

STS Alumni Summer Letter

8.30.2013

A Note from the Director

Dear STS Alumni,

Usually summer is the slow season here on campus. But not this year, or at least, not in STS. We've been as busy as heck here in Building 200 and I wanted to write and let you know some of the things we've been up to.

First and foremost, we've been managing growth. We have well over 200 majors and are now the fourth largest undergraduate major at Stanford. Our faculty have responded by creating a raft of new courses. With funding from the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Professors Paula Findlen from History, Sandra Soo-Jin Lee from the Medical School, and Dan McFarland from the School of Education will offer a collaborative introductory lecture course to prospective and new majors. At the other end of the curriculum, we have a whole new series of small senior capstone courses. To take just two as examples: Walter W. Powell will teach a course on the sociology of innovation – a field that his research has defined for two decades. Elaine Trehame, one of the world's leading medievalists, will teach a one-of-a-kind course on texts as technologies – a course in which students will get hands on exposure to medieval manuscripts and use them to think about the design of interfaces, then and now. Our Associate Director, Dr. Kyoko Sato, will continue to offer courses on the politics of technology as well. At this moment, she is in Fukushima, Japan, on a National Science Foundation grant, researching the consequences of the nuclear meltdowns there.

Our extraordinary staff and our highly committed peer advisors have worked tirelessly to keep our majors engaged with one another and the faculty. As you scan down this email, you'll see some of the flagship events they've created. My personal favorite was the alumni dinner. It was really exciting to watch our students and our alumni recognize how much they had in common.

We hope you'll stay involved with the program yourself, in whatever capacity you can. STS is a major and a discipline, but at Stanford, we're also a community. And a growing one too.

Here's wishing you a bit of end-of-summer peace.

All the best,

Fred Turner

Director, STS

STS 2012-2013 Events

STS Roundtable: Articulating Your Major

"What is STS?" Professor Turner and Dr. Sato explored this commonly asked question in an interactive workshop with 60-ish STS majors last Autumn. 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 February, 19 local STS alums, representing a wide array of industries from technology start-ups to policy work 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.

STS Senior Dinner

STS affiliated faculty and program staff, along with 50 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](#).

STS Diploma Ceremony

A record-breaking 800 friends and family gathered on June 16th to celebrate our 83 STS Seniors. The Class of 2013 surprised their guests and faculty by dancing into the ceremony to the classic song "Shout!"

STS Awards

Robert McGinn Award Winner - Andy Stuhl

Andy received this award in recognition of his outstanding academic achievement towards a B.A. degree in the STS Program. He completed his degree with a concentration in Music, Science & Technology and worked as the training director at KZSU, Stanford's radio station. He hopes to pursue a graduate degree and continue his adventures in sound studies.

Walter Vincenti Award Winner - Ollie Khakwani

Ollie received this award in recognition of his outstanding academic achievement towards a B.S. degree in the STS Program. He completed a degree with a concentration in Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering. While a student, Ollie worked at the Spatial History and Experimedia Labs. He'll be traveling around Europe this summer before returning to the Bay Area to start working as a designer at Intuit.

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.

Do you have a job or internship opportunity you would like to share with STS majors? Please contact Andrew Weger at aweger@stanford.edu giving us a brief explanation of the opportunity and we will include it in our weekly [STS Wire](#) e-newsletter.

We know that you receive many emails, if you do not wish to be on this mailing list, please respond with the subject line "unsubscribe"

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