

STS Alumni Summer Letter

8.22.2014

A Note from the New STS Director

Hello STS Alums:

I'd like to introduce myself, as I'm the new STS Director starting September 1, 2014 and running for the next three years. But first, I'd like to join everyone in expressing our thanks to the marvelous job that Fred Turner has done in directing the Program in Science, Technology, and Society over the last three years, following on Robert McGinn's excellent leadership prior to that. It is worth noting that where Robert comes from the Department of Management Science and Engineering and Fred from the Department of Communications, I hail from the Graduate School of Education. This attests to the interdisciplinary nature of the STS program, which operates at the intersection of multiple interests.

My field of Education is itself an amalgam of disciplines. My own work is in the history of ideas that have an impact on learning – with studies on European imperialism, the role of dictionaries, and intellectual property – and in the sociology of knowledge, concerned with what is taught in schools, but also beyond the schools through *Wikipedia* and other *open* approaches to learning. In addition, there's an "activist" engineering side to my work involving the design and development of open source (free) software helping thousands of scholarly journals make their research more widely available, with many now offering "open access" to their content.

But enough about me – how about the STS program this year? Among new developments, we have taken on more of a global focus, under the leadership of the program's Associate Director Kyoko Sato, with courses that add that broader perspective and sense of responsibility. These global courses include World Food Economy, Science and Law in History, and Urban Culture in a Global Perspective. We are gearing up, as well, for the continuing growth of STS, which reached 300 majors last year. It is fortunate that the program has such a strong staff and faculty participation from across the campus.

I am looking to taking on this new role in STS for the coming year. Do feel free to introduce yourself and say hello. I appreciate this opportunity of working with the STS community, and welcome your continuing involvement in it.

Sincerely,

John Willinsky,

Director, STS

STS 2013-2014 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 65 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

The Program in Science, Technology, and Society gathered together in June to celebrate our STS Seniors. The Class of 2014 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](#).

STS Awards

Robert McGinn Award Winner - Mailyn Fidler

Mailyn received this award in recognition of her outstanding academic achievement towards a B.A. degree in the STS Program. She completed her degree with a concentration in the politics of science and technology in domestic and global affairs. She plans on attending Oxford University as a Marshall Scholar, after which she will attend Yale Law School.

Walter Vincenti Award Winner - Gabriel Ben-Dor

Gabriel 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 Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Gabriel plans on working as a research assistant in a neuroscience laboratory for a year while applying for medical school.

Intersect: The Stanford Journal of Science, Technology & Society

There are some exciting advancements happening with 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 Chaucer's astrolabe and Oculus Rift's virtual reality headsets, see the latest issue of 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.

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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