read more here.

"A special, once-in-a-lifetime adventure,” is how Regan Wortley ’17 of mechanical
engineering described her spring 2016 semester at Dublin City University in Ireland, where she took three courses that counted toward her degree, and another toward her cluster. Memorable experiences included going to her first Irish pub, hiking along a Norwegian fjord, and eating French pastries at 5 a.m., then heading to the Louvre to beat the crowds. "Study abroad is a truly unique experience that I would recommend to anyone in a heartbeat," Regan says. Read more here.

If you are interested in studying abroad, **now is the time to start planning.**

**Freshmen:** meet with your faculty adviser to set up your 8-semester plan to include global experience. If you are a **sophomore or higher** you are eligible to start your global experience next spring 2017. You'll need to get your application in within the next month or so. For **rising juniors and seniors** who are unable to do the traditional study abroad experiences, please consider applying for a [DAAD-RISE Germany summer internship](#).

For more information, contact **Rohan Palma**, our study abroad advisor, at [rohan.palma@rochester.edu](mailto:rohan.palma@rochester.edu). And please check out our Hajim School study abroad [website](#).

If you have a chance, **drop by Room 271 of the Bausch and Lomb Building from 5 to 6 p.m. tomorrow**. The Department of Physics and Astronomy is holding a reception to honor Nick Vamivakas, associate professor of quantum optics and quantum physics, as the recipient of the **2016 Leonard Mandel Faculty Fellow Award**.

Have a great week!

Your dean,
Wendi Heinzelman