

# THE STEVENS INDICATOR

WINTER 2017 ✦

OF THE STEVENS AL



**BRINGING THEIR  
A-GAME**

*STEVENS STUDENT-ATHLETES SCORE  
WITH SMARTS, CHARACTER, GRIT*





**Red and Gray days**  
**ALUMNI WEEKEND**

**97<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ALUMNI WEEKEND**  
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**Experience Stevens Red and Gray Days at Alumni Weekend.** Return to Hoboken and enjoy all the exciting happenings on campus. Reconnect and reminisce with old friends and renew ties with your alma mater. There are many activities for the entire Stevens community and their families — from special presentations by Stevens faculty, students and President Farvardin to social events such as beer and wine tastings and the newly retooled alumni picnic and kids festival in the heart of campus. Special recognition will be given to alumni celebrating milestone reunions.

**Are you in? Visit [stevens.edu/alumniweekend](http://stevens.edu/alumniweekend)**



## NANOTECHNOLOGY, AND A THANK YOU

I want to thank you for sending me the copy of *The Indicator* with the obituary of my husband, Jim Braxton '37. (Editor's Note: See Summer/Fall 2016 issue and photo of Braxton, who appears in the photo below, at right.) I loved the picture you chose. The photo must have been taken



in 1970 when Stevens gave him the Centennial Medal, as part of Stevens' Centennial celebration that year. He was very proud of the medal. Regarding the nanotechnology effort to turn glass (regular windows) into sources of electricity — what a brilliant idea. (See back cover of the Summer/Fall '16 issue, which highlights the research of Stevens Professor E.H. Yang.) I hope people are putting equal effort into making something so that our existing buildings can be retrofitted. I live in a curtain wall building which was built in the late 1950s, just before double pane windows came in. If the owners were to try to change the windows to ones that were better at conserving energy, the building would have to be emptied while the work was going on, which makes it an unlikely event in an income producing property.

Virginia Braxton

## THOUGHTS ON 'A FINAL THOUGHT'

Dear Editor,

I think your idea of including a closing article in *The Indicator* is a good one. When I read what you intended — a good story that was a reflection on one's Stevens experience, or an aspect of one's life that they're dealing with today that would be of interest to our alumni — I felt like I'd be in for a treat. However, when I read the actual article — "Concussions and Teen Athletes: One and Done" — I was left with the feeling that I'd been misled. I couldn't see how the story met either of your major criteria. And, though it had some redeeming qualities, at least to this alumnus it was not of interest.

So, please do continue the feature. I'm looking forward to one that's actually relevant, and hoping that this first attempt at "A Final Thought" was one and done.

Mark Schneider '72



We'd love to hear your feedback on *The Stevens Indicator*. Please contact us at [editor@stevens.edu](mailto:editor@stevens.edu)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Congratulations to Maria De Abreu Pineda '17, who recently won the New Jersey Tech Council Innovation Video Contest by receiving the highest score from the contest judges and the most likes on Facebook! "For this video I was inspired by the work of Edison, Einstein and Bell Labs, as they are founders of the New Jersey STEM movement," she says. "Being a senior in biomedical engineering, looking back at our state's cradle of innovation history motivates me to look forward to find new ways to improve healthcare." Pineda won \$3,000 for her first-place finish, which she plans to use to fund a volunteering opportunity. "I was offered the opportunity to travel to Myanmar this winter break to work with the Teachers Teaching Teachers program as a student ambassador, where I will have the opportunity to conduct a student leadership training program," she says.



Visit <https://bit.ly/2hOQUB1> to see her winning video



▲ Maria De Abreu Pineda '17 posing with her first-place prize at the New Jersey Tech Council's Awards Celebration on Nov. 17, 2016.



# THE STEVENS INDICATOR

THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
STEVENS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
WINTER 2017

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Chris Cimino, meteorologist for NBC 4's "Today in New York" and master of ceremonies at the 2015 Stevens Awards Gala, takes a selfie with the crowd during the festivities.

## ON THE COVER



Cross-country and lacrosse player Kathleen Kalbian '17, baseball player Nolan Bennett '17 and lacrosse player Connor Towne '17 embody what it means to be a Stevens student-athlete.

PHOTO: JOHN O'BOYLE  
COVER DESIGN: SPARK DESIGN

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**STEVENS**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
PER ASPERA AD ASTRA

# PRESIDENTS' CORNER

## AN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Stevens Alumni Association is off to an energetic start this year. Together with President Farvardin, we have set ambitious goals that, when achieved, will bring Stevens Institute of Technology to new heights. Just as important, these goals are designed to bring the Alumni Association into the 21st century with state-of-the-art programming and engagement opportunities for the entire alumni and student community.

First and foremost, as you may be aware, a sub-committee of the SAA Executive Committee was formed to take on the crucial task of modernizing the SAA Constitution and Bylaws. Written and adopted in 1906, the current governing documents under which we operate are antiquated and cumbersome. The key issues we are addressing pertain specifically to the method by which the greater alumni body elects members of the Executive Committee and how amendments are proposed and passed. Presently, in order to accomplish either of these tasks, the entire alumni population — 40,000 strong — must receive a paper ballot via the postal service. To cast your vote, you must then respond to that ballot by mailing back your response to the Alumni Office. A century ago, this was the most practical way for the alumni body to participate in the election and amendment process. Today, however, this is lengthy, time-consuming and expensive, and fails to make use of the technology at our disposal.

By the time you receive this issue of *The Stevens Indicator*, you should have also received (what we hope to be) your final mandated paper ballot. The SAA Executive Committee and the officers ask that you take the time to review the proposed changes, which will allow for electronic voting for future elections and amendment changes. Should you agree,



please take the time to approve the changes to the 1906 Constitution and Bylaws of the Stevens Alumni Association and mail back your ballot. At a minimum, we need 1,000 alumni to participate in this process in order to have a quorum. Your active engagement in this vote will help the SAA take a giant leap forward into the modern age.

In addition to updating the 1906 Constitution and Bylaws, and in partnership with the Alumni Office, the SAA has launched the Alumni Portal — your one-stop shop for your alumni needs. Among the exciting features are an online job board, an alumni business directory and a web version of the Alumni Directory. New features will continue to be added to this exclusive online alumni community. To

sign up, visit [connect.stevens.edu/alumniportal](http://connect.stevens.edu/alumniportal).

Finally, as is the case each and every year, we have set a goal to increase the number of alumni who make a gift of \$5 or more to any fund at Stevens. Increasing the alumni participation rate from 17 percent in FY16 to our goal of 20 percent in FY17 is only going to happen if many of us join in this effort. For those who have already made a gift, thank you! For those who have not yet made a gift, please consider doing so as we begin a new year. I also encourage you to go one step further and ask a friend to join you in supporting our alma mater.

As I have said before, I feel honored and privileged to be serving as the president of the Stevens Alumni Association as we move confidently into the future. Together, we can be a powerful force in helping Stevens realize its full potential.

Per aspera ad astra,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe DiPompeo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joe DiPompeo '98 M. Eng. '99  
President, Stevens Alumni Association  
[saapresident@stevens.edu](mailto:saapresident@stevens.edu)



## A HOME-COURT ADVANTAGE

I am so pleased that this issue of *The Stevens Indicator* focuses on Stevens athletics. Our athletics programs have given Stevens — our extended community of students, parents, faculty, staff and alumni — much to celebrate over the years.

Many outside the Stevens community may not naturally associate an exceptionally successful collegiate athletics program with the rigors of a premier technological education and its demanding academic course requirements. But, with numerous conference titles and championship wins across a wide variety of men's and women's sports, the Stevens Athletics program and our scholar-athletes throughout the years epitomize exactly this combination. In fact, the habits that lead to success in both of these domains — academic and athletic — are closely linked to many of the habits and qualities that make Stevens graduates so successful in their careers.

Whether on the court, on the field or in the classroom, our scholar-athletes exemplify the strategic priority articulated in our strategic plan: *Through Collaboration, Impact*. For example, in the 2015-16 academic year, Stevens Institute of Technology won the Collegiate Athletic Administrators of New Jersey (CAANJ) Cup for the sixth consecutive year, a recognition as the top-performing National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III university in the state. Nationally, Stevens placed 13th for the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Learfield Directors' Cup among 450 NCAA DIII member institutions. Of course, our teams have also won numerous other titles, including the 2015 NCAA DIII Men's Volleyball Championship, the first team NCAA championship in Stevens' history, and the 2013 and 2008 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Jostens Institution of the Year awards. With the ECAC award, we joined Princeton University and Williams College as the only other institution to receive this accolade for top academics and athletics more than once. Our scholar-athletes shine on the national stage as well, ensuring that the Stevens name — and the standards of excellence it symbolizes in athletics as well as academics — is known well beyond the confines of our Castle Point campus.

As many alumni tell me, their participation in athletics has also helped them to cultivate the skills they have drawn upon in their careers and in their personal lives. In addition to maintaining high academic standards (the average GPA among all 26 varsity teams for 2015-2016



was over 3.4), Stevens' scholar-athletes hone their time-management skills, practice perseverance and teamwork, and develop a strong work ethic by juggling team practices, strength training, traveling and competitions. They also learn sportsmanship, tenacity, tolerance and resilience, all important life skills.

Finally, Stevens Athletics gives us yet another exciting reason to take pride in Stevens. Beyond the significant recent accomplishments of our university — in academics, research, alumni success, achieving first place in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon in 2015, and many others — our athletics teams provide an opportunity to enthusiastically express our school spirit.

I'm immensely proud of our athletics programs and our scholar-athletes, not only for their consistent adherence to the highest standards of excellence in their sports and in the classroom, but also for representing Stevens so well both at home and away. In addition to their often-grueling schedules, our scholar-athletes lead a variety of service activities including the Duckling Program, in which scholar-athletes teach interactive engineering lessons at local middle schools; collecting goods and making food for the Hoboken Shelter; and promoting national awareness initiatives in collaboration with organizations like WomenRising Inc., to end domestic violence.

The Stevens Ducks have taken flight, and are soaring like never before. The Stevens Athletics program is a shining example of the rapid progress and growing success the university has experienced over the last few years. As you will read in the following pages of *The Indicator*, this is the effect of a rich academic and athletic environment that provides scholar-athletes with a set of distinctive Stevens experiences that yield a competitive advantage for their futures.

Go Ducks!

Per aspera ad astra,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Farvardin".

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 201-216-5213

# GRIST FROM THE MILL



## ONSTAGE AT STEVENS WITH THE NJSO

Members from the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra helped launch OnStage at Stevens, a new performing arts and cultural series that aims to bring premier music, theater, dance, literary arts and other entertainment to Stevens. The holiday concert on Dec. 17, 2016, at DeBaun Auditorium featured pieces by Vivaldi, Piazzolla, Copland and Respighi. Two more concerts featuring NJSO ensembles on March 9 and June 2 will round out the series' inaugural season. ❖

◀ A moment from the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's holiday concert on Dec. 17, 2016.



For more information, visit [www.stevens.edu/onstage](http://www.stevens.edu/onstage)

## PRESIDENT FARVARDIN NAMED EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

The Research & Development Council of New Jersey honored Stevens President Nariman Farvardin as Educator of the Year during the 37th Edison Patent Awards Ceremony and Reception on Nov. 3, 2016, at Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, New Jersey. Citing numerous accomplishments throughout his career and achievements during his five-year tenure at Stevens, the Council commended Farvardin for his ongoing work to “propel Stevens toward its goal of being a world-class, student-centric, technological research university.”

The R&D Council also honored Nokia Bell Labs President and Nokia Corporate Chief Technology Officer Dr. Marcus Weldon and former New Jersey Economic Development Authority CEO Caren Franzini for their unique contributions to research and development, business and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education. ❖



## STUDENT GROUPS DELIVER FOOD TO FIRST RESPONDERS AFTER TRAIN CRASH

When the report of the New Jersey Transit train crash on Sept. 29, 2016, spread to the Stevens campus, members of the school's fraternities, sororities and other student organizations gathered to organize and collect donations of water, coffee, doughnuts, granola bars and other snacks to deliver to first responders — EMTs, police officers, firefighters and investigators — who were working around the clock at the scene of the fatal crash. The devastating train crash left one person dead and more than 100 people injured.

“There were hundreds of emergency responders, heads of every major law enforcement and public safety agency, politicians, contractors and others who were on scene during the day, and to hear people say, ‘the Stevens kids dropped this off,’ again and again made me feel proud,” said Robert DiGenova, deputy chief of police at Stevens.

Delta Phi Epsilon, Theta Phi Alpha, Omega Phi Beta, Sigma Nu, Beta Theta, Phi Sigma Sigma, the Muslim Educational and Cultural Association, Orientation Leaders and the American Chemical Society were among the student groups that participated in the collaborative effort. ❖

## ONPOINT SHOWCASES STEVENS' ARTS COMMUNITY

Roughly 500 attendees flocked to the stages set up on Palmer and Schaefer lawns on Oct. 1, 2016, to be a part of the OnPoint Music & Arts Festival. The unique line-up featured a 50/50 breakdown of Stevens groups and outside acts from all over the Northeast, representing a mix of music genres, dance groups, spoken word artists and comedians. There was also a visual art display, and several student clubs set up booths to showcase what the arts meant specifically to them, including a poetry booth by *The Stute*, where everyone could write poems in notebooks. ❖





## CAMPUS POLICE EVACUATE RESIDENTS FROM BURNING BUILDING

A three-alarm fire in the pre-dawn hours of Oct. 15, 2016, damaged several units of an apartment building in Hoboken near campus on Washington Street, but there were no injuries from the blaze, thanks to the rapidly coordinated responses between Stevens Campus Police and the Hoboken Fire and Police departments. Campus Police Officer Tim Legowski was on patrol when he noticed flames shooting out from the top of the building. After notifying the Hoboken Fire Department and Police Department, Legowski and two fellow Campus Police officers — Sergeant George Martinez and Captain Thomas Maggi — rushed to the smoke-filled building and began

From left to right are Stevens Police Sergeant George Martinez, Captain Thomas Maggi and Officer Tim Legowski. ▼



evacuating the apartments. When they arrived, Sergeant Martinez discovered that smoke detectors had failed to activate and waken sleeping residents. “The alertness of our officers at that early hour of the morning and their courageous actions by entering a smoke-filled, burning building and activating the pull station to wake residents and safely evacuate them likely saved lives,” said Stevens Chief of Police Tim Griffin. ❖



## STEVENS MOVES UP IN U.S. NEWS' RANKING

Stevens Institute of Technology reached an all-time high in the 2017 *U.S. News & World Report's* “Best Colleges” issue, moving up to 71st place from 75th place the previous year. During the past five years, Stevens has risen 17 places, from 88th in the 2011 ranking of best national universities, making it the third-fastest-rising university in the nation among the *U.S. News & World Report* top 100 colleges and universities. ❖

## FORMER SRI CHIEF SAYS INNOVATION IS KEY TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

Dr. Curtis Carlson, an influential technology leader who has advised emergent companies, governments and educational institutions on innovation, competitiveness and educational reform, was the eighth speaker in the Presi-

dent's Distinguished Lecture Series at Stevens Institute of Technology on Oct. 6, 2016.

