Navendra Jha has been elected as the Student President of Nerd Herd and is currently pursuing his Masters in Information Technology with a keen interest in mobile engineering and data science. He completed his Bachelors from NIT Jamshedpur, India in 2015 and at ASU, he is trying to broaden his data engineering & data science skills.

Stuti Mandal joined the club as a Treasurer and now serving as the Vice President of the Nerd Herd this academic term. She is currently pursuing a Bachelors in Information Technology with a minor in business. She is very interested in networking and is excited to explore other fields in IT as well. When Stuti is not in class or working, you can find her giving campus tours to future Sun Devils.

Michaela Pawlowski is the Shepherd of the Nerd Herd and is pursuing her Bachelors in Information Technology. She graduated as Valedictorian of her class in 2017 and takes much pride in her work. She wishes to focus on networking and cybersecurity during her time at ASU and is extremely optimistic about the future. Michaela loves to teach and help others and can often be found tutoring her peers in her free time.

Mohan Suraj is Treasurer of the Nerd Herd and is also pursuing his Masters in Information Technology. Suraj did his Bachelors in Computer Science in 2014 and gained software development experience before joining ASU. His interest in big data has brought him to ASU and he wishes to develop his skills to pursue a career in data engineering. In his free time, Suraj likes to indulge in photography.
NERD HACK

Nerd Hack, the very first hackathon was held on March 30th and 31st, 2018 organized by IT NerdHerd Advisor Dr. Usha Jagannathan and the club officers. It was a 20-hour hackathon (more of a codeathon!) which had both undergraduate and graduate students participated from various departments CIDSE, Software Engineering, and W.P. Carey School of Business including our IT academic department. We had around 40 students for our first event. Students challenged themselves in using the ServiceNow application platform to solve a real-world problem that would benefit our ASU campus, community, and our university at-large. Amazing prizes were given away including $1000 for the first place winners and others walked home with an Amazon Echo, Amazon gift cards, and engraved trophies sponsored by ServiceNow & Dr. Jagannathan. On behalf of the NerdHerd club, our special thanks to Prof Doheny and Prof Rodriguez for being there at the event to support the NerdHacks!

A quick shout out to our online undergrad student Nicholas Finch who came and participated with our onsite undergraduate team Matthew Nasuta and Zachary Dooley for the NerdHack. Nicholas team developed a project called Sharience, an online resource dedicated to helping students and faculty to connect together to create open projects, similar to a capstone, for students to try and tackle. Their project mission is to create an environment for students to gain knowledge with the real-world applications to set the career pathways.
The Information Technology department is among one of the most industry-sought after departments at Arizona State University located at the Poly campus. Through the capstone and applied projects offered by the university, many students are allowed the opportunity to gain valuable real-world experience during their senior year.

Dr. Jagannathan works tirelessly to acquire projects for students and motivates them to excel in the IT focus areas the students are passionate to work with. When we wrapped up for the spring 2018 semester last term, the graduate students have reached a new high and have secured some of the most prestigious and rigorous internships and full-time job opportunities across the country. Six students were offered full-time positions at the corporate segments in which the students did their graduate applied projects and proud to hear they started off with an excellent pay package! Our entire IT department is proud of our recent graduates of spring 2018 batch from BS & MS-IT.

Many undergraduate students have been able to land amazing internships and future job opportunities as well. Brandon Gatto, an undergraduate senior, worked as an intern for eGreen IT Solutions where he was able to recycle electronics, got trained to develop security policies, and acquired skills needed for networking and system administration.

**CAPSTONE HIGHLIGHTS**

Two capstone 401 students enrolled for Fall 2018 are starting their capstone project at General Dynamics in penetration testing. Additionally, Dr. Jagannathan has selected 1 onsite and 5 online students from the current capstone 401 batch to work on NASA funded Psyche projects! Go Sun Devils! Congratulations to our entire Nerd Herds!

**STAY TUNED**

Watch out for flyers that will be sent out for our fast approaching Fall 2018 events (1) An interactive session with a cybersecurity expert from Mozilla as our guest speaker, (2) a graduate student presentation on Blockchain, and (3) a hands-on workshop on IoT. Dates & Venue will be sent out in the flyers for each event that has been planned for in this Fall 2018 semester.