STS Alumni Newsletter

9/12/2016

A Note from the STS Director

I want to send out a warm greeting to all of our STS alumni. The Program in Science, Technology, and Society is heading into its 45th year (if having operated under a number of names, beginning with Values, Technology, and Society). This make us one of the oldest STS programs in the country, and with over 200 undergraduate majors last year, one of the largest.

STS continues to thrive at Stanford through a strong team approach to teaching, advising, and management, with the program's Associate Director Dr. Kyoko Sato, the Program Manager Stephany D. Prince, Academic Advisor Sierra M. Vallin, Program Associate Emily Van Poetsch, and Writing Specialist Kevin DiPirro, as well as our annual crew of Peer Advisors. We have some seventeen affiliated faculty from across the university, from Engineering, Law, Medicine, Humanities and Sciences. They are involved in teaching courses and supervising honors students, one of whom, Vienna Harvey, won a Firestone medal for her thesis" The Role of Ethics in the Design and Regulation of Autonomous Vehicles," Science, Technology & Society, advised by Robert McGinn. A number of these faculty are serving STS Faculty Fellows, including Duana Fullwiley (Anthro), Pam Hinds (MS&E), Robert McGinn (MS&E), Woody Powell (GSE), Elaine Treharne (English).

One of the exciting developments for this coming year is that Dr. Sato will be directing a collaborative initiative between Stanford, Université Paris Descartes and Université Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne, "Nuclear Governance after Hiroshima: Atoms for War and Peace in Japan, France, and the United States 1945-1970." This project is supported by two grants, one from France-Stanford Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and the other from the Partner University Fund of FACE (French-American Cultural Exchange) Foundation, an American nonprofit organization in partnership with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States. The project will lead to a series of events and opportunities involving scholars, post-docs, and graduate students over the next three years.

Last year, our undergraduate journal Intersect published three issues, and its articles now collectively have accumulated over 100 citations in Google Scholar testifying to the contribution that the authors and editors are making. We invite you to have a look at what the students are publishing in this peer-reviewed journal, which has been made open access online.

John Willinsky

Khosla Family Professor of Education

Director of the Program in Science, Technology and Society

STS 2015-2016 Events

Roundtable

STS Roundtable: Articulating Your Major

"What is STS?" can be better answered by asking, "What does STS do?" In this roundtable discussion, Professor Willinsky and Dr. Sato explored this commonly asked question in an interactive workshop with 40-ish STS majors last Winter. Using STS concepts and student experiences, attendees learned how to confidently answer this question when asked by uninformed employers, graduate schools or parents!

STS Alumni Networking Dinner

In November,16 local STS alums, representing a wide array of industries from technology start-ups to product management and non-profit organizations, imparted their industry knowledge and post-Stanford experiences on wide-eyed majors seeking to understand what they can do with an STS degree.

Senior Dinner

STS Senior Dinner

STS affiliated faculty and program staff, along with 43 graduating seniors, gathered at the Holland-Yates residence (Tah.Mah.Lah) in Portola Valley for this unique end-of-year event. Tah.Mah.Lah is the greenest custom home in America and is completely wired with the latest clean technology advancements. To read more about this spectacular home click here. To see photos from last years event click here.

STS Diploma Ceremony

The Program in Science, Technology, and Society gathered together on June 12th to celebrate our STS Seniors. The Class of 2016 surprised their guests and faculty by dancing into the ceremony, celebrating the day. You can find a video of the surprise processional entrance from the STS Diploma Ceremony here, and enjoy the rest of photos here.

STS Diploma Ceremony

STS Awards

Robert McGinn Award Winner - Jasmine Park

Jasmine received this award in recognition of her outstanding academic acheivement towards a B.A. degree in the STS Program. She completed her degree with a concentration in Innovation, Technology, and Organizations. She starts her position at Microsoft's Asian Headquarters as Product Marketing Manager this September.

Walter Vincenti Award Winner - Brandon Evans

Brandon received this award in recognition of his outstanding academic acheivement towards a B.S. degree in the STS Program. He completed his degree with a concentration in Innovation and Organization. Brandon is spending the Summer in Los Angeles while seeking gainful employment.

Firestone Medal Winner - Vienna Harvey

Vienna won a Firestone medal for her thesis" The Role of Ethics in the Design and Regulation of Autonomous Vehicles," Science, Technology & Society, advised by Robert McGinn.

Intersect: The Stanford Journal of Science, Technology & Society

There are some exciting advancements happening with the Intersect. We are one of two undergraduate STS journals in the world and are excited to be a part of the growing STS interest. From a student interview about commercialized genetics on Caribbean biosociality, to the progression of humanitarian photography, see the latest issue of the Intersect: The Stanford Journal of Science, Technology & Society.

Connect with Students

Are you interested in reconnecting with Stanford undergraduates? Consider sharing your life perspective and serving as a mentor to STS students! You can find out more about becoming a mentor and register at the Stanford Alumni Mentoring (SAM). Registration is open throughout the year at the SAM website.

Connect With Us

If you're not already a member of our LinkedIn group, please take a moment to visit our Stanford STS LinkedIn Group and request membership. Many of our majors use our group to find out what career paths our Alums have taken.

Connect with us on Facebook to find out about STS events and highlights throughout the year.

Do you have a job or internship opportunity you would like to share with STS majors? Please contact Emily Van Poetsch emilyvp@stanford.edu giving us a brief explanation of the opportunity and we will include it in our weekly STS Wire e-newsletter.

Other Opportunities

Stanford Public Policy's Coterminal MA and MPP Programs

Public Policy has a profound impact on science and technology. It shapes who is likely to win patents, what can be patented, technology transfer from the military to the civilian sector, what kinds of science and technology get funded, companies' ability to innovate technologically, and much, much more.

For more information on applying to these programs, visit the Public Policy website

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