Carlson is the founder and CEO of Practice Innovation and the former president and CEO of SRI International, one of the world's

preeminent research and innovation centers. In an hour-long lecture, he provided a fascinating look into the innovation practices of the renowned Silicon Valley research institute, where he oversaw the development of some of the most significant tech developments of our time, including Siri (prior to its acquisition by Apple) and transformative technologies such as HDTV and Intuitive Surgical.

Carlson advised that the U.S. must do more to prepare workers for long-term success — and the way to do that, he stressed, is to emulate what is happening at Stevens.

“We need to move toward a first-class education that not only teaches technology but also the disciplines of innovation. Graduates today need to learn those skills if they're going to thrive not just in the next ten years, but for the next 50 years.” ❖

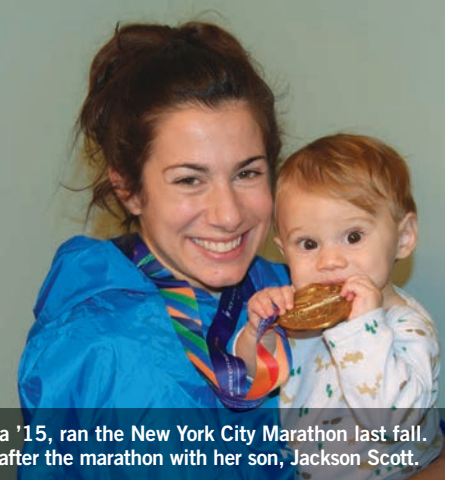
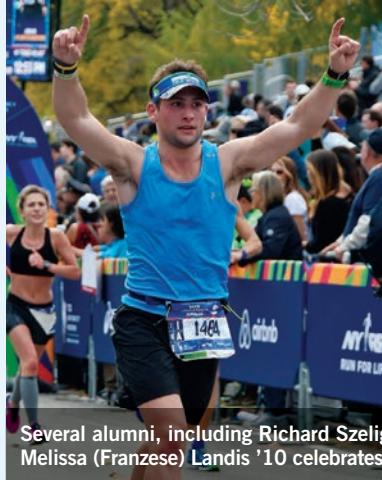


To see the entire lecture, visit [stevens.edu/lecture](http://stevens.edu/lecture)

# GRIST FROM THE MILL

## DUCKS COMPETE IN NYC MARATHON

Stevens alumni took their determination to the streets of the Big Apple on Nov. 6, 2016, to participate in the 40th annual New York City Marathon. Among the alumni runners: Kurt Fischer '05 M.S. '05, Melissa (Franzese) Landis '10, Donna Barden '12, Richard Szeliga '15, Larry Giannechini '12 M.Eng. '13 and Ph.D. student Laura Lemke '14. Brodie Remington, Stevens' vice president for Development, also competed. Other alumni marathoners can share their experiences and photos by emailing [alumni-log@stevens.edu](mailto:alumni-log@stevens.edu). The world-famous race had a record number of finishers in 2016 — 51,388 — as marathoners ran the course spanning the city's five boroughs. ❖



Several alumni, including Richard Szeliga '15, ran the New York City Marathon last fall. Melissa (Franzese) Landis '10 celebrates after the marathon with her son, Jackson Scott.

## LIBRARY STARTS ARCHIVE OF EMBROIDERY INDUSTRY

When a researcher stopped by the S.C. Williams Library to ask about the local embroidery industry, librarians knew who to call. Retired Stevens professor Silvio Laccetti, who had worked with the industry on a university project, still had a file cabinet full of reports, newspaper clippings and other historical materials. This led to the idea for an archive to preserve the history of New Jersey's embroidery industry which, at its peak in the 1960s, was home to hundreds of shops employing at least 7,000 people. The archive includes several donations from Laccetti, as well as donations and an hour-long interview with Joe Schneider '46, who still owns a Guttenberg, New Jersey, embroidery factory and is a longtime industry veteran. The archive will be open to scholars, students and members of the public by appointment. ❖

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For the full [nj.com](http://www.nj.com/education/2016/10/stevens_saves_last_scraps_of_nj_embroidery_industr.html) article, visit [http://www.nj.com/education/2016/10/stevens\\_saves\\_last\\_scraps\\_of\\_nj\\_embroidery\\_industr.html](http://www.nj.com/education/2016/10/stevens_saves_last_scraps_of_nj_embroidery_industr.html)

## URBAN LECTURE PACKS DEBAUN AUDITORIUM

It takes a certain kind of thinker to connect the Big Bang Theory, evolution, space travel, artificial intelligence and the future of mankind in just a little over an hour. But simplifying the complex is what Tim Urban does. Through his long-form, stick-figure-illustrated blog, "Wait But Why," Urban ruminates on topics that range from presidential elections to how the internal combustion engine works to colonizing Mars. And he was given free rein to discourse on a wide range of topics as the featured speaker in Stevens Institute of Technology's President's Leadership Seminar on Nov. 15 at DeBaun Auditorium. Stevens students are among the legion of fans who follow Urban's blog, which receives more than 1 million unique visitors each month and has more than 440,000 email subscribers. ❖



To see a video of Urban's lecture, visit [stevens.edu/tim\\_urban](http://stevens.edu/tim_urban)

## STEVENS Pre-College Summer Programs for High School Students

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## PROFESSOR HONORED WITH VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

WomenRising Inc., a community-based organization for women and families in Hudson County, honored longtime Stevens professor Susan Levin at its annual gala on Oct. 26, 2016, with the Volunteer Service Award. Levin, a literature professor in the College of Arts and Letters and the first woman at Stevens to rise through the ranks to full tenured professor, has made significant contributions to WomenRising. She has produced Stevens' annual performance of *The Vagina Monologues*, a groundbreaking play by Eve Ensler from 1994, for the past 16 years. Stevens students, alumnae and staff have participated in the performances over the years, with longtime participation from women's fencing team members and alumnae and their coach, Linda Vollkommer. Proceeds from the performance go directly to WomenRising and, since the first production at Stevens, the performances have helped raise more than \$20,000. WomenRising has been helping women and their families in Hudson County for more than 110 years, providing supportive counseling, crisis intervention, workforce development and job placement, shelter for victims of domestic violence, as well as outreach, advocacy and referrals. ❖



▲ Professor Susan Levin, left, and Stevens women's fencing coach Linda Vollkommer.

PHOTO: WOMENRISING INC.



Pictured, from left, are Robert Robbins '16, Stevens baseball coach Kristaps Aldins, Jayson Yano '16 and Nick Semaca '80.

## BOYS OF SUMMER EYE THE BIG LEAGUES

Two Stevens baseball standouts are continuing their quest to make it to the big leagues and faced off for a fun reunion this past summer in the Prairie State. Pitcher Jayson Yano '16 now plays with the Windy City ThunderBolts out of Crestwood, Illinois, and pitcher Robert Robbins '16 is with the Joliet Slammers, based in Joliet, Illinois, as members of the Frontier League, a professional baseball organization and feeder system for Major League Baseball. The former Ducks teammates squared off for a game this past August in Joliet that was attended by their former Stevens baseball coach Kristaps Aldins. Also attending was Joliet Slammers Professional Baseball Club owner Nick Semaca '80. Yano started for the ThunderBolts, going five innings, giving up two earned runs and striking out four. ❖

## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE OFFERS INSPIRATION, ADVICE, CONTACTS

Dr. Jedidah Isler — the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in astrophysics from Yale, an award-winning physicist and an advocate for diversity in STEM education — headlined the second annual Women's Leadership Conference at Stevens this past October. Isler delivered a well-received keynote address to more than 100 students, alumnae, faculty and staff, with Daniella Kranjac '99, co-founder and managing partner of DYNAMK Capital and a Stevens trustee, offering opening remarks. Alumnae panelists and a networking event with alumnae from ExxonMobil, JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs, Johnson & Johnson, Estee Lauder, PSE&G and others, filled the agenda, in this day that focused on careers but also on topics such as self-care, mental health, social identity and leadership. The expanded event, sponsored by Stevens' Office of Women's Programs and the Office of Graduate Student Affairs, saw registration more than double from its previous year. ❖



Dr. Jedidah Isler

PHOTO: STEPHEN SARTORI



To read the full article, visit [stevens.edu/womens\\_leadership](http://stevens.edu/womens_leadership)

▼ Seated, from left, are soccer player Patrick Boylan '18, volleyball player Gabriel Shankweiler '18, softball player Christine LaRochelle '19 and basketball player Alioune Diane '18. Standing, from left, are fencer Abigail Kaye '19, track and field athlete Chris Banko '17, basketball player Megan Brown '18, tennis player Alexis Connor '17 and wrestler Daniel Moore '17.

PHOTO: JOHN O'BOYLE

"I PLEDGE MY HONOR TO THE UNIVERSITY OF STEVENS"

# ATHLETES

DRIVEN TO SUCCEED ON AND OFF THE FIELD, STEVENS' STUDENT-







BY YOUNG SOO YANG

# WITH CLASS

ATHLETES ARE MAKING A STATEMENT ON THE NATIONAL STAGE







**F**

**IVE YEARS AGO, AMY REGAN '17 WAS A GIFTED HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE SOUGHT AFTER BY BIG-NAME DIVISION I SCHOOLS WITH ELITE ATHLETICS PROGRAMS SUCH AS PENN STATE.**

But the Green Brook, New Jersey, senior set her sights on Stevens, where she knew she would receive an opportunity to pursue both athletic and academic excellence.

It's a decision she has never regretted.

"Stevens was the only small school I was considering, but it was at the top of my list because of the school's engineering management major and co-op program," she recalls.

Fast-forward five years. Regan has since become a national superstar in cross-country and track, an 11-time All American who has earned a string of NCAA titles

over the past three years. She brought home multiple Division III titles in the 5,000- and 10,000-meter distances in outdoor competition; in the 3,000- and 5,000-meter distances during indoor track season; and two cross country titles — an extraordinary total of six NCAA national championship titles in all, bringing great honor to the long and proud tradition of Stevens athletics.

The Stevens senior continues to rack up titles in her final season — in November she made history by winning her second NCAA national championship in women's

cross country — all while maintaining an impressive 3.8 GPA.

"I owe a lot of my achievements to the athletics culture at Stevens. The close-knit community of coaches, faculty and fellow athletes all contributed to create an environment where I could realize my potential as both an athlete and scholar," Regan says.

▲ *Amy Regan '17 competes in the NCAA cross country national championship on Nov. 19, 2016, where she took home first place for the second time in her career.*





▲ *Evan Klimchak '16 shoots a free throw during a game against Kean University last season.*

**NATIONAL RECOGNITION ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM**

Regan exemplifies the extraordinary caliber of the student-athletes who have made Stevens a powerhouse among DIII schools in the last 15 years. Their ability to come through in big moments has produced historic victories for the university:

- A runner-up finish in the national championship for men's soccer in 2008.
- A national championship title in men's volleyball in 2015, the school's first NCAA team title.
- Appearances in the NCAA Round of 16 for women's volleyball in 2016; and for field hockey, women's soccer and women's basketball in 2015.
- Individual accomplishments, no less impressive, include a string of first-place NCAA finishes in men's and women's swimming, women's cross country and women's track and field over the last several years.

But what's even more remarkable is the way Stevens athletes have complemented their on-the-field excellence with outstanding classroom performance. This was never more evident than during the 2015-16

academic year, one of the most accomplished in the history of Stevens athletics. The success of that season propelled Stevens to a No. 13 ranking overall — among approximately 450 DIII schools — in the prestigious Learfield Directors' Cup, tying the school's highest finish in 2011.

The award, given annually by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA), recognizes the colleges and universities in the U.S. with the most success in collegiate athletics, using a points system based on each institution's finish in up to 18 sports — nine women's and nine men's.

That 13th place finish was a "very big deal," says Russell Rogers, the school's long-time athletics director (see profile, page 14). Rogers, who has led the department since 2000, describes the national ranking as a measurable gauge of the across-the-board competitiveness, depth and success of its athletics programs by member institutions.

"It's a tremendous honor that is a product of the dedication and hard work put in by so many different people. I could not be prouder of our student-athletes, coaches and staff," he says.

**TIMELINE**

Achievements in Stevens Athletics during the past 15 years

**2002**

**FIRST NCAA TOURNAMENT WIN**  
*Women's Soccer*

**2008**

**FIRST NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME APPEARANCE**  
*Men's Soccer*

**FIRST ECAC INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR AWARD**

*Stevens chosen for its achievements in academics and athletics from more than 300 Division I, II and III schools*

**2011**

**FIRST NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPION, INDIVIDUAL**

*Laura Barito '11, for both swimming (50-yard freestyle) and track (400-meter hurdles)*

**FIRST DIRECTORS' CUP TOP 15 FINISH**

*All Teams*

**2013**

**ECAC INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR AWARD (REPEAT WINNER)**

*All Teams*

**2015**

**FIRST NCAA TEAM NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

*Men's Volleyball*

# DREAM JOB

**N**OT TOO MANY PEOPLE GET TO LIVE OUT THEIR CHILDHOOD DREAMS. BUT RUSSELL ROGERS IS ONE OF THOSE CHARMED INDIVIDUALS WHO HAS. THE 2016-17 ACADEMIC YEAR MARKS ROGERS' 17TH YEAR AS STEVENS' ATHLETICS DIRECTOR, A POST HE TOOK OVER IN 2000.

The 21-year veteran of Stevens has been able to carry his boyhood passion for sports into adulthood, building an accomplished career in collegiate athletics.

"I feel very blessed to be doing what I've wanted to do for as long as I can remember," said Rogers. "Nothing is better than working with students, and seeing all the hard work and time they put in come to fruition."

The North Carolina native came to Stevens with his New Jersey-born-and-raised wife Mary Jane in 1995. Since then, their family has grown to include son Bryan, a Stevens junior majoring in business and finance and a member of the school's lacrosse team, and daughter Camryn, a junior in high school.

Growing up, Rogers loved to play a variety of sports, including tennis and basketball, and he was determined to make sports a part of his career in some way. At Wake Forest University, he earned a bachelor's in health and sports science.

"That gave me another level of understanding of physiology and how the human body works, and how that applies to sports. So I view athletic performance through that lens, which I think is very helpful."

Rogers later earned his master's degree in physical education, exercise and sports science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he served as a graduate assistant in the Tar Heel intramural and recreation program.

