

NOTES

FROM DEAN CLARK

Dec. 21, 2015

Dear members of the Hajim School community:

Congratulations to **Edmund Hajim '58** (ChemE), the chairman of the University's Board of Trustees and our school's chief benefactor, who recently was **initiated as an eminent engineer into Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society**. The election was based on his consistent passion for engineering, dedication to engineering education, and exemplary character. "The University of Rochester New York Kappa chapter of Tau Beta Pi is extremely happy to welcome Mr. Hajim as a member of Tau Beta Pi. We also would like to thank him for everything that he has done for the school; we all have experienced his passion for and contributions to engineering education," said chapter president **Dan Mangino '16** of Mechanical Engineering. I heartily concur with that!

Catherine K. Kuo, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering, recently **received an Award for Innovation in Research** at the Go:Life in Orthopaedics Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden. Her talk, "Embryonically Inspired Approaches to Regenerate Soft Tissues," described her **innovative research program to regenerate tendons in a manner that recapitulates embryonic tendon development and scarless healing**. She described how she engineers 3-dimensional tissue models to study the mechanobiology of embryonic tendon formation, and uses the new information to develop novel tendon regeneration approaches informed by the embryonic processes.

Greg Gdowski, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering and the Rochester IEEE Section Chair, has **received an IEEE award for Regional Professional Leadership** from IEEE USA. The award is for demonstrated leadership efforts in advancing the professional aims of IEEE in Region 1, specifically in revitalizing the Rochester Section and the photonics community.

Among Hajim students showcasing their final projects for the fall semester were those of Asst. Prof. Ming-Lun Lee's **Interactive Music Programming class** in audio and music engineering. The students learned how to use ChuckK audio programming language and Wiimotes, MIDI controllers and other devices to **manipulate sounds in creative ways**. You can read about the class [here](#), and see a [photo gallery](#) and [video](#).

Two of our Computer Science undergrads — **Mitchell Gordon '16** and **Joyce Zhu '17** — have been **recognized by the Computing Research Association's prestigious Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Awards for 2016**. This award program recognizes undergraduates in North American universities who show outstanding research potential in an area of computing research. Mitchell was the top male awardee for PhD-granting institutions, and Joyce received honorable mention among females. Both have had first-author papers with Asst. Prof. Philip Guo in the past year on HCI projects. Read more about their accomplishments [here](#). The Computing Research Association's membership includes more than 200 North American organizations active in computing research: academic departments of computer science and computer engineering, laboratories and centers (industry, government, and academia), and affiliated professional societies.

A team of six students, including four graduate engineering students, took home a \$1,000 first place award in the University's **first SPARK Innovation Competition** earlier this month. The university partnered with O'Brien & Gere, a national engineering solutions company, to bring the competition to the UR campus for the first time.

The students, including **Maureen Newman**, Ph.D. candidate of Biomedical Engineering and '15 Technical Entrepreneurship and Management (TEAM); **Lan Wang** '17 of TEAM; **Xixi Zhang** '17 of Chemical Engineering; **Rodrigo Vergara** '16 of Data Science; **Christina Amaral** '16 of Biomedical Engineering and **Cole Sonett** '19 of Natural Science were among 27 students who competed in a fast-paced three-hour think-tank competition in Gleason Hall. They worked with subject matter experts from Garlock Sealing Technologies to brainstorm a problem statement, develop a solution and present their findings to a panel of three judges.

The second-place team, which won a \$500 prize, included: **Betty Sun**, Ph.D. candidate of Optics and '16 TEAM; **Elmo Lin** '17 of TEAM; **Antonio Cucala** '16 of Alternative Energy; **Ha “Harry” Lee** '16 of Chemical Engineering and **William DeMaria** '19 of Biomedical Engineering.

The SPARK competition, which was the first of its kind at the UR, was a great opportunity for students to build their resumes and work with real-world engineers and project managers on a technical problem. For more information visit the SPARK Innovation Competition [website](#).

Pamela Vong '08, the first undergraduate that the Computer Science Department sent to the Grace Hopper Conference in 2007, was recently invited to participate in the first **White House Tech Jam** as part of National Computer Science Education Week. Pam, a Tech Wizard for InfernoRed Technology with fellow CS alums Brian Meeker '07 and Ryan Korsak '07, has been an advocate for Women in Computer Science. Read more [here](#).

As always, keep me updated and have a great week. And I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season. The next memo will be Jan. 11.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Clark
Professor and Dean