SPRING

2018

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

INFORMATICS PROGRAM

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND

A newsletter exploring the lives and dreams of the

Academic Excellence Award winners for 2016-2017

&

Scholarship Recipients for 2017-2018

Scholarship & Award Opportunities

Computer Science and Informatics Excellence Awards

Every year the Computer and Information Sciences (COIS) and Informatics faculty has the pleasure of selecting the excellence award winners in our programs. The criteria for selection of award winners is primarily based on academic achievement, however, it is not the only criteria. Our award winners are typically students with junior or senior standing with excellent Computer Science or Informatics, as well as overall academic achievements. During their studies at IU South Bend, much has been expected of these students, and they have been consistent in their efforts to excel.

John P. Russo and William J. Knight Computer Science Scholarships

Every year the COIS Awards Committee has the pleasure of selecting the John P. Russo and William J. Knight Scholarship recipients. The basis for these awards is demonstrated potential for academic excellence in Computer Science or Informatics. The COIS faculty congratulate the scholarship recipients and applaud their achievements.

Informatics Scholarship

Every year the Informatics Awards Committee has the pleasure of selecting the Informatics Scholarship recipients. The Informatics scholarship has been established to provide high achieving incoming high school students majoring in Informatics at IU South Bend with financial assistance in completing their degrees. The Informatics faculty congratulate the scholarship recipients and applaud their achievements.

Computer Science is a high-demand field that emphasizes knowledge and innovation; its impact is felt in every aspect of our lives. Our faculty and students are poised at the cutting edge of computing, ready for an ever-changing world. We prepare our students for imagining, designing, and creating the technology of the future. Our program adopts a comprehensive approach spanning the continuum of computer science from the mathematical foundations all the way to the practical development of future technology. With the skills that they obtain while studying at Indiana University, our graduates are in high demand in Indiana as well as nationally.

Informatics provides you technology education to solve real world problems. It gives you a structural path to a bright future in information technology careers while also providing the flexibility you need to study what you love. As an informatics student, you won't just study information technology. You will model how technology impacts the academic disciplines that interest you most. Informatics is the understanding of information technology, its impact on society, and its applications to various fields such as biology, health care, chemistry, arts, business, music, philosophy, and psychology. Informatics is also one of the fastest growing fields in technology, and the demand is high in Indiana and nationwide.

Want to get involved?

Alumni
Join our LinkedIn Group to connect with other current and future alumni.

www.linkedin.com/groups/7062704

Give Now Visit **http://go.iu.edu/1PHV** and support us

◇ IUSB Computer and Information Sciences (0320003809)
◇ John P. Russo Fund for Academic Excellence (0370007911)
◇ William J. Knight Fund for Academic Excellence in Computer and Information Science (0370007917)

Daniel Cassidy

2017-18 CS Excellence Award Winner
B.S. in Computer Science
Computer & Information Sciences
Class of 2017

I chose Computer Science because:
I've always loved computers and programming, so going into CS just seemed like the natural progression of things.

High school and hometown:
Mishawaka High School, Mishawaka.

Name of the high school teacher or counselor who made an impact in your decision to attend college:
I'm a non-traditional student, not going into college until a little over 10 years after I graduated high school. As such, I can't really remember any one teacher or counselor who really inspired me.

My biggest academic accomplishment so far:
To be honest? Simply graduating. I wasn't a great student way back when in high school so getting my diploma was incredibly satisfying.

My academic interests include:
My academic interests include parallel programming and system/OS programming.

The one thing I'm most excited about:
I am so excited to finally be working. After going to school for 4 years, it's nice to be able to get out into the world and actually start making real money.

The one thing I'm most nervous about:
Whether I will be able to convert my post-baccalaureate internship into a permanent position or not.

What is your passion:
In this respect, I'm basically your stereotypical nerd and enjoy pretty much anything related to computers, with an eye towards gaming and programming.

What student clubs, activities you are involved in or considering?
I have graduated, so nothing anymore.

What is your career goal? Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?
In 5-10 years I see myself working full time as staff here at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

What advice do you have for incoming college freshmen or graduating high school seniors?
Try to do your best, but also realize that college may not be for everyone, or that now may not be the right time for *you* to go to college. I went into the military first and have no regrets. Plus it paid for me going to college, so there's that.