His first job out of school was in Baltimore as an assistant director of recreation at Loyola College, where he oversaw the school's intramural sports program.

Three years later, he accepted a position to serve as the assistant director of athletics at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. But a career opportunity in his wife's home state would make his time there brief.

"I was there only a year when my wife received a great opportunity at Rutgers, her alma mater."

Fortunately for Rogers, Stevens had an opening for a director of campus recreation. He has been a stalwart fixture at

Castle Point ever since.

Rogers also served as head men's tennis coach, assistant athletics director and sports information director before being named head of the department.

Stevens Athletics has grown by leaps and bounds during his long tenure, as the number of Stevens' varsity sports increased from 17 to 26, to include popular additions such as men's wrestling in 2004, and women's field hockey and softball in 2004 and 2009, respectively.

With the growth of the department, Rogers' tenure has also seen major facility improvements, including the renovation of the DeBaun Athletic Complex, a state-of-the-art field turf complex, which serves as home to the soccer, lacrosse, field hockey and baseball teams and a wide range of recreational sports.

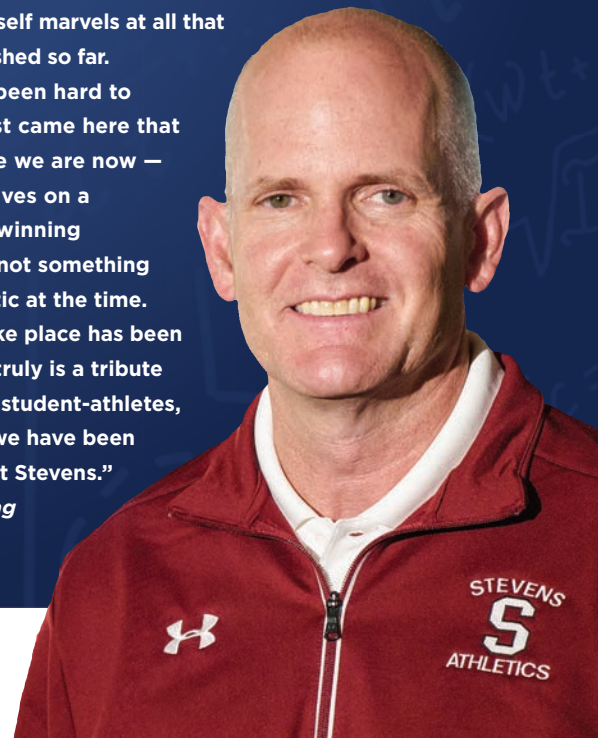
Under Rogers' stewardship as athletics director, Stevens has placed among the nation's elite each of the past eight years in terms of program-wide success, cracking the top 40 of the Directors' Cup and reaching as high as No. 13 last season.

Rogers spearheaded the school's transition into the Empire 8 Conference from the Skyline Conference, a move that positioned Stevens alongside some of the most elite athletics programs in the country. Additionally, he witnessed one of the proudest moments in Stevens' history when the men's volleyball team delivered the school's first team NCAA championship in 2015.

When he does take a moment to reflect, Rogers himself marvels at all that has been accomplished so far.

"It would have been hard to imagine when I first came here that we would be where we are now — establishing ourselves on a national level and winning national titles. It's not something that seemed realistic at the time. And watching it take place has been pretty amazing. It truly is a tribute to the outstanding student-athletes, coaches and staff we have been fortunate to have at Stevens."

❖ — *Young Soo Yang*





PHOTOS: JEFF VOCK



◀ Daniel Smith '15 gets ready to spike the ball during the championship game against Springfield College in the NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball Tournament in 2015. The Ducks won, giving Stevens its first NCAA team national championship.

“The heavy course load [at Stevens] and the demands of athletic competition means they have to have the discipline, the desire and the dedication to be successful as a student-athlete here,” said Rogers.

Finding and attracting students who fit that lofty profile may seem a tall order, but women's lacrosse head coach Celine Cunningham says the impressive outcomes of Stevens students have actually helped lead to increased selectivity when it comes to recruiting student-athletes.

“There's a bigger pool to recruit from [now] because of our successes on the field, our record of job placement and programs like co-op. The challenge now is that it has become more competitive to get [into Stevens].”

Stevens' rise among DIII schools wouldn't have been possible without considerable sup-

***“Being a student-athlete at Stevens is a more fulfilling experience than what you would expect at most colleges. I grow through my sport but am also heavily encouraged to enhance myself through involvement with my campus and service to my community. We really redefine stereotypes of the college athlete life.”*** — KYRIA JOHNSON '18, WOMEN'S FENCING



The Directors' Cup standing is only the latest indicator of Stevens' esteem.

Stevens has captured the CAANJ (Collegiate Athletic Administrators of New Jersey) Cup, which honors the New Jersey DIII institution with the most athletic success, for six consecutive seasons, from 2010 to 2016.

And perhaps no accolade has meant more to the university as a whole than the one it received twice. Stevens was named the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Institution of the Year in 2008 and in 2013, an award given to the ECAC institution that exemplifies the highest standards of collegiate academics and athletic performance in

all NCAA divisions. Stevens topped more than 300 Division I, II and III programs both times to secure the prestigious honor. Previous winners have included Harvard, Princeton and Williams College.

#### **A RECRUITMENT SUCCESS STORY**

Much is expected of the Stevens student-athlete.

As a group, they have had a combined GPA of just about 3.4 in the last two years — no easy feat at a university with a rigorous technical curriculum. They have also helped the school achieve and maintain a top-50 finish in the NACDA Directors' Cup since 2009.

port from the university's leadership, according to men's volleyball head coach Patrick Dorywalski, who has witnessed Stevens athletics grow to 26 DIII varsity sports during his three-decade tenure. He says a concerted effort to recruit top talent has been a game-changer.

“When the administration committed resources to let us go and find these talented students, it changed the entire university, and it shows,” he notes.

Indeed, as Stevens' prominence grows among DIII schools, there has been a notable side effect: Interest among prospective undergraduate students to join the Stevens community is increasing as the university becomes more selective. (The overall acceptance

## FOR THE RECORD

Some top stats from Stevens Athletics' *All-Time Record Book*, most achieved during the past 15 years:

# 25

**MOST GAMES WON IN A ROW, SINGLE SEASON**  
*(Women's Volleyball, 2007)*

# 14

**NUMBER OF NCAA INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES**  
*(Track and Field, Cross Country, Swimming)*

# 1

**NUMBER OF NCAA TEAM NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
*(Men's Volleyball, 2015)*

# 6

**MOST NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WON BY AN INDIVIDUAL**  
*(Amy Regan '17, Indoor and Outdoor Track in 2016; Cross Country in 2014 and 2016.)*

# .682

# 193

**Wins**

# 90

**Losses**

**TOP ALL-TIME WINNING PERCENTAGE FOR A TEAM**  
*(Women's Lacrosse)*

# 14

**MOST NCAA TEAM TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES**  
*(Men's Soccer)*



***"I consider myself extremely lucky to be a student-athlete at Stevens. I have always loved to play sports but I also value the power of a great education. The athletics program, along with the academics here, have given me the best of both worlds."***

— CARLY BEAN '17, WOMEN'S SOCCER

rate for the freshman class of 2020 was 39 percent, down from 44 percent in fall 2015, making it among the most selective classes in recent years.)

As a group, student-athletes make up more than 16 percent of the undergraduate student population and represent 28 states.

Jacqueline Williams, Stevens' dean of undergraduate admissions, says the recruitment of scholar-athletes is integral to Stevens' enrollment strategy, increased selectivity and other institutional goals.

"There are a number of influencers in a student's life — high school guidance counselors, teachers, high school coaches, club sport coaches, as well as family and friends. The success of our student-athletes and varsity teams helps to raise our national profile and strengthens our reputation with the various individuals who all play a part in the college selection process," points out Williams.

The value athletics recruits bring to Stevens, in terms of strengthening the university's reputation, continues long after they graduate. Their career outcomes





▲ Victoria Alvarez '18 runs down the lacrosse field during a game against Nazareth College last season.

at the most sought-after companies in the world contribute to Stevens' consistently stellar ROI rankings and standing among industry leaders.

"Over the years, I find that our scholar-athletes land some of the most impressive positions upon graduation, and go on to have highly successful careers," notes Ann Murphy, associate dean of undergraduate studies for the School of Business.

#### SETTING A TONE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

"Providing scholar-athletes with the ability to compete at a high level athletically and academically is a hallmark of the Stevens experience," says Dean of Students Ken Nilsen.

This emphasis on the overall experience of the student was one of the primary reasons Jeff Parker, women's soccer head coach, came to Stevens 17 years ago.

"Our approach has always been to prioritize family, school and soccer, in that order. Sometimes other athletic atmospheres lack the balance that many potential student-athletes are looking for," says Parker.

The importance of education echoes throughout the campus' athletics programs.

"Coaches and captains are very proac-

tive about putting together study hours and ensuring that upperclassmen act as great mentors for [new athletes] to start the year off strong," says distance-runner Regan.

"Coach Megan Haughey is adamant about clear communication regarding how academics are going, and is willing

***"Playing lacrosse at Stevens was one of the highlights of my life. Being recognized as a Hall of Fame player in lacrosse under Coach Buzz Seymour during his most successful season (1965) was a great honor, because he was a great man. My college years provided the foundation for the rest of my life, both personally and professionally."***

— HANK BERRY '67





▲ *As a sign of athletic achievements to come, Stevens faced Messiah College in the national championship game of the NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Tournament in 2008. Jeremy Lippel '10, pictured, scored Stevens' tying goal, but the Ducks would eventually lose the heart-breaker in overtime penalty kicks.*

to assign us tutors and alter the practice schedule if our weeks have been stressful," said Erica Guketlov '17, a senior guard — and information systems major — for the women's basketball team.

When it comes to supporting student-athlete success, coaches have critical allies among the faculty.

"When we do have to miss a class, professors make every effort to extend the

deadline of assignments or move the exam date to a later time," said Stevens junior Abigail Kaye '19, a member of the women's fencing team and a chemical engineering major from Ohio.

Ron Besser, director of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, says he's more than happy to support varsity athletes, given their intense commitment to academics.

"In my experience as a chemical engineering professor, I have found that [student-athletes] are some of the most talented, organized and well-rounded students that we have," says Besser.

"Through many seasons of sports involvement, they have learned how to manage practices and games alongside the demands of schoolwork."





© BEN BARNHART

▲ Gladys Njoku '16 clears the bar at the Springfield College Invitational on Jan. 30, 2016. During her Stevens career, Njoku captured two NCAA national championships for the high jump.

**BEYOND COMPETITION**

Outside of the classroom and off the field, student-athletes are constantly striving to give back to the local community and beyond. As one of the most active groups on campus, they played a central role in *The Princeton Review's* No. 19 ranking of Stevens for engagement in community service in the 2017 edition of “The Best 381 Colleges.” (See story, page 22.)

They regularly host sports clinics and tournaments for local children and youth teams, volunteer at the Hoboken Shelter, and work with local middle school students through the Stevens Duckling Program.

“All athletics teams are encouraged to participate in two community service projects or outreach projects, but I know many do far more. [For instance,] my team had 15 people volunteering at the Ho-BOOken5K Halloween run, helping with set-up, sign-in, food tables, crowd control and even delivering remaining food to the homeless shelter. They also teach volleyball to high school students in Manhattan and

Staten Island. These clinics have between 40 and 120 kids from various high schools,” says Dorywalski.

Contributing to the well-being of a community is a core principle that traces back to the start of an athlete’s development, notes Rogers.

“In sports, somebody — a Little League coach, a club coach, a high school or middle school coach — has given of their time to teach them how to play a particular

sport and help them along the way. So it’s incumbent on [our] athletes to give back,” said Rogers.

Rogers and his coaches are also cognizant of their responsibility to prepare students for life beyond competition.

“Our students are very focused on their futures and understand that everything that they’re doing now, good or bad, can have an impact on life after Castle Point and where they’re going from here,” says Rogers.

***“Women’s fencing was an important part of my college experience. We trained hard, but we also had a lot of fun because of Coach Linda (Vollkommer); and I want every fencer at Stevens to have the same experience. The sportsmanship, discipline and strategic skills are all skills that I use on a daily basis as an attorney.”***

— ANGIE HANKINS '95

# SIDELINE SUPPORT

**Y**OU CAN FIND PATRICK DORYWALSKI'S OFFICE TUCKED IN A CORNER ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE CHARLES V. SCHAEFER JR. ATHLETIC AND RECREATION CENTER. YOU'LL KNOW IT BY THE PICTURES TAPED TO THE DOOR: ONE OF HIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP-WINNING TEAM AND ONE OF JOE TRINSEY '09, THE TECHNICAL COORDINATOR FOR THE U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL TEAM (SEE PROFILE ON PAGE 30).

Or, if he has the door open, you'll see a room stuffed with photos, medals and ribbons, souvenirs from more than 30 years with Stevens volleyball.

"I'm at the point now where I'm recruiting kids whose parents played on my teams. They can hardly believe what Stevens is today."

Dorywalski and the coaching staffs around the university play a major role in making the Stevens Athletics program as successful as it is. Having started as a coach for the university's women's club team in 1984 — and a player and coach for the men's club team in 1989 — he saw the creation of the varsity volleyball teams and coached the 2015 men's squad that brought Stevens

its first NCAA team National Championship. But none of the successes came without hard work and realistic expectations.

"As a coach, you have to know there are limits," he says. "Academics is first and it has to be number one at Stevens. I'd also rather that

my players aren't stressed and that they enjoy everything, so if they need to study instead of practice, I tell them that's OK."

It's part of the culture of Stevens' Athletics that academics are the main focus, says Celine Cunningham, associate athletic director and senior woman administrator, who has coached the women's lacrosse team since 2003. She's also seen her fair share of success on the field, taking her team to the NCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse Tournament in 2005, 2010 and 2011.

"I don't have to preach it too much. It's expected that our athletes do well and that they're driven, spending their four years here to prepare for life after college," she says. "A lot of our success is because of the support system within the school and the team. There's also a trickle-down effect, from the seniors to the juniors to the sophomores to the freshmen."

Both Cunningham and Dorywalski also believe that there's much to be gained from the losses, especially the tough ones. It's those losses, Cunningham says, that lead to the successes.

"It's important for [the students] to feel the loss and to learn from it. I have them analyze what we did, think of what we need to do. But then I tell them to forget about it," she says. "The last game of the season is always tough, but we have to look at what

*"I'm at the point now where I'm recruiting kids whose parents played on my teams. They can hardly believe what Stevens is today."*

— COACH PATRICK DORYWALSKI

PHOTO: JEFF VOCK



▲ Men's volleyball coach Patrick Dorywalski celebrates his team's NCAA Division III championship in 2015. At right, Dorywalski shows off his championship ring.

