Student Technology Services advocates for and delivers ubiquitous student technology services through excellent customer service and education and collaboration with students, faculty and staff of Washington University in St. Louis.

Alumni return for STaRS reunion

Student Technology Services welcomed back four alumni of the Student Technology and Resource Support (STaRS) program on Saturday, April 18, for the first All STaRS reunion.

Gabe Conradi, ’10; Kenneth Leu, ’10; Oliver Jones, ’13 and Henry Hu, ’14 returned to Washington University to speak with current students about their STaRS experiences and the opportunities they pursued after graduation.

The STaRS program matches WUSTL students with campus technology jobs, allowing them to gain hands-on work experience and skills training. Alumni of the STaRS program have gone on to thrive in technology-based careers and STS was happy to welcome them back to campus to share the paths they followed to success.

“It was wonderful seeing our alumni come together,” said Sherry Holmes, STS programs manager. “Our current students asked really great questions during the Q&A sessions and were given real world answers.”

Conradi, Hu, Jones and Leu were exemplary STaRS workers who have gone on to impressive careers. During their April visit, the four networked with current students and took part in question and answer sessions. Students, faculty, staff and parents were welcomed into Lopata Gallery for the reunion event to hear more about their career choices.

Conradi, a St Louis native and a Unix system administration student while at WUSTL, is now a site reliability engineer for the microblogging and social networking site Tumblr. Among his responsibilities are building infrastructure, systems and automation to support Tumblr’s growing user base, ensuring that the site is available, functional and secure.

Hu worked as an advanced technician for STS, while he earned his Bachelor’s degree in computer engineering and his Master’s in computer science. During his summers, Hu interned at Amazon and VelociData. Now, he is a financial technology associate at the Chicago offices of Citadel Financial, going through rotations with various teams to strengthen his knowledge in finance and programming while contributing to his team’s strategic goals. He will move to the New York offices of Citadel this summer.

Jones was a technician and student manager at STS, a member of the Web Content Management Team for IS&T and co-chair for the Student Technology Advisory Committee (STAC). Also while at WUSTL, Jones co-designed and published the WUSTL Dining mobile app, and was instrumental in the project that eventually developed the WUSTL Mobile app. Having earned his bachelor’s and masters degrees in computer science, Jones now works as a software development engineer for Microsoft, developing new features for Windows 10.

While at WUSTL, Leu also worked as a technician and then a student manager for Student Technology Services. After studying marketing, operations and supply chain management at Olin Business School, Leu matriculated to Cornell University, where he is now a second year MBA candidate. He will join HP this summer as a competitive strategy manager in the business personal systems group. Previously, Leu earned experience in tech consulting and marketing analytics with Accenture and Capital One.
Bukys to blog Cambodia experience

SPIN-IT alumna to teach computer science to young girls in Phnom Penh this summer

A SPIN-IT student participant is taking her leadership and technology skills abroad to teach young girls.

In May, Allison Bukys, class of 2016, will travel to Phnom Penh, Cambodia. There, she will teach elementary school girls about computer science and blog about the experience.

Bukys took part in the SPIN-IT program in 2013. SPIN-IT, a leadership program for WUSTL women in IT, originated in 2013 as an IS&T/STS initiative funded originally through a grant from the Office of the Provost, Diversity and Inclusion. The program was designed to create a professional development platform for WUSTL students and employees with an interest in information technology.

Bukys, a computer engineering major with a spot on the Dean’s List and a member of Tau Beta Pi Honor Society, participated in the SPIN-IT program as a student mentee.

“I am not surprised to hear that she is incorporating her passion for technology and engaging young women abroad in the STEM field,” said her SPIN-IT mentor, IS&T Senior Project Leader Veleria Boateng.

Cambodia won’t be Bukys’ first teaching experience: she worked as a teaching assistant and an engineering tutor during her career at Washington University. Furthermore, she has experience teaching young children as a swim coach and math tutor.

While in Phnom Penh, Cambodia’s capital and largest city, Bukys plans to document her experiences beyond SPIN-IT in a blog hosted by Student Technology Services. To keep up with Bukys’ adventures teaching in Cambodia, visit sts.wustl.edu this summer.

Graduating seniors leaving legacy with STS

Student Technology Services will bid a bittersweet farewell to three of its finest student workers in May.

Geoffrey Cheng, Clement Koh and Paras Voras will graduate on May 15, leaving behind a legacy of passion for technology and helping their fellow students.

“We were fortunate to have these three students working with us,” said Chris Huels, technical services and support manager for STS. “They’re hard workers, they’re excellent problem solvers and they have been good models for the younger technicians at STS.”

Cheng will earn his bachelor’s degree in computer science and biology. During his time with STS, he was a student technology coordinator, helping students solve problems onsite in the Park/Mudd residence halls. Cheng has accepted a job with Epic Systems in Madison, Wis., where he will work as a project manager. “Geoffrey was truly a model STC for us this year and a recognized asset to the STS team” Oana Jackson, STC supervisor said.

After earning his degree in chemical engineering, Koh will work with Mynah Technologies in St. Louis. He will be moving on to the University of Minnesota next year, where he plans to earn his Ph.D. in chemical engineering. Koh started at STS as a Level I Technician, was promoted to Level II Technician, and then became student manager in the fall of 2014.

Voras also started as a Level I Technician at STS and later earned a Level II spot, thanks in part to his reputation as a problem solver and a critical thinker.

He will graduate from Washington University with a bachelor’s degree in engineering and has been accepted into the University of Kentucky College of Medicine program for the fall of 2015.

“I wish them the best of luck, but I don’t think they will need it,” Huels said. “They are three very talented students, and I know they’ll succeed in anything they choose to do.”