What advice do you have for peers going through the program?

"Take as many of the elective C-490 classes that you can. They afford you glimpses of the wider field of computer science, and may help direct you into a future specialization or area that you didn't even know you liked."

What classes have you enjoyed?
I have enjoyed pretty much any class where the largest portion of it was programming. Special callouts would include C-101 and C-201 with Professor Holloway, C-243 and C-490 (Game Programming) with Professor Vrajitoru, C-335 with Professor Zhang, C-490 (C#) with Professor Adaikkalavan, and C-490 (Parallel Programming) and C-435 with Professor Wolfer.

Dan Cassidy is currently a Student Intern at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He is taking a break with his PhD on that so he can recharge his mental and scholarly batteries.

Nicholas Clemans-Bonnell

2017-18 CS Excellence Award Winner
B.S. in Computer Science
Computer & Information Sciences
Class of 2017

I chose Computer Science because:
My interest with computers started at a young age. I liked to build and tinker, but became more interested in the software portion as I got older.

High school and hometown:
My hometown was Edwardsburg, MI and I went to Edwardsburg High.

Name of the high school teacher or counselor who made an impact in your decision to attend college:
Not really. I'm 39 and am an extremely different person now. I dropped out and got my GED. It wasn't until my late 30s where I got interested in college. I had worked in my share of factories, but after the 2008 bust, I had to find other options. I had a family of seven to support, so I went in the National Guard in the Fall of 2010, eventually finding myself at IU South Bend.

My biggest academic accomplishment so far:
Being awarded the Excellence Award in Computer Science is my biggest accomplishment so far.

"I was overwhelmingly impressed by the caliber and academic rigorousness of the Computer Science Program and I am so glad that I could be a part of it."

My academic interests include:
My interests include Computer Science obviously, but Biology courses have also held my interest. If I were to do it all over again, I would love to blend the two but at this time I am not interested in more school.

The one thing I'm most excited about:
I'm excited about graduating soon. I look forward to having more freedom in my schedule and jumping into life.

The one thing I'm most nervous about:
I'm not really nervous. I am extremely confident, I know where I'm going and I'm really excited about it.

What is your passion:
My family is my passion. I have two sons and four daughters. They are the driving factor in getting ahead in school and a career.

What student clubs, activities you are involved in or considering?
I'm not really considering any, since I have such a big family, a lot of time goes to them.

What is your career goal? Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?
I see myself where I am at now. I currently work at Keilman Business Consulting as an IT consultant.

What advice do you have for incoming college freshmen or graduating high school seniors?
The advice I have is keep on going. If you are in over your head, seek tutoring or get help from your instructors. Don't freak out on the first day of a class, trust your instructors, they are there to teach and help.

What advice do you have for peers going through the program?
For graduating seniors I recommend don't just look at the classifieds. Go out and talk to businesses, and bring your resume. I went out past the job boards and my boss took a gamble on me.

What classes have you enjoyed?
I really enjoyed classes with real life applications. A lot of CS classes revolve around theory, but classes like Dr. Adaikkalavan's Computer Security class, Dr. Hakimzadeh's Databases class and Dr. Zhang's Mobile app development class have career implications so are very intriguing.

Raymond Alavo

2017-18 William J. Knight Scholarship Winner
M.S. in Applied Math & Computer Sci (CS focus)
Computer & Information Sciences
Class of 2017

I chose an MS in AMCS with focus in the CS area because:
I was interested in Computer Science, and one of the most intriguing things for me was the ability to specialize in my interests.

High school and hometown:
I went to high school at Ecole Supérieure Multinationale des Télécommuications in Dakar. I am from Senegal, West Africa.

Name of the high school teacher or counselor who made an impact in your decision to attend college:
One of my programming teachers encouraged me to seek out higher education. This was one of my first experiences with Programming using Python and it lead me to what I am pursuing today.

My biggest academic accomplishment so far:
My biggest accomplishment so far is working with Drs. Hakimzadeh and Adaikkalavan designing iScheduler and its aim is to help the students to keep track of there academic program and

Chairs to plan upcoming semesters classes.

My academic interests include:
I love to learn and discover new things. This has helped me in researching new programming languages, and exploring other intriguing fields.