PHOTO: JEFF VOCK







▲ *Women's lacrosse coach Celine Cunningham cheers on Amanda Ingersoll '15 following the Ducks' championship win over Lebanon Valley College in the ECAC Women's Lacrosse Mid-Atlantic Region Championship in 2015. Ingersoll was named the tournament's "Most Outstanding Player."*

we learned over the course of the season and how we can use that to get better. I tell them not to be afraid of mistakes; it's how they react to those mistakes that matters."

Dorywalski offers similar advice. "I tell them to keep their eyes on the prize. You can learn as much from an individual loss as you can from a win, sometimes more. Just like in life, every experience is a learning opportunity. You will not get what you want all the time, but that's how the world works."

For as much as the coaches teach their student-athletes about sports and life, they get just as much — or more — in return. Dorywalski can rattle off the names and accomplishments of players from years past and speaks with pride about his current squad, which he says will likely be ready for another national championship by 2019.

"They're just so fun to be around," he says. "They're really great people."

Cunningham agrees.

"It's been incredibly rewarding and I know it sounds cliché, but seeing them grow over four years as athletes and as people is special. When recruiting, I talk more about our alums than I do current students and I tell the families about what can happen and who their children can become," she says. "I truly love what I do. We, as coaches, really do have the dream job." ❖ — *Rebecca Markley*



***"My participation in Stevens Athletics has granted me the opportunity to develop qualities such as leadership, teamwork and cooperation, for which I am incredibly thankful."***

— ZEPH WALTERS '17, BASEBALL

As a member of the men's varsity lacrosse team, Connor Towne '17 is grateful for the unique experience of being on a 50-member team and the lasting effect that experience will have on his career and personal development.

"The majority of my career in finance will [also] be on teams, and as players we have to learn how to deal with different personalities and channel all of our efforts towards a common goal. Beyond the wins and losses of a season, I've learned how to bounce back from adversity and have become better for having learned that lesson," Towne says.

"Outstanding grades and high-level play might get someone noticed," agrees Parker, "but it also takes character and grit to make it as a Stevens student-athlete.

"Those qualities carry over into life, and we already know that our graduates appreciate the fullness of their Stevens experience...on *and* off the field." ❖



For more on Stevens Athletics, including sports schedules, please visit [stevensducks.com](http://stevensducks.com).

# DOING GOOD OFF THE FIELD

**K**YRA BEDNARSKI AND EMILY SHANKLIN WERE PRESCHOOLERS ON SEPT. 11, 2001, WHEN OFF-DUTY NEW YORK CITY FIREFIGHTER STEPHEN SILLER RAN IN FULL GEAR THROUGH THE CLOSED BROOKLYN BATTERY TUNNEL, TOWARD THE BURNING WORLD TRADE CENTER. LAST FALL, THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11, THESE STEVENS FRESHMAN LACROSSE PLAYERS JOINED THOUSANDS IN RETRACING SILLER'S HEROIC RUN, TO HONOR HIS MEMORY AND TO HELP OTHER HEROES.

They and their teammates ran the 15th annual Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Run & Walk — through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to Manhattan — and raised money for Building for America's Bravest, a program that builds smart homes for injured service members. As firefighters ran alongside them in full gear, they emerged from the tunnel, to see lines of first responders and military personnel, many dressed in uniform. Families and friends of those who died on Sept. 11 also greeted them, many holding photos of their lost loved ones.

"It's important for athletes to participate in these types of events because it shows the community that we care,

that we want to be involved in things other than just our sport," Bednarski says.

This was not a one-time event for the women's lacrosse team — but the 14th year that the team has run this race for which

they've raised thousands of dollars over the years.

The women's lacrosse team is not the only Stevens athletics team engaged in meaningful community service. This year, through the Duckling Program, more than 100 Stevens student-athletes will mentor and teach fun engineering lessons to Hoboken schoolchildren. The Duckling Program is perhaps the most popular service program among athletes, with volunteers from all 26 varsity teams. These dedicated student-athletes work with sixth-graders in the Hoboken public schools throughout the school year, and while they serve as mentors, they also teach STEM-focused, hands-on lessons to help spark student interest in STEM fields. At the

end of the year, the children attend the "Duckling in Reverse Day," when they visit Stevens, tour labs, meet with professors and enjoy sports clinics and lunch on the lawn.

Meanwhile, athletes also serve meals and pack lunches for homeless people in the city, host sports clinics for local school children and raise money for Special Olympics, the Susan G. Komen foundation and other organizations.

Community service, indeed, is a pillar of the student-athlete experience at Stevens and deeply ingrained in the culture.

"Our kids are so motivated to do good, to get involved," says women's basketball head coach Megan Haughey, who advises the Duckling Program. "I feel that they enjoy this as a team-building experience and being part of a larger community."



▲ Members of the Stevens women's lacrosse team have participated in the annual Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Run & Walk for the past 14 years.



Stevens' athletes have been nationally recognized for their extraordinary community service. The National Association of Division III Athletic Administrators (NADIII AA) has presented Stevens with a NADIII AA/Jostens Community Service Award four times in recent years. Stevens received the award for the 2014-15 school year for a Relay for Life walk that involved more than 400 students and raised \$25,000 for the American Cancer Society. The athletics program was also honored for its community response after 9/11, its founding of the Duckling Program in 2009 and its student-athletes' efforts to assist Hoboken residents in 2013, in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

Student-athletes have played a large role in the university placing No. 19 for "students most engaged in community service" in *The Princeton Review's* 2017 edition of "The Best 381 Colleges."

*Women's basketball player Erica Guketlov '17, top, and women's soccer player Madison Chollett '20, bottom left, work with students at Hoboken's Wallace School on truss bridge models, as part of the Duckling Program. Bottom right: Duckling co-chairs and women's soccer players Lindsey Mahnken '19, left, and Olivia Butera '20.*

"Service is very important to our team," state soccer players Olivia Butera '20 and Lindsey Mahnken '19, Duckling Program co-chairs. "We are lucky enough to attend Stevens, so giving back to the community in topics that we really care about is a very humbling experience." ❖ — *Beth Kissinger*



PHOTO: JEFF VOCK



PHOTO: JEFF VOCK



PHOTO: JOHN O'BOYLE









# 5 GROUNDBREAKERS ENTER ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME AT HOMECOMING 2016

**MOST ARE RECORD-HOLDERS OR PIONEERS — THE FIVE ELITE ALUMNI ATHLETES WHO ENTERED THE STEVENS ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME OVER A RAINY WEEKEND IN HOBOKEN THIS FALL.**

Opposite, top left: Hall of Fame inductees, from left: Andrew Cranford '09, Zachary Carr '11, Alyssa Pigott-Decker '10, the late Robert Murphy '54, represented by his son, Robert Jr., and Laura Barito '11. Robert Murphy '54 is seen in the black and white photo at left.

Opposite, bottom photos: Other Homecoming highlights included Oktoberfest, left, and a celebration of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, which received a national award from the North-American Interfraternity Conference.

PHOTOS: JEFF VOCK



But they are also examples of lives well lived away from the playing field and the classroom. Among them are a World War II Navy veteran, engineer and beloved father and grandfather; a men's volleyball stand-out who played professionally in Germany and now builds Manhattan high-rise apartments; a chiropractor and new mom; a clinical specialist who assists surgeons with technology right in the operating room; and a fitness coach and competitive weightlifter working toward the 2020 Olympics.

They are the Class of 2016 Athletics Hall of Fame inductees, who joined this prestigious club on Sept. 30 at Stevens during Homecoming Weekend 2016. The inductees are Robert J. Murphy '54, who was posthumously inducted for men's lacrosse, soccer and squash; Andrew Cranford '09, men's volleyball; Alyssa Pigott-Decker '10, women's lacrosse; Zachary Carr '11 M.Eng. '13, men's soccer; and Laura Barito '11, women's swimming and women's track and field.

Homecoming also featured several alumni/alumnae games, with this growing tradition including alumnae lacrosse and two men's alumni lacrosse matches, an alumnae softball game, alumni swim meets and an alumni baseball game. Theta Beta Pi, with student and alumni cast members, presented comedic vignettes of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change." The weekend also welcomed the visual arts and music to campus with the inaugural OnPoint Music & Arts Festival, which drew about 500 people to two outdoor stages and an art exhibition across campus.

Current brothers and alumni of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity had their moment, too — an awards ceremony to honor the chapter with a 2016 Chapter Award of Distinction from the North-American Interfraternity Conference. The prestigious national award honored the chapter from thousands of chapters nationwide for its high GPA (3.562), community service and leadership.

Michael Kochanik '87 returned for Homecoming with his family, including his son, a high school sophomore who dreams of being an engineer.

"It's nice to show my family where I went to school, and I wanted to show my son, who's a soccer player, what a collegiate game looks like," he said. Stevens men's soccer obliged, defeating Elmira College 5-1.

"It was a great game," Kochanik said. ❖

“This isn’t a fight for Sikh Americans. This is a fight for all Americans who value religion. We advocate for everyone.”

# SDRIVEN TO Serve

ARMY VET, ER DOC ALSO EMBRACES ROLE OF ACTIVIST



PHOTO: RUSSELL BRAMMER; COPYRIGHT: THE SIKH COALITION

**H**e comes from three generations of military men — his father and grandfather served in the Indian Air Force, his great-grandfather in the Royal British Army — so it seemed his destiny to serve, and to fight.

Army Major Kamaljeet Kalsi '98 has served mostly as an emergency room physician — an Army ER doctor in Helmand Province in Afghanistan in 2011, five years in the ER at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson, New Jersey (good preparation for Helmand Province, he says), three years as medical director of emergency medical services at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He's treated hundreds

of soldiers and civilians for combat injuries, trauma from improvised explosive devices and other injuries of war, and patients battling heart attacks, gunshot wounds and car accidents.

But this ER doc and soldier has also embraced another and unexpected calling — activist.

That is why Kalsi stood on the stage at the Democratic National Convention last summer, alongside generals, admirals and Gen. John Allen, who spoke about an America that is made stronger and better by embracing unity and the diversity of its people.

Indeed, as he was seeking to serve his country, Kalsi, who is a Sikh, was also fighting for his right to express his religious beliefs, by wearing

▲ Army Major Kamaljeet Kalsi '98 speaks at a hearing before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, where he advocated for the right of soldiers to serve while wearing articles of their religious faith.

the turban, unshorn hair and beard of his faith. He won his individual battle but continues to fight so that all of his fellow servicemen and women will have this same right.

“It was a tough experience, but very valuable,” Kalsi says, as he looks back on his seven months in Afghanistan. “It was certainly an honor to be able to go do that and take care of my fellow soldiers.”

For his service in Afghanistan, Kalsi received the Bronze Star. Among his accomplishments:



caring for more than 750 soldiers and successfully resuscitating two patients back to life.

Being the first Sikh accommodated by the military in about three decades to wear his articles of faith, Kalsi says that he feels a deep responsibility to help open the doors to the military for others, from Jews to Muslims to his fellow Sikhs, to serve their country and to practice their faith by wearing the hijab, the yarmulke or other religious articles. His passion to serve his country comes from his desire to be a good Sikh, and a good American.

“It’s part of who we are,” he says. “To fight back against intolerance and prejudice is what we’ve always done.”

### A JOURNEY ON CAPITOL HILL

It’s Tuesday morning in early October and Kalsi — who was born in India but has lived in New Jersey since age 2 — is home in Riverdale, New Jersey (where he lives with wife Chinar MBA ’08 and their two young children), getting ready for a day of work. But he won’t be traveling to his part-time job as an emergency room doctor in a New Jersey hospital.

He’s preparing to drive to Washington, D.C. at the invitation of Sens. Cory Booker and Kirsten Gillibrand and Congressmen Joe Crowley and John Garamendi. Kalsi has been asked to brief the Congress members and their staff on issues facing Sikh Americans, and to speak on a panel at a Sikh awareness event at the Senate later that day. He is an articulate spokesman who conveys warmth and humanity in the interviews that he has done over the years on his struggle for religious accommodation. News outlets from National Public Radio and *TIME* magazine to *The New York Times* and *U.S. News & World Report* have interviewed him and invited him to write about his experiences.

The current Army policy does not allow for facial hair, long hair or anything worn atop the head, though those wishing to serve can apply for an accommodation, which is decided on a case-by-case basis. But Kalsi says that the process is long and arduous; it took him a year and a half, 15,000 signed petitions, the lobbying power of the New York-based Sikh Coali-

tion and the work of a high-powered law firm behind them.

Kalsi’s journey began in 2001, when he joined the Army Reserve, seven months before the 9/11 attacks. He planned to attend Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Vallejo, California, and wanted to serve his country and needed a way to pay for school. He received an Army Reserve scholarship, and years later, after medical school and residency, in 2008, he tried to volunteer for active duty but was told that he could not keep his turban and beard, per Department of Defense policy. (Kalsi demonstrated that he can wear a gas mask and even designed a camouflage turban.) After a long effort, he did receive the accommodation in 2010 and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2011, where he served as officer in charge of an expeditionary hospital. Since then, a few other soldiers have been granted this right, though others have been denied.

But Kalsi sees encouraging signs. This past fall, Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning signed a new directive that addresses religious accommodations, with the intention of speeding up the process. Kalsi is still working toward a policy change that is broad “so my daughter and son won’t have to jump through so many hoops to sign up and join.”

This change in policy will help open up the door to more qualified people who want to serve their country, he says. And it’s simply American.

“We’re going to continue to fight until the policy is changed,” he says. “This isn’t a fight for Sikh Americans. This is a fight for all Americans who value religion. We advocate for everyone.”

Also fueling his advocacy is his year-long political fellowship with the Truman National Security Project, a Washington, D.C.-based leadership development organization, where he works on diversity and national security issues. His work with Truman led him to the DNC stage.

“I don’t remember an election cycle quite like this one,” Kalsi says. “It’s very charged, with lots of hateful rhetoric going around. I felt that it was my duty to stand up and lend a voice. Diversity should be part of the conversation.”

He called the convention an “exceptionally awesome experience,” and was particularly moved when he met the Khan family — the parents of Army Capt. Humayun Khan, who was killed in the Iraq War in 2004. Khizr Muazzam Khan spoke of his son’s sacrifice that evening and decried now-President Donald Trump’s remarks about Muslims, in a speech that drew international attention.

“They’re immigrants, like my family, and they’ve suffered and sacrificed,” Kalsi says of the Khans. “I really felt for them. He had a very touching speech.”

Surely, Kalsi holds many memories of Afghanistan, including the soldiers he treated and who thanked him and never questioned his appearance.

“Not once, among the hundreds of patients that I cared for, did they ever care that I wore a turban and had a beard. It never interfered with my job,” he says.

