

STS Alumni Summer Letter

9.14.2015

A Note from the STS Director

Greetings STS Alums:

The STS team at Stanford is really looking forward to the 2015-16 academic year. I had a terrific first year as Director of the Science, Technology and Society Program at Stanford. I had taught with the STS program before, but I really came to appreciate the chance to collaborate with Dr. Kyoko Sato, the program's Associate Director, as well as with the Program Manager, Stephany D. Prince, Program Advisor Colleen McCallion, and Program Associate Andrew Weger, and Writing Specialist Kevin DiPirro, as well as the Peer Advisors.

The end of the academic year was a very special time, with ninety-plus new graduates crossing the stage, receiving their degrees, and entering alum-dom. I enjoyed the chance to meet many of the families of the students and promised many that I would do a much better job with the names and hometowns next year, as that was my first go at conducting commencement and it turned out to be a little more challenging than it looks.

We continue to work on improving the program. If you visit our website, you'll find signs of that. The students' [media productions](#) from STS 1 are on YouTube, with a link on the Core Requirements page. On the [Honors Degree Program](#), there's a video, created by STS grad Spenser Linney, of Honors students reflecting on the experience, along with Dr. Sato's comments on the program. We have put a renewed emphasis on the Honors program to encourage more research projects in STS, with Dr. Sato now teaching an introductory course in the area. On our [Beyond the Classroom](#) webpage, you will find links to a video of a guest lecture by distinguished STS scholar Sheila Jasanoff and our student journal Intersect (with a record three issues this year).

We wish you all the best in pursuits for the coming year and look forward to hearing from you, both new graduates and those from earlier graduating classes. You are always welcome to stop by or drop us a line to say hello. We welcome your continuing involvement in the STS community at Stanford.

John Willinsky

Khosla Family Professor of Education

Director of the Science, Technology and Society Program

STS 2014-2015 Events

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.

STS Senior Dinner

STS affiliated faculty and program staff, along with 60 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 2015 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 - Cody Behan

Behan 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 Information Technology, Media and Society. He plans on pursuing writing and producing for comedy television in the future.

Walter Vincenti Award Winner - Daniel Knapp

Daniel 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 Innovation, Technology and Organizations. Daniel plans on starting a rotational program at Google after graduation.

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 our interview with a Nobel laureate in chemistry to a comment on the distinction between humans and non-humans, 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.

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.

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](#) or contact the student services manager at mappelbaum@stanford.edu

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