The one thing I'm most excited about:
Currently, I very much enjoy working as a web tech at University Information Technology Services (UITS). I get excited acting like a detective, finding and fixing problems. It is a constant challenge and I love it.

The one thing I'm most nervous about:
One of the things I am most nervous about is life after graduation. I am nervous about finding a job, but I am hopeful with the research and software projects I am currently working on with Drs. Hakimzadeh and Adaikkalavan.

What is your passion:
There is something about the challenge of learning a new programming language. I have recently learned Angular JS and JavaScript, they have provided a challenging experience that I thoroughly enjoy.

What student clubs, activities you are involved in or considering?
I have been involved and volunteered with the American Red Cross club on-campus. There we work with the local Fire Department to install fire detectors, CPR classes and schedule the Blood Drive on campus.

What is your career goal? Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?
In 5-10 years I see myself working as a Project Manager in the South Bend area. I enjoy this area because it is nice and quiet and I can see myself building a life here.

What advice do you have for incoming college freshmen or graduating high school seniors?

"I encourage incoming students to find what they love, and find a field that they can love doing. Experiment and grow, learn what you like by doing and getting involved."

What advice do you have for peers going through the program?
I encourage my fellow peers to spend more time on projects. It is important to learn determination and not get frustrated at fellow group members.
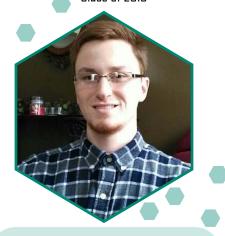
What classes have you enjoyed?
The class I have most enjoyed was also the hardest. I took C#. It was so difficult but there was a sense of community between the fellow students. By coming together, and working with each other, we were able to accomplish such a grueling task.

How has this scholarship helped you?
It helped me pay my tuition this semester and fell a financial relieve this semester.

Cody Kankel

2017-18 William J. Knight Scholarship Winner
B.S. in Computer Science
Computer & Information Sciences
Class of 2018

I chose Computer Science because:
I have an interest in computers that began when I was really young. I also enjoyed that there are so many careers and opportunities with computers.

High school and hometown:
My hometown is Oseola, IN and I went to Jimtown High.

Name of the high school teacher or counselor who made an impact in your decision to attend college:
Mr. Sands, my accounting teacher had a big impact on me. He said "You know how many people do what they don't want to do? That's why I went to college, so I can do what I want to do." I didn't really have a comeback, and it got me to think about the future.

My biggest academic accomplishment so far:
My biggest accomplishment so far is getting published. I went to the PEARC Conference in New Orleans where I was able to discuss my research. My project drew correlations between the US Census data and published academics, covering the time period from 1870 to 1940.

My academic interests include:
My interests include thinking about my future and the ever present struggle between Grad School & applying for a job after school. I would like to work towards furthering my research in whatever field I go into.

The one thing I'm most excited about:
I am excited about the next chapter of my life, starting grad school or getting a job. I am looking at applying at IU Bloomington, Purdue, and NC State.

The one thing I'm most nervous about:
One thing I am most nervous about is ABD, All But Dissertation and getting stuck. I worry about losing 6-7 years of my career and leaving grad school without a PhD.

What is your passion:
My passion is vintage tech. Currently I am bidding on a BM-5160. It is exciting because you try to find this bug, there's a lot of troubleshooting, and trying to find the part. It's an adventure every time.

What student clubs, activities you are involved in or considering?
I am considering getting involved with the CS club.

What is your career goal? Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?
I see myself as a High Performance Computing (HPC) system administrator. I would like to work at a University in the Midwest.

What advice do you have for incoming college freshmen or graduating high school seniors?
Advice I have for incoming students is do not procrastinate. Get in the habit of doing your work early, that way it won't sneak up on you in the end.

What advice do you have for peers going through the program?
Advice I have for my peers is get involved with programs around you. Also, learn how to network.

> "Do your best at getting an internship. Sometimes, you don't learn the full picture in the classroom. When you are at a job in the professional sector you learn so much."

What classes have you enjoyed?
A class I really enjoyed was CSCI-B 401 Fundamentals of Computing Theory. Some of the subjects were how to make a Turing machine and Automata theory. This was an interesting class because it taught how to apply the problem to a higher level of programming and AI/building tools.