“That’s who we are as a nation. It doesn’t matter what we look like and where we came from, as long as we can get the job done.” ❖

— Beth Kissinger

► Kalsi, center, at work in Afghanistan, where he served as officer in charge of an expeditionary hospital in Helmand Province.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAMALJEET KALSII



# FULFILLING PATH

ALUMNA DISCOVERS REWARDING CAREER, LOVE AT CASTLE POINT

As a high schooler, Rachel (Ostroff) Perez '07 could choose any biography for her summer reading assignment and discovered “Still Me” — an autobiography of the late actor Christopher Reeve. His story of resilience and of finding meaning after becoming a quadriplegic due to a horseback riding accident sparked her desire to help people facing physical struggles to live the best lives they can.

“That sealed the deal,” she said.

This clarity of purpose at such a young age led the Miami native to study biomedical engineering at Stevens, where she found friendship, love and the path to a deeply rewarding career.

Today, Perez works as a physical therapist with the renowned research hospital, the Mayo Clinic. Based out of the clinic’s Jacksonville, Florida, campus, she is an expert on biomechanics and rehabilitation. Perez joined the Mayo Clinic in 2010 fresh out of graduate school at the University of North Florida, where she earned a clinical doctorate in physical therapy.

Within this 5,500-employee hospital that spans close to 400 acres, she collaborates with a team of health professionals in the Pain Rehabilitation Center. Perez now works specifically with patients who suffer dysfunction related to chronic pain and other chronic conditions. Her goals: To help them move their bodies more appropriately, function despite recurring symptoms and become consistently more active without pain medication. She works closely with occupational therapists, nurses, physician assistants and a pain psychologist, with an interdisciplinary team approach.

Perez credits her time at Castle Point with helping guide her career in this direction. During her cooperative education experiences with Stryker, where she helped to design hip and knee replacements and accompanying surgical instruments, it became obvious that patients aren’t fixed when they receive a new hip or knee. Top-quality therapy to help them regain

mobility and independence is vital, and she was attracted to this rehabilitative process.

For her award-winning senior design project in biomedical engineering, she and her team, led by Kate Freed Matos '08, also had the patient’s outcome in mind. They developed a device, with adviser Dr. Vikki Hazelwood Ph.D. '07, hoping to replace mammography with 3D electrical impedance imaging, leading to a less painful test and more reliable diagnostic test. After Perez and her teammates graduated, several Stevens graduate students continued the project, and Perez and the entire team earned a patent for the device in 2010.

Her experience at Stevens was remarkably rich, as she played four years of volleyball, two years of basketball and a year of lacrosse. Perez calls her time at Stevens “the best five years of my life. The friendships and the camaraderie through sports, academ-

ics and other organizations are so deeply rooted, it’s truly incredible,” she says.

Her most memorable moment, of course, was meeting her husband, Ray Perez '07, on the first day of freshman orientation in 2002. They married in 2011 and have a 2-year-old son, Ryland Alexander.

This busy young mother loves working with patients — “I was lucky to find my passion early on,” she says — but hopes to also do more research in her field.

While her choice of physical therapy may not be the typical Stevens career path, Perez says that she’s fulfilling her dream that took root back in high school.

“I may not be curing spinal cord injuries, but through my work, I have been able to help so many people regain independence, confidence and hope,” she says. ❖ — *Beth Kissinger*



▶ Rachel (Ostroff) Perez '07 takes a break inside a therapy room at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida, where she works as a physical therapist. ▼ Below, Perez, with her husband Ray Perez '07 and their son, Ryland Alexander.





# MAKIN' MOVES

## ALUMNUS CUTS DEAL THAT SENDS HIM TO SILICON VALLEY

**“TWO THINGS I LEARNED AT STEVENS — HOW TO SOLVE PROBLEMS AND HOW TO LEARN. I WAS GIVEN THE RIGHT TOOLS, AND THAT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY VALUABLE IN EVOLVING BEYOND PURE SOFTWARE ENGINEERING.”**

Brian Donohue '11 enjoys the beauty of California's Central Coast on Highway 1 in Big Sur. The famed Bixby Creek Bridge is in the background.

Jersey native Brian Donohue '11 has taken nicely to his new life in San Francisco. “The weather is incredible, people are polite and sincere; the Bay is beautiful. I'm really enjoying it.” Don't get him wrong, though. He still misses the charms of New York.

“In New York, you could be at a restaurant with models, people in finance and artists all having dinner together, but around here, everyone is talking about JavaScript,” he says. “You lose perspective of those (diverse) conversations and can wind up in this homogenous echo chamber.”

Donohue, who was recently named to *Forbes'* “30 under 30: Media” list, is the former CEO of Instapaper and helped facilitate the bookmarking app's sale to Pinterest, a web and mobile content sharing service, in August. The decision, he says, wasn't an easy one, citing a trend in consumer software where large companies buy smaller companies and shut them down.

“That's not the case here — and if we thought it was, we probably wouldn't have gone through with it,” he says. He even personally responded to many concerned users who posted on the Instapaper blog, some not very kindly.

“When you're one of only a few people building a product and communicating with a community, it's important to provide a personal touch and take some responsibility,” he says.

Along with the sale came a new position as a product engineer at Pinterest's headquarters in San Francisco.

“When I was CEO, I had free rein to come up with ideas and the power to develop them. But when you're at a company with a thousand-plus people, you have to acquiesce these responsibilities,” he

says. “At Pinterest, I am using aggregate data from Instapaper to help power recommendations for article pins in Pinterest. I'm also finding ways to apply some of the core technology behind Instapaper — for example, our article parser — directly within Pinterest.”

Citing hard work and luck for his opportunities and success, he also gives a nod to his alma mater for laying a solid foundation.

“Well, clearly my education helped,” he says. “Two things I learned at Stevens — how to solve problems and how to learn. I was given the right tools, and that has been extremely valuable in evolving beyond pure software engineering.”

After graduating with a degree in computer science, Donohue made the decision to start his own company and jumped right in, securing \$250,000 in angel investor money. The product didn't take off, but he learned how to manage a business and a team. He took those skills to betaworks, a New York-based startup studio that owned Instapaper at the time, where he was quickly promoted to general manager of the app. He then helped change Instapaper's payment structure from an entirely paid service to freemium (a business model where basic services are free and premium services are paid), became the CEO of the company and eventually guided the acquisition to Pinterest.

Now located in the hub of consumer technology, Donohue says his past is only his beginning. “It's been six years since college and when I look back, this has been a nice end to a chapter with ups and downs; it feels like a nice resolution professionally,” he says. “But it's just one small achievement in what I hope will be a long career full of greater accomplishments.” ♦ — *Rebecca Markley*

# The Road to Rio 2016

## Former Player Analyzes His Way To The Olympics

PHOTO: AP PHOTO/MATT ROURKE

**J**oe Trinsey '09 refers to his Olympic experience this past summer in Rio as “a little bittersweet.” He explains how incredible it is to be involved — he’s the technical coordinator for the U.S. Women’s National Volleyball Team — and how special it is to represent your country with millions of people watching; how it’s an honor when your team gets a bronze medal, though “it’s tough because you know you’re capable of winning and you come up a little short.”

But then he recounts, in vivid detail, the opening ceremonies, and any glimpse of residual regret disappears.

“I was very fortunate because only two staff members per team got to walk and, luckily for me, most of our coaching staff had walked in previous games,” he says. “It was so cool because before we went to the stadium, everyone was staged in the volleyball arena and all the athletes were sitting in the stands waiting. The U.S. has 500 athletes, so we were all mixed in together — I sat near some athletes from track and field. And when we got down to the tunnel, while we were waiting to get out on the field, all the athletes started chanting ‘U.S.A.! U.S.A.!’ It was really amazing. I knew what it meant to my parents for me to be out there. You walk a little taller after that.”

Volleyball is a way of life for Trinsey. He was an American Volleyball Coaches Association Division III All-American during his senior year on Stevens’ squad and both of his parents are coaches, as is his sister. But it’s Trinsey’s analytical abilities that set him apart.

“I was a math major, like half the population of Stevens. So while I was playing, I would read the box

scores and check things out. I’d do the same thing when I was coaching club ball and youth programs,” he says. “My initial intention was to go into finance, but working on Wall Street was not something I was looking forward to. I went to grad school for a semester, but I kept going home to coach with my parents and I just thought that I could really make this coaching thing work.”

It took some time — an inspirational coaching camp with Carl McGown, a seven-time Olympic coach, and a trip out West to the University of Washington and Pepperdine University to watch practices, speak to coaches and learn what he could — but Trinsey eventually got in with the U.S. Women’s National Team as it prepared for the London Olympics in 2012.

“I wasn’t supposed to be involved with the team, but I offered to help with the grunt work — shagging balls, setting up nets, that sort of thing. Eventually they had me operate the radar gun on the serves and I offered to input the information into a spreadsheet and, seriously, this spreadsheet became the most important thing to me.

“I started analyzing every single action and presented it to Karch (Kiraly, a U.S. volleyball legend and assistant coach at the time). He told me it was too complicated and that I needed to simplify it, so I did,” he says. “Athletics is a great example of how technical knowledge can overwhelm people; I may know a hundred things, but let me focus on one or two so that all this information doesn’t sail over the players’ heads. We need to use this information to help them become better players, and they need to be able to understand it.”

After Kiraly took over as head coach of the squad in

▲ Joe Trinsey '09, technical coordinator for the U.S. Women’s National Volleyball Team, pauses from entering data during a women’s semifinal volleyball match between the United States and Serbia at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

2012, Trinsey went to him and offered to help any way he could. “I offered to be the janitor, but I said I think I’d be more valuable elsewhere.” Kiraly agreed and hired him in the spring of 2013. Trinsey has since used his analytics as a motivating force and solidified his role as a trusted coach.

Far from the days of his overwhelming spreadsheet, Trinsey is now responsible for match video analysis and statistics, implementing that data into training sessions and match-time decisions. He also plays a key role in creating technological advances to aid in training and scouting. And when he’s not traveling with the team during its annual season — “I’m out of the country so much that my mailing address is the training center,” he says — he’s working with college teams, coaching clinics or participating in coaching symposiums.

“Even when I wasn’t making any money and sleeping on people’s couches, I was still enjoying myself,” he says, referring to his early days of just watching games from the sidelines. “So when the days are long or the travel becomes tough, I just remind myself ‘Remember when you would kill to do this for free?’ I just love coaching volleyball and I know that if I keep doing something that fires me up and I keep learning, I’ll figure it out along the way.” ♦ — *Rebecca Markley*





## GET CONNECTED

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Stevens Alumni Portal — your one-stop shop for connecting with the Stevens community. Visit [connect.stevens.edu/alumniportal](http://connect.stevens.edu/alumniportal) to gain access to this exclusive alumni-only website where you can:

- ◆ Register for events
- ◆ Make a gift
- ◆ Update your contact information
- ◆ Search the Alumni Directory
- ◆ Post open positions at your company
- ◆ Search for jobs
- ◆ Submit your business to the Alumni Business Directory
- ◆ And so much more...



## DONOR HONOR ROLL

We are pleased to recognize the generous alumni, students, faculty, staff, friends and community members who support the university.

Visit [connect.stevens.edu/fy17honorroll](http://connect.stevens.edu/fy17honorroll) to see the real-time Donor Honor Roll today!



## ALUMNI WEEKEND

Mark your calendar! The 97th Annual Alumni Weekend is taking place on June 2, 3 and 4, 2017.

This year marks a milestone for one of our signature events — the annual Beer Tasting turns 25! For more than two decades, alumni have gathered with each other to hear alumnus Dave Manhas '88 share his extensive knowledge about brews from around the world, build towers out of tasting cups and reconnect and reminisce at our beloved alma mater. Visit [stevens.edu/alumniweekend](http://stevens.edu/alumniweekend) to stay up-to-date on all Alumni Weekend 2017 activities.

▲ The popular Beer Tasting will mark its 25th anniversary in June during Alumni Weekend 2017.



## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

- ◆ Monday, Feb. 13, 2017
- ◆ Monday, March 13, 2017
- ◆ Monday, April 3, 2017
- ◆ Monday, May 8, 2017
- ◆ Monday, June 12, 2017

To register for a meeting and/or to participate in the many events being offered on campus and around the country, please visit [stevens.edu/events](http://stevens.edu/events).



## SPRING OLD GUARD LUNCHEON

The spring Old Guard Luncheon will be held on April 20, 2017, inside the Bissinger Room of the Howe Center, on the Stevens campus. Alumni who graduated 50 years ago or earlier and their spouses and family members are invited to attend. The day starts with a reception at noon, with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. Please watch for more information on the luncheon but for questions, please call the Alumni Office at 201-216-5163 or email [alumni@stevens.edu](mailto:alumni@stevens.edu). A guest speaker for the luncheon will be announced soon.



## SEEKING FUTURE LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

The Alumni Office is seeking alumni who have done something particularly interesting recently to make presentations at future Old Guard Luncheons, which are held in the fall and spring. The topic may relate to: adventure, art/film/music, medicine, psychology/neuro-science, education, activism, etc. Contact Melissa Fuest, [Melissa.Fuest@stevens.edu](mailto:Melissa.Fuest@stevens.edu), with the alumnus' name and topic.

# THE CURE FOR THE COMMON MBA

THROUGH STEVENS, PFIZER HAS A PARTNER IN PROVIDING NEXT-GENERATION BUSINESS EDUCATION TO ITS ASPIRING LEADERS

As a scientist who has ascended the leadership ranks, Kevin Nepveux is in a unique position to appreciate the value of management programs at the School of Business at Stevens.

Nepveux is vice president of global technology services for Pfizer Global Supply, the company's global manufacturing organization. An engineer by training, he leads a team of scientists and technologists who steer products from R&D to manufacturing and maintain the current product pipeline — which could mean troubleshooting potential problems or developing new technology to take advantage of market opportunities and

help bring more medicines to patients in need. When he looks at the business degrees Stevens offers, he sees a valuable partner in delivering corporate education programs.

“Stevens is a good choice for people who want a practical education, especially as it relates to technology-related fields — which, today, is almost everything,” Nepveux said. “Stevens teaches students to be entrepreneurial, to have good project management skills and to be technologists. There's a lot of interest in that combination in the market.”

Nepveux helped champion a collaboration between Pfizer and Stevens that has helped more than 100 Pfizer colleagues further their profes-

sional development, whether through an MBA, another graduate degree like the master's in Business Intelligence & Analytics, or a graduate certificate in a specialized field. In 2016 alone, 75 new students enrolled in the MBA program, with nearly two-thirds of them women.

