Student Award Winners 2016 / Prix pour étudiants 2016

When the students were informed of their award, we asked them to say a few words...
Quand nous avons informé les étudiants de leur prix, nous leur avons demandé de nous écrire quelques mots...

Skye Turriff, Algonquin College

Skye is currently in her final year of the Computer Engineering Technology – Computing Science program at Algonquin College. When she began her studies Skye was well aware of how much she needed to learn about the field, having never written a single line of code before.

After accumulating five semesters worth of knowledge and experience, and maintaining a GPA of 3.9, Skye is even more aware that she has barely scratched the surface of what the field of computer science has to offer. Whatever the future holds, Skye acknowledges that this "wisdom building" will be a lifelong journey and looks forward to every avenue and challenge.

While at Algonquin College, Skye engaged the role of Research Assistant with the Applied Research and Innovation department. The teams were challenged with developing web applications for external clients as well as for Algonquin College. While her favourite memory is from her fourth semester, where she had the opportunity to write the front-end of a compiler for a programming language created by her professor, Skye is also enthusiastic and excited about exploring augmented and virtual reality software as well as AI technologies.

Taryn Laurendeau, Carleton University

Taryn is completing her third year of the Bachelor of Information Technology program at Carleton University in the Interactive Multimedia and Design stream. In January, she returned from a year-long co-op work term at the Moving Picture Company in Montréal, where she worked as a VFX Production Coordinator on the Fantastic 4 and The Finest Hours.

From a young age, Taryn was interested in computers and technology - something she attributes to being inspired by her tech savvy dad. With a love for movies, she grew up watching DVD special features and awards shows with her mom, who often made comments about "making it to the red carpet" one day. In 2009 after watching Avatar, Taryn decided that's what she wanted to do with her career in some way. Working on movies. In high school, she dedicated her focus to Photography, Digital Media and Information Technology courses to develop her Computer Graphics skills, which led her to the IMD program at Carleton.

During her time in the program, Taryn was able to spend two months as an intern at a Vancouver VFX studio - Image Engine, next to IMD alumni, Neil Grey; she was a Research Assistant for Dr. Audrey Girouard, an IMD Faculty member, whose research revolves around Human Computer Interaction; and she was the BIT Society President for a semester before moving to Montréal.

As she's progressed through university, Taryn has discovered a knack for leadership and interest in management. After spending the year working as a VFX Production Coordinator, Taryn determined Production Management in film was her calling. After graduating, Taryn plans to return to the industry, working her way towards one day becoming a Producer… and of course, taking her mom to the red carpet.

Eric Dallaire, CÉGEP de l'Outaouais

Au cours de mon secondaire, j'ai développé ma passion pour la programmation par l'entremise d'un petit logiciel de création de jeu vidéo. J'ai participé à Expo-sciences en présentant mes jeux, et j'ai été retenu parmi les différentes équipes de mon école.

En plus de faire de la programmation dans mes temps libres, j'ai poursuivi mes études dans la même branche au Cégep de l'Outaouais en informatique de gestion. Au cours des années, j'ai me suis découvert plusieurs champs d'intérêt. Parmi ceux-ci, la manipulation de données, la conception ux, les architectures logicielles, et la résolution de problèmes.

J'adore produire des systèmes évolutifs et maintenables.

À ma deuxième année au cégep, je me suis fais offert un emploi au Sénat du Canada. J'y ai travaillé tout au long de mes études jusqu'à ce que je reçoive une offre de l'Agence du Revenu du Canada. Tout au long de mon cégep, j'ai côtoyé des professionnels avec une expertise dans divers sujets informatiques. Que ce soit par l'entremise des professeurs, des membres de ma famille, ou encore des étudiants, les connaissances que j'ai acquises au cours de mes trois années de Cégep sont au-delà de ce que je m'attendais.
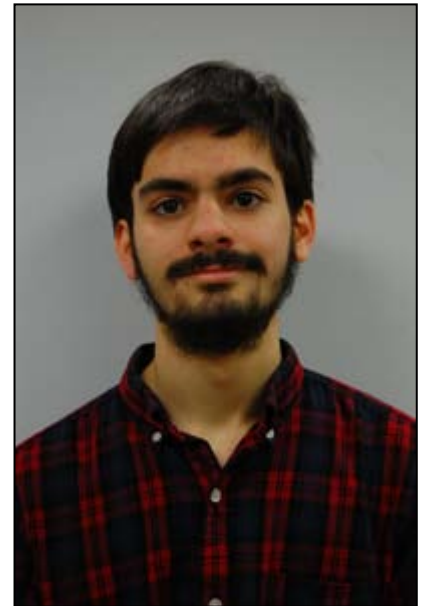
Nicolas Thivierge, Heritage College

Nicolas Thivierge is in his third year of the Computer Science program at Heritage College. With a father who worked in hardware repair, and a mother working as a librarian, his veins flow with an interest in IT and a passion for learning. He first began programming at the very end of his stay at D'Arcy McGee High School, before an Academic Advisor led him to Heritage. A devotion to studies and problem solving led to a place on the Dean's Honor List, with an average of over 90% in his courses each semester, and the Computer Science Achievement Award in his second year for having the highest average of non-graduating students in the program.

Coming into the program somewhat uncertain, Nicolas developed a reputation among his peers for a positive attitude, spouting philosophy, and breaking into song. Adding to his development were two successful co-op terms: providing Technical Support at the Department of National Defense, and programming in MVC at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (where he received a reward for giving useful feedback). The most important thing for his learning process was support from teachers, other students, and his younger brother.

Nicolas has been offered a two-year position at the CNSC when he graduates. He hopes to explore different opportunities after gaining experience in the workforce. As an opponent of the left-brain right-brain dichotomy, Nicolas plans to expand his creative skills along with existing logic to add more tools to his repertoire. Outside of programming, he enjoys writing short stories.

Tessa Lévesque, La Cité Collégiale

Tessa est une étudiante de 3ième année en Technologie du génie informatique au Collège La Cité. Étant une passionnée de la technologie, ce n'était qu'une question de temps avant qu'elle entreprenne ses études dans le domaine. Elle a commencé son cheminement postsecondaire ayant aucune connaissance en programmation mais a tout de même su se distinguer grâce à sa détermination et sa passion d'acquérir de nouvelles connaissances dans tout ce que le programme d'études offre.

En plus d'être une étudiante modèle et d'obtenir des résultats scolaires exceptionnels, Tessa s'implique activement dans la vie collégiale. Elle vient en aide à ses pairs en tant que tutrice dans plusieurs matières du programme. Et malgré un horaire chargé, elle a su à maintes reprises conjuguer études et travail en participant à divers projets de recherche appliquée en collaboration avec l'industrie.

Tessa espère débuter une carrière qui sera remplie de défis et qui saura pousser ses capacités.

Sarmad Hashmi, University of Ottawa

Sarmad Hashmi is in his third year of Software Engineering. He has completed three internships so far, with two of them being at BlackBerry and Google. He has been working with the University of Ottawa Student Academic Success Service IT department as a part time Web Applications Developer ever since he started school. Through his internships, he has learned that software can be created as a solution for almost every problem out there. And one day, he hopes to create something that solves some of the biggest problems in the world.