Eric Qin

2017-18 John P. Russo Scholarship Winner
M.S. in Applied Math & Computer Sci (CS focus)
Computer & Information Sciences
Class of 2018

I chose Computer Science because:
Ever since I was a little kid, I've always loved computers. I enjoyed tinkering, and as I got older I learned coding. I feel a lot of confidence in coding and look forward to the opportunities with Computer Science.

High school and hometown:
I went to high school in Guilin, China.

Name of the high school teacher or counselor who made an impact in your decision to attend college:
Feng Ginzheng taught language at my high school, and she made a big impact on me. She taught me to be a good student, I was not the best student and she helped get my head on straight.

My biggest academic accomplishment so far:
Lately I have been working with Dr. Adaikkalavan on a research project that I am really excited about. We started last semester and it is a program for mobile and device data. I'm proud of my work and excited to see where it will go.

My academic interests include:
My academic interests include programming languages, specifically Java and CSS. I enjoy them because they are powerful and will be useful for my career. Many companies use them and I feel I can take my skills anywhere.

The one thing I'm most excited about:
I am most excited about our Computer Science program on campus.

> "We have extremely experienced professors who really care about you as a student. There are universities with 300 students, so I enjoy our smaller classes because they set you up to succeed."

The one thing I'm most nervous about:
I am nervous about going out into the real-world. I will be graduating next Spring and beginning the next step. I have thought about moving to North Chicago or even Texas since I miss the warm weather that I grew up with.

What is your passion:
This summer I had an internship working with government software. It required a keen eye for detail and proved to be a challenge. I learned a lot from the program and I feel that it will provide a lot of opportunities for me.

What student clubs, activities you are involved in or considering?
I have been involved in the Chinese Program with the International Student Services. They have an Education week that is extremely useful to new students because it gives them tips and how to get used to the area.

What is your career goal? Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?
I want to work for a big software company as a software programmer. After I get some experience and go for a higher position within the company.

What advice do you have for incoming college freshmen or graduating high school seniors?
I recommend that as new students you reach out to professors. You learn by asking, if you are stuck, go to the tutoring center. Lectures can only go so far, if you don't understand things bring your questions to your professor or a tutoring session.

What advice do you have for peers going through the program?
I recommend for my peers that after you finish your homework, don't stop. Read more, and understand the dynamic aspects of your major. The more you learn, the more you find out what you enjoy.

What classes have you enjoyed?
A few classes I enjoyed were CSCI-C101, C201 and C243. They covered the beginning dynamics of coding, and they were extremely useful. While they were very general, it was useful basic coding and logic that got me started off on the right foot.

How has this scholarship helped you?
This scholarship helped me a lot. I can pay more attention on my study now, and I do not have to worry about my financial problems for a while. And this scholarship told me that I was on the right way to my career.

Shaun Whitfield

2017-18 John P. Russo Scholarship Winner
B.S. in Computer Science
Computer & Information Sciences
Class of 2018

I chose Computer Science because:
I started in factories as a high school drop out, and worked in IT for a while. I saw people around me advance, get promotions. I decided to go back and get certified.

High school and hometown:
I am from Mishawaka and went to Penn High School.

Name of the high school teacher or counselor who made an impact in your decision to attend college:
I didn't really have anyone in high school, I felt like I knew everything. Going through real life experience, economic downturns, I realized I needed to make myself more well rounded. While I did work for IT, I wanted to stop troubleshooting and fixing the printers and move up to software development.

My biggest academic accomplishment so far:
This summer I worked with Dr. Hakimzadeh as a research assistant. It taught me to be more present and observe software development. It was really interesting because I was able to observe, learning the ins and outs of IU Advise. I learned that I enjoy math and a new found confidence as well

My academic interests include:
My interests are software development and academia. I can see myself working and blending the two.

The one thing I'm most excited about:
South Bend code school has been a really exciting program I have gotten involved with. They learn programming languages like html, Javascript, CSS. They have week long events where we coach rather than teach.

The one thing I'm most nervous about:
I am most nervous about is making sure I retain knowledge and learn. I am not able to isolate myself with my studies like younger students because I am constantly torn between school, family, and work. It takes a little more time and effort, but I make it work.

What is your passion:
My passion is tech and education. I enjoy blending the two sectors, and want to get my two daughters, 10 and 6, into STEM.