Currently, Stevens is running four cohorts at Pfizer — at its Peapack, New Jersey, location and its New York City headquarters — that prepare students to manage the technology-driven opportunities of the future. Dr. Chris Asakiewicz M.Eng. '83 Ph.D. '03, an industry associate professor at Stevens who directs its Business Intelligence & Analytics master's program, said the analytics and technology-infused

PHOTO: MARY IUVONE



From left are Mona Babury, Dr. Chris Asakiewicz M.Eng. '83 Ph.D. '03, Kevin Nepveux, John Alleyne and Cindy Dever at Pfizer's Peapack, New Jersey, campus.



management degrees at the School of Business offer unique value to companies like Pfizer.

“You have people who are in management functions, and they need to broaden their technical depth, because the technologies have changed significantly,” Dr. Asakiewicz said. “And then you have people who have that technical depth, but may want a broader business perspective. Our programs meet the needs of both types of people.”

Dr. Asakiewicz received his Ph.D. from Stevens more than a decade ago while working as vice president of global business technology at Pfizer. Since then, he said, the School of Business has developed considerable strength in important areas like analytics and decision sciences. That’s drawn interest from employers

*“It wasn’t until I started the MBA program that I realized the value doesn’t come two years from now, when I get that degree and put that bullet on my résumé. The value is coming in every class, every week, in every project I’m working on.”*

— Cindy Dever



like Pfizer, which also benefit from Stevens’ ability to easily send faculty to corporate locations in the greater New York area.

Michael Baran, senior director of business operations and scientific affairs at Pfizer, has worked closely with Stevens on the company’s Business of Science initiative, which encourages technical colleagues to broaden their skills through the classroom.

Stevens faculty, Baran said, “take core MBA content and present it in a way in which Pfizer colleagues can easily relate. For example, professor (Pete) Dominick lectured on the concept of leadership, and did an excellent job linking concepts to areas of interest within Pfizer. Professor Asakiewicz was able to really hit on industry trends very relevant to what we are trying to do within the company, particularly in the application of Big Data in the R&D space.”

#### ‘BAND OF BROTHERS’

Bill Mestrandrea, a senior manager of quality assurance at Pfizer, said his colleagues have become a “band of brothers” through the MBA program, which he’s been a part of for three years.

“We’re all in it together,” said Mestrandrea, who travels the world performing assessments, training auditors and running metrics at Pfizer sites around the world. “I’ve met people from other departments who my work influences, and they’ve influenced my work as well. It gave me a better understanding of the network within Pfizer, and how it all comes together to form one company, always working in support of our patients.”

Mona Babury, a senior portfolio manager at Pfizer, said her Stevens coursework has helped her better embrace the company’s “OWN IT!” culture, which promotes accountability, innovation and thoughtful risk-taking to help drive results. An early assignment included an understanding of her strengths

and weaknesses; because all of the courses are conducted onsite, it was easy for her to ask her manager to be part of that assessment.

“Because I could involve my manager, she’s identified opportunities for me to lead or be part of different teams, to make sure the gaps in my skills are filled,” Babury said. “I like that this program gives you that chance to push yourself outside of your comfort zone in order to continuously improve, because you do need those skills in the business world.”

Those skills in economics, operations, marketing and strategy are what Kal Vadasz, director of corporate partnerships for the School of Business, calls the “language of business” that’s at the heart of what a Stevens management education is all about.

“Pfizer colleagues arrive already well-educated and highly skilled in their roles,” Vadasz said. “We help them fill in the blanks to continue to advance with both conceptual foundations and hands-on skills to solve problems across a broad set of subject areas, and along the way, focus on leadership and

teaming. This helps create more informed and self-aware leaders ready to effectively navigate their entire organization.”

#### ‘THE VALUE IS COMING IN EVERY CLASS’

That’s certainly true of Cindy Dever, who came to Pfizer in 2011 as a senior business analyst. Today, she’s the senior manager of marketing and strategy development for Pfizer’s Greenstone division, the result of several promotions she said are in part due to her Stevens coursework.

“I thought most of the knowledge I would get in my career would be from learning on the job and career training in the field,” Dever said. “It wasn’t until I started the MBA program that I realized the value doesn’t come two years from now, when I get that degree and put that bullet on my résumé. The value is coming in every class, every week, in every project I’m working on.”

In her new role, which she’s held since May 2015, she leans heavily on the lessons she took away from marketing and strategy classes at Stevens.

“There were so many concepts — corporate strategy, business unit strategy, balanced scorecards — introduced in those classes that I talked about during the interview process, and I am using those concepts every day in my new role,” she said. “For me to have so much familiarity with these different kinds of functions and concepts — I feel really empowered, over the last couple of years, to offer even more value in my role.”

That’s why Nepveux is so pleased with having Stevens as a partner. In fact, he’s seen the value provided by Stevens firsthand, as his son Ryan graduated with a degree in Business & Technology in 2012.

“Pharmaceuticals has a slower technology cycle than other industries, just because of how long it takes to develop new medicines, especially in our highly regulated industry, but innovation is still critical, or you’ll be left behind when your growth products come off patent,” Nepveux said. “That understanding of technology and encouraging innovation is what makes Stevens special.” ♦ — Joe Arney



To learn more about corporate education at the School of Business, contact Kal Vadasz at [kvadasz@stevens.edu](mailto:kvadasz@stevens.edu)

# TECH AT STEVENS

## STEVENS ENHANCES CAMPUS WITH IMPRESSIVE NEW IT UPGRADES

**A**s a technology-based research university, Stevens has a longstanding tradition of leading and innovating in the technical space. Recognizing and anticipating the power of personal computing, Stevens was the first U.S. university to require its students to purchase personal computers, for example.

Now, as society and higher education become increasingly digital, Stevens has emphasized its focus on a leading-edge technical infrastructure, planning and completing comprehensive upgrades — supported, in part, by two substantial grants totaling \$7.25 million that were competitively awarded by the State of New Jersey Higher Education Educational Facilities Authority for proposals submitted under the program.

“We have done a remarkable amount, including with the state’s support, for which we are very grateful,” notes David Dodd, Stevens vice president for Information Technology and chief information officer.

Dodd praises his Information Technology team for its excellent planning and execution of these multifaceted upgrades. “We are doing things that very few other higher education institutions in the nation are doing, and in a highly cost-effective way,” he adds.

“The wireless upgrades have been fantastic, placing us on a par with leading universities,” says professor and Davidson Laboratory director Alan Blumberg. “And the IT division has also done a superb job of maintaining the Davidson Lab’s Pharos supercomputer with a full-time dedicated staff member who keeps it running optimally.”

**1** Interactive video and unified communications are becoming a larger part of the teaching and learning environment at Stevens. This makes it easier for students to collaborate in course discussions at any time, and in any place. **2** The new, mobile-responsive Stevens website was launched in March 2016.



PHOTO: JEFF VOCK

### A LOOK AT THE NEW HIGHER TECH ON CAMPUS

■ Stevens’ campus network now operates three times faster than it did several years ago, thanks to nearly 1,000 new high-speed indoor wireless network access points; 37 new outdoor wireless access points; and new fiber optics that were installed throughout the campus.

“This is key, because as Stevens grows — and continues to grow more technical, with ever-richer multimedia content being generated and used by faculty, researchers and students — we will need every ounce of speed and capacity. We have gone a long way toward achieving that,” says Dodd.

■ “The university, with help from the Division of Communications & Marketing and the Division of Information Technology, rolled out a newly redesigned and mobile-responsive [stevens.edu](#) website. At the same time, the Division of Information Technology launched a newly designed and engineered myStevens 2.0 intranet for the internal university community,” Dodd says. That’s a fitting update, given that Stevens created one of the nation’s very first internal networks during the early 1980s to connect departments to one another in ways that had not previously been possible.

■ The university has completely overhauled its Data Center, supporting Stevens’ new robust systems and technology while also hosting a new Davidson Laboratory supercomputer.



■ A high-capacity battery backup system now ensures that mission-critical operations continue even during power outages, while the university’s systems switch over to generator power if required. Special in-row cooling technology keeps the servers at ideal temperatures, pumping cool air from above the server racks, while a new fire suppression system provides additional protection in case of emergencies. Active monitoring and management technology also tracks environmental factors, including temperature and humidity, sending automatic alerts when necessary.

■ A new email system utilizing industry leader Microsoft’s powerful Exchange server email and calendaring technology has replaced slower, lower-capacity legacy architecture that previously carried Stevens’ email traffic.

■ Stevens is in the final stages of transitioning to a leading industry suite of cloud-based Workday software that manages university employee and student information. Stevens is one of nine leading institutions collaborating in the development of Workday’s new Workday Student system, a group that includes Yale, The University of Texas, Louisiana State Univer-



sity and the University of Rochester. “This will help unify the university’s information systems, while also creating cost savings, providing much greater capabilities and yielding business intelligence to help support strategic decision-making,” notes Dodd.

■ Deployment and refinement of the new Stevens Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) has enabled students, faculty and staff to access powerful technical and scientific software from the cloud on any computer or mobile device. A rack of specialized HP servers incorporating graphic processors from NVIDIA powers the VLE, which has recently evolved into a strong collaborative effort to create the second generation of an already highly innovative system — an effort including faculty from both the School of Engineering and Science (SES) and the College of Arts and Letters (CAL). Notably, Stevens was recently the subject of a published

**3** The Pharos supercomputer is housed in Stevens’ new, highly-resilient Data Center. It supports the work of the Davidson Laboratory in modeling and predicting storm surges related to hurricanes and other severe weather events. Professor and Davidson Laboratory Director Alan Blumberg, the chief scientist using Pharos, has appeared in numerous national news broadcasts using information generated by Pharos.

**4** Stevens’ faculty and students use Canvas — a comprehensive learning management system that allows faculty to deliver information and assignments online and enables students to interact with these resources and with each other as they complete assignments. Canvas includes numerous services such as an online discussion tool, assignment submission, quizzes and grades.



case study by NVIDIA for its pioneering work in this area. “This allows faculty to leverage the power of cloud technology within the curriculum, which is much easier for students,” says Dodd.

■ New classroom and library technology such as smart whiteboards, mobile high-definition displays, video projectors, streaming and videoconferencing technology, and technology enabling real-time faculty-student interaction with devices such as handheld clickers, are gradually transforming the classroom learning experience.

■ Dodd’s team has also developed much greater business continuity capabilities for natural disasters and other emergencies, including the installation of co-located systems connected with high-speed networking to Stevens’ redundant offsite server location. To gain the most value from this capability, load-balancing software that keeps all hardware and software in sync are used in normal operations, rather than being held only in reserve if needed. Notes Dodd, “This achievement by Stevens is remarkable in itself.

I arrived at Stevens just weeks before Superstorm Sandy, and found that business continuity didn’t exist then. Stevens is now in a far stronger position.”

■ Stevens has installed new cloud-based security software — including industry-leading Palo Alto cybersecurity systems — while also obtaining external security audits from leading cybersecurity consultants such as Mandiant-FireEye, making it more difficult for rogue elements to hack into sensitive Stevens information.

The university is also beginning to harden its cybersecurity from within, working with its own industry-leading cybersecurity faculty to design and test new systems and future defenses.

■ New digital signage throughout the campus, controlled by centralized software, is easier to read and update — and can be accessed at a moment’s notice during emergencies.

■ New VoIP (voice over internet protocol) and unified communications technology began replacing traditional phones on campus this fall with fully integrated desksets as well as software-based “soft phones.” The Cisco-based system provides the ability for single inboxes for both voice and email messages. It also allows users to redirect office calls to smartphones both on and off-campus when desired. One of the most popular capabilities of the new system, says Dodd, is instant messaging between campus users. Usage of this feature has grown rapidly, he notes. ❖  
— Paul Karr



PHOTO: JEFF VOCK



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# New Hope for Parkinson's and OCD

## STEVENS RESEARCHER COLLABORATES WITH DUKE TO STUDY DEEP-BRAIN PULSES THAT CAN IMPROVE PATIENT HEALTH

**W**ith no known causes nor cures, both obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and Parkinson's disease afflict millions worldwide.

The right therapies, however, can significantly ease the discomfort of living with OCD or Parkinson's. Now Stevens is pitching in with timely research that may lead to better treatment options.

"This is a serious health concern," says George McConnell, a Stevens assistant professor of biomedical engineering and an expert on an emerging non-pharmacological therapy for OCD, Parkinson's and related neurological and psychiatric disorders.

### ELECTRICAL PULSES THAT IMPROVE SYMPTOMS

Parkinson's afflicts 1 million patients in the U.S. and at least 7 to 10 million worldwide (possibly many more), progressively attacking neurons, motor functions, muscular movements and eventually emotions and behavior. Although quality of life for individuals with Parkinson's can be improved with medications or surgery, symptoms worsen with progression of the disease.

OCD is estimated to affect 2 to 5 million in the U.S. and tens of millions worldwide. It can cause irrational thinking, anxiety, depression and self-harming behaviors; treatment is usually through a combination of antidepressant medicines and psychotherapy.

Half of OCD patients do not respond to medications, but a promising newer treatment for the disorder was approved by the FDA in 2009, after more than a decade of use as an alternate Parkinson's treatment: deep-brain stimulation (DBS).

In DBS, very brief pulses of electricity are delivered to the brain by implanted electrodes. These disrupt the abnormal firing of the neurons — "like a sort of brain pacemaker," explains McConnell — in the region of the electrodes, often immediately: Some Parkinson's tremors have been shown to dissipate within a few seconds of the treatment. OCD relief can take longer, on the order of weeks or months, yet DBS also appears to be effective in treating this disorder.

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1 Stevens Professor George McConnell 2 McConnell, right, at work with biomedical engineering Ph.D. student Hanyan Li.

The reason these microsecond-long bursts of energy to the deep brain alleviate Parkinson's and OCD, however, remains unclear.

"Researchers still don't know the precise mechanism of why DBS works in motor diseases, much less for psychiatric diseases," explains McConnell. "With no clear rationale for why DBS works, programming the optimal frequency, spacing, duration or strength of pulses is a time-consuming trial-and-error process.

"A better understanding of the mechanisms of synaptic plasticity (changes in the functioning of brain synapses) underlying DBS treatment could revolutionize the way clinicians program these devices, and that's what we're searching for here at Stevens."

To help support the work, McConnell has received a prestigious NARSAD Young Investigator Grant from the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation to learn more about how and why DBS therapy is so effective.

### FEWER SIDE EFFECTS, LONGER BATTERY LIFE, MORE TARGETED SURGERY

McConnell is studying the use of different types of DBS on genetically modified mice predisposed to OCD in Stevens' Laboratory for NeuroInnovation.

"The NARSAD grant will enable me to extend my translational research from the neural basis of DBS for Parkinson's to the neural basis of DBS for psychi-

atric diseases, starting with OCD," he explains.

He performs the research by implanting additional electrodes in mice brains that will monitor and report aberrations and changes in neural activity, even down to the single-neuron level, during the experimental DBS sessions. McConnell will collaborate with Duke University researchers on the work, exploring the concept of synaptic plasticity — a mechanism for human and animal memory and learning that works by strengthening or weakening connections between neurons.

