May 2016

STS supports a variety of technology initiatives throughout the year.

Student Spotlight Edition

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.

STS Bids Farewell to Seniors

This month, Student Technology Services will say goodbye to more than a dozen members of its student staff, who are leaving WashU as graduates. While they have some wonderfully talented protégés working hard to fill their shoes, the departing seniors’ work ethic, skills, dedication and lively personalities will be missed not only by their peers, but by the members of full-time staff who have come to know them well and fondly.

STS and WashU wish our seniors the best of luck in all their endeavors, and if their careers as student workers are any indication, they are on the fast track to success!

Alex Berger
Alex earned a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts in communication design. She plans to move to Austin, Texas, to begin her home and career search.

James Fitzhugh
James is receiving dual degrees in computer science and applied systems engineering. He plans to take a brief hiatus at home before seeking a career.

Drake Lee
Drake is graduating with a bachelor’s in computer science. He’s a little late in finding a job, but wants to work in data analytics at a small company.

Justin Ho
Justin is graduating with a double major in philosophy-neuroscience-psychology and healthcare management. He will start his career at ZS Associates in New York City as a consultant.

Caroline Hsiao
Cal is completing her degree in American culture studies with minors in communications design and computer science. She will begin an on-campus position this fall.

Nick Brunner
Nick earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering, and minor in computer science. His career will start at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, as an electrical engineer in tactical wireless systems.

Lawrence Chen
Lawrence is graduating with a major in finance and a minor in communication design. He is moving to New York to work for Capital One.

Jillian Rose
Jillian will graduate with a bachelor’s in mechanical engineering, with a second major in geophysics and a minor in computer science. She continues to finalize her post-grad plans.

Paul Scheid
Paul is finishing with his bachelor’s and master’s in computer science engineering, with a second major in economics. His career will start at Wolverine Trading in Chicago.

Stephen Decker
Stephen earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in computer science, with a second major in electrical engineering, and minors in political science and bioinformatics. He will begin as a research analyst at Summit Securities Group this summer.

Leighton Wan
Leighton is graduating with a bachelor’s in biomedical engineering and a minor in computer science. Before applying for Ph.D programs, he will take a gap year doing research at the WashU School of Medicine.

Evan Witt
Evan will graduate with a bachelor’s in biology. Next year, he’ll start his Ph.D in biomedical sciences at The Rockefeller University in New York City.

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Decker Leaves with Fond Memories

Student Technology Services is bidding a bit-sweet farewell to its student manager, Stephen Decker. Decker, who started at STS as a Level I technician his freshman year, graduates this month with a bachelor’s and master’s degree in computer science, a second major in electrical engineering, and minors in political science and bioinformatics.

After traveling a significant portion of the Eastern Hemisphere after graduating, Stephen will start a research analyst position with Summit Securities Group, a high-frequency trading startup firm in Manhattan.

“Stephen has been such a hardworking and talented member of the STS student team,” said STS Director Sherry Holmes. “He is a great mentor for the younger student staff members, and I know his new employers will highly value all his wonderful qualities.”

When Stephen graduated high school, he took a job for his school district working on and cleaning up computers.

“I thought it would be really cool to do something similar in college, because I enjoyed it a lot,” said Stephen.

Though STS was fully staffed when he first interviewed, a position soon opened up and Stephen was hired as a Level I technician. He explained that his interest in solving technology problems for students was aided by the tutelage of the student manager at the time, Oliver Jones.

“I got along really well with Oliver, so even from freshman year I was interested,” Stephen said.

He continued on with STS as an STC for Hurd his sophomore year, as a Level II technician his junior year, and finally was promoted to student manager for his last year at WashU.

“We could always count on Stephen,” said Jared Oliver, STS manager of technical services. “I can’t thank him enough for his leadership this year, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.”

In his time as a student worker, he’s made many friends from STS, with whom he has enjoyed traveling and attending soccer matches.

Stephen credits the high caliber of student staff to its hiring practices.

“STS does a really good job hiring talented people, but it goes beyond technical skills,” he said. “A lot of people are hired not necessarily having the strongest technical background, it’s more an ability to learn and an interest in solving problems.”

The diversity in studies among student staff, said Stephen, allowed him to expand his group of friends beyond his everyday classmates.

“It’s nice not being surrounded by the same set of people with the same interests,” he said. “It’s refreshing.”

After commencement, Stephen plans to take a trip to places such as South Africa, Namibia, Qatar, Beijing, Mongolia, Tokyo, and Australia or New Zealand.

Late this summer, he will begin his career at Summit Securities as a research analyst.

“It’s the first time they’re hiring new grads as opposed to practicing professionals,” he said. “I’m hoping my role is more like applied research. It will be a lot of technical programming and math.”

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Grads Saluted at STaRS Event

A celebration last month commemorated the efforts of graduating student workers, who provide invaluable support and their incredible talents in technology-related roles at WashU.

The Student Technology Resource and Support (STaRS) program pairs students who have technological talents with WashU departments who need their skills. On April 22, STaRS hosted more than two dozen staff and graduating seniors involved in the program.

While the students received gifts commemorating their service, staff members such as Matt Arthur, director of Incident Communications Solutions with WashU IT, described the importance of the STaRS students’ work for ZS Associates in Chicago as a consultant.

Cheyenne Hammond

Cheyenne will graduate with a degree in anthropology.

Seamus Finnegan

Seamus is graduating with a degree in film and media studies, before beginning his master’s degree at the University of Southern California’s School of Cinematic Arts in film and television production.

Alex Ranney

Alex is graduating from Olin Business School with a BSBA in finance and computer science. He will work for ZS Associates in Chicago as a consultant.

STS does a really good job hiring talented people.”

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