What student clubs, activities you are involved in or considering?
My biggest concerns right now are my family, work and school, so time is a little tight. Yet, I have been thinking about checking out the Computer Science Club.

What is your career goal? Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?
My career goal would be a developer, involved in academia. I am thinking about grad school and how to balance it with family.

What advice do you have for incoming college freshmen or graduating high school seniors?
Since I am a non-traditional student, advice I have for other non-traditional students is keep going. The worst thing you can do is give up in the program, shuffle priorities and keep it up. You got this.

What advice do you have for peers going through the program?
I recommend getting involved, have a project, no matter what, work all the time. You can learn so much doing rather than listening to a lecture.

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"Code everyday. It's
  like a muscle,
 they're perishable
skills and you have
 to exercise them
    constantly."
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What classes have you enjoyed?
Classes I have enjoyed are my CS classes. The faculty is so knowledgeable, they have different ideas so you learn a ton. Sometimes it is the hard way, and you may hate the instructor for it, but it is so good for you because you grow.

Taylor Wiley

2017-18 John P. Russo Scholarship Winner
B.S. Informatics (Social Informatics Cognate)
Informatics Program
Class of 2018

I chose Informatics because:

I had originally heard about Informatics as a Junior in High School and I was intrigued because it was a demanding field. I also enjoyed how I was also able to focus on one field of my interest with the Informatics cognate, Social Informatics.

High school and hometown:

I am from South Bend and I took advantage of the fully online program at Keystone National High School. I felt that this taught me self-discipline and helped me plan for my courses in college.

Name of the high school teacher or counselor who made an impact in your decision to attend college:

I had met with Dr Hakimzadeh before I began at IU South Bend. He acted as an anchor point, so I knew what to expect. As well as Dr. Wells who sculpted my interests into my current cognate, Social Informatics.

My biggest academic accomplishment so far:

I attended a conference in Vancouver with Dr. Wells and a few other students. I covered the use of the Smithsonian Trinomial System and the Digital Index of North American Archaeology (DINAA) to link open Information about archaeological sites across the Web. At this conference, I was able to network with my peers and working professionals in my field.

My academic interests include:

I am interested in how Archeologists share and store their data.

> "I would like to bridge the gap between smaller and larger universities, leveling the playing field by using the web."

The one thing I'm most excited about:

I am most excited about being in a community of people who are passionate about their work. The Computational Social Science REU at the University of Notre Dame helped me connect with more of my peers this summer, networking with students from universities around the country.

The one thing I'm most nervous about:

I am most nervous about grad school applications and the GRE. I feel like all of the accomplishments and projects I have worked on will help even if I score poorly on the GRE.

What is your passion:

I am most passionate about data curation intermixing with science. An example is the Net Health project at Notre Dame. This project outfit Notre Dame students with fitbits, measuring their social life with their health and demographics.

What student clubs, activities you are involved in or considering?

I am currently involved in the Honors club as well as the secretary of the Japanese club.

What is your career goal? Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?

I see myself in grad school, working on my PHD. I want to work in the private sector with Informatics. I plan on pursuing a faculty role at a University.

What advice do you have for incoming college freshmen or graduating high school seniors?

I recommend incoming students learn GitHub version control for coding. Also, go beyond your classes. Explore on your own, with other online classes. This helps incorporate your skills into other classes/activities.

What advice do you have for peers going through the program?

I recommend that my peers look for other opportunities. Internships, research with faculty. It might change your viewpoint or interests.

What classes have you enjoyed?

I have enjoyed Qualitative Reasoning which researched on social interactions, how sociologists work, letting you engage and take field notes.

How has this scholarship helped you?

It's been helpful because I have taken on less debt this year. I also can put this on my grad applications as a recognition of my merits.

Jaime Baca

2017-18 John P. Russo Scholarship Winner
B.S. in Computer Science
Computer & Information Sciences
Class of 2018

I chose Computer Science because:
I thought about jobs as I got older, computer problems sounded easy to deal with. I'm interested in how they work, how you can use logic and there's no wrong answer. You can easily develop your own style.

High school and hometown:
My hometown was Plymouth and I went to Plymouth High.

Name of the high school teacher or counselor who made an impact in your decision to attend college:
One of my counselors asked what I was interested in and ended up recommending IU South Bend. I liked the campus since it was close to home.