Peter Tolia, director of Stevens' university-wide Center for Healthcare Innovation (CHI), says McConnell's work helps further research into important treatment technologies with broader applicability.

"Dr. McConnell's approach for studying the mechanism by which DBS elicits therapeutic effects for neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's provides a platform technology that can be applied to psychiatric disorders," notes Tolia.

That could one day mean quicker, less expensive relief for severe-OCD sufferers; fewer side effects of the therapy; longer battery life in implanted devices; and additional basic research to inform more effective surgical treatments for Parkinson's symptoms, such as gait and postural instability, among other innovations, says McConnell. ♦ — Paul Karr



# How All That Jazz Helps Build Better AI

DoD-supported Stevens research into improvisational artificial intelligence has implications for industry, defense — and your ears

**S**tevens researcher Dr. Kelland Thomas is helping design the artificial intelligence of the future with a little help from some of the most respected musicians of the 20th century.

Thomas, dean of Stevens' College of Arts and Letters — as well as a computer scientist and longtime professional musician — is heading a five-year project with collaborators from the University of Illinois, the University of Arizona and Southern Methodist University to teach computers to study tendencies in human creation, communicate with us, then anticipate and create something original in response.

"We're building information systems that can model human-computer communication and can improvise," explains Thomas. "The system has to be able to do inference based on what it's hearing, then update its 'mental model' and make a statement back — a decision — based on what it thinks is being said."

And the Department of Defense is listening.

## WANTED: MORE CREATIVE, COMMUNICATIVE COMPUTERS

The project is known as the Musical Improvising Collaborative Agent, or MUSICA. Supported by a \$2 million award from the U.S. DoD's DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency), Thomas' team will analyze musical data at scale, feeding thousands of jazz 'phrases' into a transcription engine as well as hand-curating famed solos by some of history's most celebrated jazz players.

MUSICA's software will then mine patterns and themes from that database, create a database, make probabilistic models, then play new music in real time by predicting and reacting to live jazz musicians who are, themselves, improvising new music.

"This is classic AI, classic knowledge engineering," notes Thomas. "We're trying to achieve a recipe of statistical techniques to extract relevant patterns that inform the model."

If successful, it also has wide implications for defense, industry and an increasingly digital society, says Thomas.

"The system's ability to anticipate and create chord changes and new, never-trying melodic riffs will go far beyond current computers' ability," he explains.

That's important, because computing researchers worldwide are working to design and test new AI systems that not only accept human instructions and data sets but also proactively anticipate instructions — or even reach out with questions, concerns and suggestions. This concept, known as computational creativity, requires AI systems to build knowledge, learn on the fly and interact with people in ways that are cognitively similar to the ways we interact with them.

Creative computing would enable much more useful human interactions with devices, automobiles, homes and intelligent services such as Siri, Google Now, Amazon Echo and Cortana.

And the building of MUSICA, Thomas says, could help create a step in that direction.

"The question of what constitutes creation is an interesting one," notes Thomas, "as we normally think of creation as a wholly human enterprise. However, if we're talking about something that appears to the best experts to be original and appropriate within the given context, it may be fair to say that a system has 'created' something novel."

## DEFENSE, MEDICAL, DIGITAL APPLICATIONS

The DoD agrees, seeing wide application for any successful technology that can bridge the gap between human and computer.

Potential applications could include health-care and medicine — intelligent software detecting patterns in medical data and communicating those in new ways to physicians, researchers and the public, for instance.

"It happens that we chose jazz as the language and the data for this investigation, but we are really addressing basic questions about building the next level of computing and artificial intelligence," he concludes. "In this age, that touches nearly every one of us in one way or another." ♦ — Paul Karr

Dr. Kelland Thomas



# READY FOR THE GALA



# GETTING

**I**t's the most stylish night on the university's calendar — the annual black-tie and ball gown Stevens Awards Gala. Every spring, hundreds of alumni, students, faculty, staff and special guests gather for an elegant dinner dance that celebrates extraordinary alumni achievements and contributions to the university. With the 2017 Gala set for April 8, it's worth looking at all the backstage planning that creates such a memorable night.

## WHY AN AWARDS GALA?

Great question. The Olympics have their medals, Hollywood has its Oscars, and even prolific tweeters can aspire to win a Webby. So a university with such an illustrious past as Stevens should definitely have an awards program of its own. In a compelling public display, Stevens honors its alumni and friends with awards for Lifetime Service, Young Alumni Achievement, International Achievement and more.

“When President Farvardin arrived in 2011, Stevens already had a long-running

awards program, with honors given at various events over the years, and he encouraged starting the Awards Gala as a way to make the program more comprehensive,” said Dawn da Silva, associate vice president for Development & Alumni Engagement. “As he has said, the Gala is the signature event Stevens alumni deserve.”

“We feel the awards are a great way to celebrate our wonderful university,” said Beth Gobeille '83, chair of the 11-member Awards Committee, who pare hundreds of nominations from alumni and others to fit a slate of

DeBaun Music Program Coordinator Bethany Reeves, left, and Associate Dean of Students Kristie Damell perform a duet at the 2015 Awards Gala. ▶







roughly ten categories. “It is an honor recognizing these outstanding people for their achievements.”

“Many of our members have really taken an interest in the Gala,” said Joe DiPompeo ’98 M.Eng. ’99, the president of the Stevens Alumni Association. “And they should. It’s an exciting night to honor them and their achievements, and to have a great time.”

Because the Gala honors mostly alumni for their achievements in the world beyond Castle Point, the event also highlights Stevens for non-alumni, many of whom attend as invited guests of their honoree friends. “The value of the Gala is its ability to put Stevens on more maps, by connecting people who have heard our name to what we have done,” said Dwight Massey ’53, an Awards Committee member and past honoree. “My dream is to have *The New York Times* write about the Gala on the front page the next morning.”

## THE VENUE

The past two Galas (2014 and 2015, with a break in 2016 for *The Power of Stevens* campaign kickoff), as well as the upcoming one in

April, have taken place in the Grand Ballroom of the historic Plaza Hotel in Manhattan, a hotspot where Lena Horne crooned, Truman Capote hosted a swanky masquerade, and even President Trump once got married.

“We wanted to find a really elegant setting to honor our award recipients,” said Michelle Nunez, director of Alumni Events. “The Plaza is one of the most famous venues in New York, and we’re thrilled to have the Gala there.”

## THE MUSIC

Every Gala has something of its own soundtrack, featuring live performances from members of the Stevens community, such as the student-based President’s Ensemble, and others beyond campus, such as guest soprano soloist Jennifer Behnke, who in 2015 sang a scintillating rendition of Franz Lehár’s “Meine Lippen, sie küssen so heiss” (“My Lips’ Fiery Kiss”).

At the last Gala, DeBaun Music Program Coordinator Bethany Reeves and Kristie Damell, the associate dean of students, blended their talents on a tune, mixing Reeves’ classical training with Damell’s ability to belt popular modern styles.

“We sang a duet from Richard Maltby Jr. and David Shire’s ‘Closer Than Ever,’” Reeves said. “We’d first performed it on a cabaret night at Stevens with Dave Zimmerman ’90 (director of University Events) at the piano, and as it went very well, when the Awards Gala came up, it seemed like a natural choice.”

“One of my proudest moments at Stevens was being asked to sing with Bethany at the 2015 Gala,” Damell said. “It truly was a humbling experience to be a part of such a special evening surrounded by talented and prominent members of the Stevens community.”

Then there’s the DJ-driven after-party at The Plaza, with more music and dancing. “The after-party is one of my favorite parts,” said Cristina (Vieira) Martinez ’94 M.Eng. ’96, who won the 2014 Young Alumni Achievement Award. “It’s a great time to socialize with friends and have fun on the dance floor.”

## THE MEANING

Alumni have many reasons to attend the Gala — they can reminisce with friends, hobnob with special guests and enjoy a delicious meal. The event has fostered such pride in



PHOTOS: JEFF YOOCK

▲ Student musicians and singers bring their many talents to the Gala stage.

Stevens and in its illustrious honorees, who inspire their audience and who find inspiration and meaning themselves that evening.

Massey, who received the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award for Business and Finance for his six-decade career in financial management, said that the honor is “recognition for a degree of success in the working world, helped a great deal by what Stevens provided me in the way of background.”

“When I look at all of the accomplishments of my fellow alumni, it really humbled me when I was given this honor,” said Mark Biamonte ’01, the head of systems engineering with Hamilton Sundstrand who received the 2013 Young Alumni Achievement Award.

Moushmi (Patel) Culver ’00 said the 2015 Young Alumni Achievement Award gave her a new perspective on her rising career as an executive at Merck. “It’s amazing to me to reflect back. I really never reflected back until I got this award. It made me step back and think what I’ve done for a company I’ve always wanted to work for.”

## AND IN 2017?

So what’s in store for the 2017 Gala? More of the glamour and excitement described above (and maybe even something of the unexpected). You can learn more about this year’s event and the slate of winners at [stevens.edu/awardsgala](http://stevens.edu/awardsgala). And if you’re so inclined to don your finest tux or gown, you’ll find plenty of your fellow alumni on that dance floor. ❖ — Alan Skontra



For more on the Stevens Awards Gala, please visit [stevens.edu/awardsgala](http://stevens.edu/awardsgala)

# A GENEROUS

## SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON UNITES STUDENTS AND THEIR BENEFACTORS

**W**hen he's not in a classroom or a studio pursuing his degree in music and technology, Andrew Waldron '17 spends much of his time broadcasting to Castle Point and beyond as the general manager of WCPR. He's able to spin records for the radio station thanks to support from the WCPR Endowed Scholarship, one of dozens of class, Greek and affinity scholarships at Stevens.

Last fall, donors to those group scholarships gathered for an annual lunch with student recipients — a chance for alumni to give advice and see their generosity in action, and for students to share their future plans and say thank you directly. On Halloween weekend, more than 100 donors and students, including Waldron and others, attended the 2016 luncheon inside the Howe Center's Bissinger Room.

Dean of Students Ken Nilsen emceed the event, and he stressed the importance of scholarships for students, including over 500 scholarship recipients currently enrolled. "I work with students every day, and I can see the positive effect that scholarship support has on them," Nilsen said. "When students feel supported, and when they can worry less about paying tuition or repaying expensive loans, they are more focused and better able to achieve success in their courses. They are more likely to excel in all the opportunities Stevens



offers, from co-op employment to athletics, the drama club and more. They are in a stronger position to begin their careers, and they are more likely to become productive members of society."

Scholarship recipient Eric Noll '13 returned for the luncheon to speak of his journey. After graduating with a bachelor's in biomedical engineering and a master's in project management — and enjoying active involvement as a member of Gear & Triangle, an orientation leader and a Student Life assistant — Noll launched his career and recently landed a role as a quality assistance test engineer at DEKA

Research & Development.

Having benefitted from the Edwin A. Stevens Scholarship, Noll is now driven to give back to his alma mater. Along with his fellow Sigma Nu fraternity brothers, he started the Clifford B. LePage Scholarship in 2014. The fund has grown to \$30,000, and Noll hopes it will become endowed in two or three years.

"Every memory I have, every friend that I have made, every person that I met who left an impression on me, every new thing I learned and every opportunity that was afforded to me is why I give back," he said. "Stevens gave so much to me, and I want to give back so that





# HELPING

## A CALL 'TO THE STARS'

If you've ever gotten a call from a fellow alumnus about the university, there's a good chance it came from someone on the influential Ad Astra Task Force.

President Nariman Farvardin commissioned the task force in 2014 as a way of increasing alumni participation. Members make calls, write letters and emails, post on social media and otherwise corral their classmates to support the university. All it takes to join is a little time and pride in Stevens.

The group is especially active during the end of the calendar and fiscal years, when the university seeks to maintain a high alumni participation rate — an important factor that affects Stevens' college ranking by *U.S. News & World Report*.

"We've really been able to expand our outreach, thanks to the Ad Astra members," said Melissa Fuest, assistant vice president for Alumni Engagement & Annual Giving and executive director of the Stevens Alumni Association. "When alumni make it a point to pick up their phone and call other alumni, it drives the point home that what we're doing here for Stevens is important."

The task force started with 44 members, nearly doubled to 78 in 2015, and reached 157 by the end of 2016. The group represents an inclusive mix of alumni, ranging among classes, majors and affinities, though Fuest said it could use more members from the 1990s classes and alumni of the athletic teams. Alumni who are interested can contact her at 201-216-3346 or mfuest@stevens.edu.

"Being a part of the Ad Astra Task Force is a great way to keep in contact with fellow alumni and hear about the great successes they have had post-graduation," said task force member Lauren Mayer '12. "It is also a great way to promote the accomplishments that Stevens has had and encourage alumni to participate in events. As Stevens continues to carry out its tradition of excellence, it is important to inform alumni so they can continue to be proud of this great institution." ❖ — Alan Skontra

another student has the same opportunity that I had."

Noll's story showed how group scholarships are meaningful because donors give in honor of shared memories with their classmates, whether they survived tough classes together to walk the stage at commencement, bonded with brothers or sisters in a fraternity or sorority, or celebrated a big win on the field. Alumni who start group scholarships enjoy reconnecting with friends and encouraging each other to contribute.

Waldron also spoke at the luncheon, calling WCPR a tight community and expressing thanks for the support he gets from its members, past and present. "I plan on continuing to treat this scholarship as a source of spirit needed for the hard work that lies ahead in my last year," he said.

**1** Enjoying the annual Scholarship Luncheon last fall, from left, are Mark Scalzo '15, student Luke Guglielmo, Eric Noll '13 and Eric's girlfriend, Kaitlyn Hoyt. **2** Art Ketterer, second from left, and Fred Dietrich, both Class of '61 and scholarship donors, meet students Desiree Batista, left, and Tiffany McGinness. **3** The Stevens Choir performs. **4** Victoria O'Connor Blazeski '11, left, and student James Ebert. **5** Other scholarship donors and recipients, from left, included Ashley Montufar '14, Victoria Maglaras, Tiffany McGinness, Francesca Bueti and Lauren Mayer '12. **6** Annmarie Rizzo '86, left, enjoys lunch with student Olivia Schreiber.



Tiffany McGinness '19 spoke about how the Class of 1961 Scholarship is enabling her to succeed at Stevens despite early life difficulties. When she graduates with a degree in mechanical engineering, she will become only the second member of her family, after her sister, to finish college. As a bone cancer survivor, she has immersed herself in a productive life at Stevens, including as a sister in Delta Phi Epsilon and as a member of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, and she plans on beginning a career producing prosthetics and other medical devices.