My biggest academic accomplishment so far:
I consider getting this far as my highest achievement. I am graduating next semester and I'm excited.

My academic interests include:
I'm interested in deep learning as well as mobile apps and their development. I like coding them since they are very popular right now, especially with help from Android Studio.

The one thing I'm most excited about:
I am most interested about graduating next Spring. I plan to stay in the area and seek opportunities close by.

The one thing I'm most nervous about:
I am most nervous about the future. I look forward to getting out in the real world with internships and jobs.

What is your passion:
I am very passionate about programming and working with computers in general. I feel that it will provide a lot of opportunities for me.

What student clubs, activities you are involved in or considering?
I'm involved in the Honors Club and I enjoy working their community service events. We worked with St. Margaret's Winter Walk and a few other events that were very engaging.

What is your career goal? Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?
I'm not really looking too much into the future. I want to focus on getting a job, buying a home and making a life for myself.

What advice do you have for incoming college freshmen or graduating high school seniors?

"Don't worry too much about difficulty. The worst thing you can do is overthink it. Just put your head down, working is the key to success in the program."

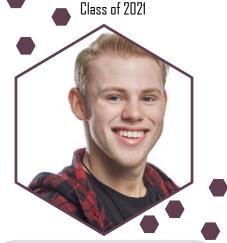**What advice do you have for peers going through the program?**
I tell my peers that if they don't understand a concept, seek out the answer with a professor or the internet. Do your homework, reach out to your professors and understand your work.

What classes have you enjoyed?
I liked Physics, the equations were from word problems and it was easy to not stress out but enjoy it. As well as my Java classes. These were fun because they were pretty similar to C++, so the basic concepts were familiar so I could use them for Android.

Brandon Kafka

2017-18 Informatics Scholarship Winner
B.S. Informatics
Informatics Program
Class of 2021

I chose Informatics because:
I enjoy interactions between technology and people. Originally I was thinking about engineering, but Informatics fell into my lap. I have not chosen a cognate yet, but I have no doubt I will be able to find a specialty I enjoy.

High school and hometown:
I am from Elkhart and went to Concord High School.

Name of the high school teacher or counselor who made an impact in your decision to attend college:
In 8th grade, I joined Concord Dance. Stephanie Pairitz, founder and director of Epic Dance, really inspired me to think ahead and aspire for higher education.

My biggest academic accomplishment so far:
My biggest academic accomplishment so far is being awarded this full ride scholarship. It has been a dramatic learning curve and I'm so honored to be a part of it.

My academic interests include:
My interests include wanting to improve people's relationship with technology. I hope to better the standard of living for many using tech.

The one thing I'm most nervous about:
One thing I am most nervous about is learning time management. It is a huge learning curve that I have had to adapt in my first semester of college. I try to solve this by having a white board in my room with my schedule, phone notifications and a planner.

The one thing I'm most excited about:
I am most excited about the learning process. I enjoy learning how coding happens and how problem solving happens.

What is your passion:
My passion is to better people's lives. I want to give back, I was born with Hirschsprungs, and would not have survived without advanced medical technologies that saved me as an infant. I hope to advance medicine and give back throughout my career.

What student clubs, activities you are involved in or considering?
I am currently in Epic Dance. I have enjoy being a part of this club because of its active role in outreach. It has been a great resource for the community. It provides a safe place for many kids to participate and grow, learning how to be a part of something, and I love being involved and acting as a role model.

What is your career goal? Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?
I can see my future going so many different ways. I see myself eventually as a tech consultant on a development team. I am not interested in grad school at the moment, but would like to jump into my sector.

What advice do you have for incoming college freshmen or graduating high school seniors?

"My advice for incoming college freshmen and high school seniors is you don't have as much time as you think you do. Manage your time, cut your working hours, take time for yourself. Focus on our studies and take time."

What advice do you have for peers going through the program?
My advice for my peers is to take one thing at a time. Focus on one project, one job, accomplish it and move on. You will have an astounding amount of confidence in yourself once you take a step back.

What classes have you enjoyed?
Although I just started, I have two classes I have really enjoyed, INFO-I 101 Introduction to Informatics and Philosophy focusing on Science Fiction. I enjoy Informatics because I'm learning about tech and solving problems. I love Science Fiction and exploring the what if questions with philosophy.