"I represent all of the students who are fortunate enough to receive scholarships, when I say your support has made a huge impact on my life and helped a tremendous amount financially," she said. "I'm truly grateful for the scholarship I receive and feel honored to be able to thank you all in person." ❖

— Alan Skontra



PHOTOS: JEFF YOCK

# Head of the Class

FACULTY CHAIRS HELP ATTRACT, RETAIN OUTSTANDING FACULTY

Sitting as a student in a college classroom, you're likely to wonder what you can get — knowledge on the subject, maybe a contact for a future job, and, of course, a good grade. But years later, many former students consider what they can give, including support of the most inspiring professors in those classrooms. Alumni and friends of Stevens are no exception; in fact, giving to promote faculty excellence has become a top priority at Castle Point.

One of the most compelling ways to recruit, retain and support excellent faculty is through an endowed chair. Professors who hold endowed chairs benefit from extra resources, which can subsidize their salary as well as ground-breaking research, travel to conferences and other expenses. A chair also

brings increased prestige within academia, industry, government, media and society. Because the funds are endowed, universities don't have to cover chair expenses in their budgets, freeing money for other important uses.

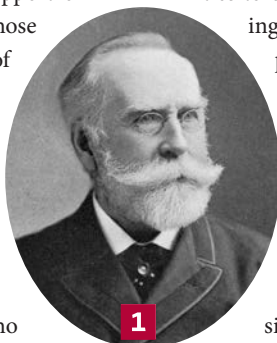
Chairs are also a valuable tool for universities to compete in recruiting and retaining exceptional professors, whose presence can transform a department. A recent article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* was filled with stories about universities of all types from across the country, from the University of California, Berkeley to Tougaloo College in Mississippi, creating chairs to increase their number of top faculty scholars.

Several striking examples showed how the offer of a faculty chair can lure outstanding professors from prestigious universities, with

Occidental College attracting a leading urban geographer from the University of Chicago to Prairie View A&M in Texas giving a former Rutgers education professor both a chair and his own research center. (And, though not mentioned in the article, Stevens recently recruited Giuseppe Ateniese, a former Johns Hopkins University professor, with the David and GG Farber Endowed Chair in Computer Science. See page 17 of the Spring 2016 issue of *The Stevens Indicator*.)

The history of faculty chairs stretches to the origins of Western civilization. During the second century A.D., the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius supported philosophy teachers in Athens and other cities. During the birth of the modern university system around 1500, Lady Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond, endowed chairs in divinity at the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge. Her grandson, King Henry VIII, later established posts in law, medicine and other subjects. In 1663, Henry Lucas, a Cambridge clergyman and member of Parliament, established perhaps the most prestigious chair in the world, the Lucasian Chair of Mathematics at Cambridge, held at one time by luminaries Isaac Newton, Charles Babbage and Stephen Hawking.

When Stevens opened its classrooms in 1871, there were eight professors to teach 21 students. During those early days of courses in shopwork and metalsmithing, student tuition paid teacher salaries, but the first Stevens President, Henry Morton, sought additional means for supporting the faculty. In



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1 Coleman Sellers 2 As this photo from the 1920s shows, Stevens students have always learned by doing.



3 George Meade Bond 4 Henry Morton 5 Professor Rajarathnam Chandramouli, the Thomas J. Hatrick '42 Endowed Chair in Information Systems Engineering, and Ph.D. student Zongru Shao.



Cognitive Networking, and the mentoring of world-class Ph.D. students who have won several awards from the IEEE and other organizations,” he said.

Just as alumni raised funds during the post-war student boom, and as Bond, Hatrick and others contributed over the years, alumni today are interested in giving to support excellent faculty. After building a successful career in investment banking and private equity, Steve Shulman '62 decided to establish a chair geared toward business creativity. “The concept of endowed chairs is to attract quality professors,” he said. “When we fill the chair that I’m involved in, we will have another quality professor to support our culture of entrepreneurship at Stevens.”

Granted, gifts for endowed chairs are pricey, reaching into seven figures, and they often take several years to mature, but there are plenty of other ways alumni can help Stevens attract and retain top faculty members at any giving level. They can, for instance, support interdisciplinary research and learning activities, establish graduate fellowships for doctoral students, or create awards for deserving faculty.

“Our talented students expect to learn from professors who are among the very best in their field, and it takes resources for the university to recruit and retain world-class experts,” said Provost Christophe Pierre. “These vital gifts enable our faculty to conduct outstanding research and provide our students with an exceptional education that prepares them for meaningful and successful careers. These gifts also have a major impact on the university as a whole. The research and teaching that they support plays an important role in enhancing Stevens’ reputation and rankings.”

These days, the undergraduate body numbers almost 3,000, and the courses probe complex topics like solar energy, nanomedicine and molecular genetics, but Stevens students are the same as always, ambitious and aspirational. And when they become alumni who support faculty, they will participate in a noble tradition that stretches back centuries and will hopefully endure for many more. ♦ — Alan Skontra

1889, with a gift of \$10,000 supplemented by another \$20,000 in 1892, he endowed the Chair of Engineering Practice. Morton used the position to retain Professor Coleman Sellers, of whom *The Engineer* said that “many experienced engineers will envy the students of this fortunate institution their great advantage in having as a teacher a man of such varied and extensive experience.”

As a professor of chemistry himself, Morton was adamant about supporting faculty. In a speech at a dinner celebrating the 25th anniversary of the university’s founding, Morton compared professors to any good practitioners of a craft: “The best of workmen cannot turn out good work without any tools, and the best of tools will not make good work for the poor workman; but the good workman with the best tools will turn out a maximum of the best work...I do desire to place on record in this connection my conviction that the Faculty of the future, in view of the greater demands which will be made upon it, both as to the quantity and quality of its product, will need more space to work in and more appliances with which to do its work.”

During the administration of the second President, Alexander Crombie Humphreys, many professors had colorful nicknames such as Franklin “Peanuts” Furman, Clifford “Sticky” LePage and Louis “Hazy” Hazeltine. However, they often felt overworked and underpaid. By 1900, there were 19 professors for 241 students, and given the university’s military role in World War I, returning doughboys pushed the count to 780 in 1919 and 862 in 1920. With the professors pressing for raises, the university asked its alumni for help. To-

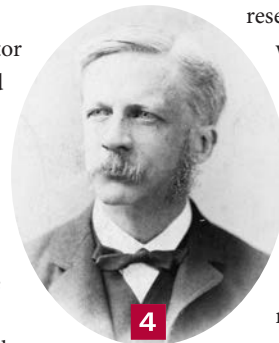


gether with outside contributions from the Carnegie Corporation and others, Stevens alumni started a fund that raised more than \$1 million (\$14 million in 2016 dollars) to help increase faculty salaries.

Over the years, other alumni have answered the call to support faculty, notably George Meade Bond, Class of 1880, whose philanthropy has endured long after his death in 1925. Throughout the decades, several impressive professors have held Bond Chairs, including Winston Bostick, who led the physics department for several years between 1956 and 1986; Ajay Bose, a longtime chemistry professor and winner of the 1999 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring; and Erich Kunhardt, dean of the former Imperatore School of Sciences and Arts and a prolific inventor.

Today, Alan Blumberg, director of the Davidson Laboratory, and Woo Lee, director of the Center for Microchemical Systems, hold the two Bond Chairs. “My intellectual status as an endowed chair gives me confidence and freedom to pursue new, bold ideas,” Lee said.

Professor Rajarathnam Chandramouli, who serves as the Thomas J. Hatrick '42 Endowed Chair in Information Systems Engineering, agrees that chairs provide opportunities. “The Hatrick Chair has generously supported the exploration of new research areas such as molecular communications, travel to many countries for collaborative, large-scale systems research that has resulted in the Stevens-led Institute for



# STEVENS CLUBS

## STEVENS METROPOLITAN CLUB

The mission of our Alumni Association is to instill a sentiment of regard and fellowship for each other, to strengthen the bond to our alma mater, and to promote the interests of Stevens Institute. The Metropolitan Club attempts to perform the mission via its monthly luncheon meetings. Here's how. Our members are active volunteers in many Institute and Association committees and activities. At the monthly meetings, we exchange information about events attended or upcoming, we send greeting cards for birthdays, for those in sickness or distress, or just to say "hello" to distant members. We promote and participate in activities of other clubs.

Our members support class scholarships, have endowed scholarships and special Institute projects as individuals and ensure that this club also supports scholarships. Much of the above-received Alumni Association support over many years came from Loretta Brissette, whose care and concern for the Association, this club and alumni was extraordinary. Loretta passed away on Sept. 21, 2016. She will be missed. Please do consider membership in the Metropolitan Club. Come to a meeting to try it out. We'd all enjoy your company. ❖ — *Donald Daume '67, Secretary*



PHOTO: JEFF VOOK

▲ The Stevens Old Guard held its fall luncheon last September and drew a capacity crowd that gathered to catch up with friends and to hear Jim Kiel '65 speak of his incredible journey to the base camp of Mount Everest. Stay tuned for more details on the spring luncheon, slated for April 20.



◀ The Stevens Dramatic Society Alumni Club held a networking happy hour this past November, with the highlight of the evening coming when the group attended the SDS student production of "Rumors." Alumni toasted the show at nearby Court Street restaurant.

## GRADUATE LOG

Dr. Helena Wisniewski M.S. '73, a former Stevens vice president, was inducted as a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors in April 2016, at a ceremony at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, DC. Wisniewski, who is currently vice provost for research and graduate studies at the University of Alaska Anchorage and a multiple patent holder, was recognized for "her highly prolific contributions to innovation in creating and facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development, and welfare of society," according to the academy. Wisniewski leads the research enterprise, including commercialization, at the University of Alaska Anchorage; is president of Seawolf Holdings; and is founding director of the Arctic Domain Awareness Center, a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence. She served as vice president, Research and Enterprise Development, at Stevens from 2004 to 2008; was vice president with the Titan Corporation; and was a senior executive at Lockheed. Wisniewski, who earned a Ph.D. in mathematics at the Graduate Center, CUNY, created the first mathematics program for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and previously served at the CIA. ❖



PHOTO: AMEE BLODGETT, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

▲ Helena Wisniewski M.S. '73, center, is congratulated by National Academy of Inventors President Paul Sanberg, left, and Commissioner of Patents Drew Hirshfeld, as she is inducted into the National Academy of Inventors last year.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MAR 9**  
**THURSDAY**

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra,  
OnStage at Stevens, DeBaun  
Auditorium, [stevens.edu/onstage](http://stevens.edu/onstage)



**APR 8**  
**SATURDAY**

Stevens Awards Gala,  
Plaza Hotel, New York City  
[stevens.edu/awardsgala](http://stevens.edu/awardsgala)



**MAY 3**  
**WEDNESDAY**

Stevens Innovation Expo  
2017, Stevens campus  
[www.stevens.edu/expo](http://www.stevens.edu/expo)

**MAY 18**

**THURSDAY**

Welcome Seniors event,  
with the SAA welcoming  
the Class of 2017



For all Stevens events, visit  
[www.stevens.edu/events](http://www.stevens.edu/events)

**MAY 24**  
**WEDNESDAY**

Commencement 2017,  
Meadowlands Expo Center,  
Secaucus, New Jersey



**JUN 2**  
**FRIDAY**

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra,  
OnStage at Stevens, DeBaun  
Auditorium, [stevens.edu/onstage](http://stevens.edu/onstage)



For the DeBaun Performing Arts Center,  
visit [stevens.edu/DeBaunPac](http://stevens.edu/DeBaunPac)



**JUN 2-4**

**FRIDAY-SUNDAY**  
Alumni Weekend 2017  
[stevens.edu/  
alumniweekend](http://stevens.edu/alumniweekend)



**JUN 14-15**  
**WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY**

The 4th Stevens Conference on Bacteria-  
Material Interactions, Stevens campus,  
[stevens.edu/biomaterials2017](http://stevens.edu/biomaterials2017)

**JUN 17**  
**SATURDAY**

It's a Shore Thing,  
Point Pleasant Beach,  
New Jersey

# VITALS

PHOTO: JEFF VOCK



## MARRIAGES

Gerry Messina '87 to Lucy Sanchinelli on July 31, 2016.

Ali Palen '09 to Alex Bachowski '09 on April 2, 2016.

Elizabeth Hagan '11 to Maickel Peck '11 on April 16, 2016.

Russell Jones '12 to Sarah Sickels on July 9, 2016.

Melissa Indoe '14 to Matthew Moguillanes on Nov. 14, 2015.

Joanna Paglino '14 to Steven Paul '14 on Aug. 14, 2016.

## BIRTHS

To Brittany and Ryan Kerrigan '07, a son, Nolan Patrick, in August 2016.

To Mary (Kelly) Smith '09 and Timothy Smith '10, a son, Arlo, on April 3, 2016.

## OBITUARIES

H.R. Brunton '43 .....	7/7/16
F.L. Garrabrant, Jr. '43 .....	10/4/16
W.J. Birmingham '45 .....	11/11/14
R.C. Cuny '45 .....	4/5/15
V.A. Blaes '46.....	4/20/16
W.D. Taylor '47 .....	8/3/15
R.R. Klein '49.....	11/23/16
R.W. Durante '50.....	12/3/16
G. Eckel '51.....	11/15/16
R.A. Nolan '51.....	3/27/16
J.J. Cummings, Jr. '52 .....	9/19/15
W.G. Fox '52.....	7/3/16
H.W. Kruger '52.....	9/25/16
C.H. Marston '53.....	5/21/15
S.P. Reyle '53.....	8/9/16
J. Olsen '54.....	7/31/16
E.J. Blum '56 .....	4/18/16
G.W. Sorenson '57.....	7/5/16
N. Rodopoulos '58.....	2/25/16

G.N. Bellucci '59.....	2/7/15
J.S. Cvicker '59 .....	2/13/16
T. Faith, Jr. '59 .....	10/6/16
J.A. Motusesky '60.....	11/17/16
S. Lattoz '61 .....	4/22/15
J.W. Zorskie '61 .....	11/9/15
R. Rapak '63.....	7/5/16
G.A. Toelcke '65.....	12/1/14
K.G. Tarnawsky '82.....	7/3/13
E. Marut, Jr. '85 .....	4/8/15
D.L. Tsapatsaris '92.....	1/26/16

## GRADUATE SCHOOL

J.A. Redmond M.S. '57.....	9/7/16
F.G. King Sc.D. '66 .....	6/7/16
W. Wiesner M.S. '69 .....	9/24/16
R.F. Rodihan M.S. '70.....	8/6/16

**ALUMNI WEEKEND 2017**  
**JUNE 2, 3, 4 STEVENS.EDU/ALUMNIWEEKEND**





# The Gift That Keeps on *Giving*

“My charitable gift annuity has been a multifaceted success. I’ve secured a guaranteed stream of income for life while lowering my taxes and making a deferred gift to Stevens, which, along with a bequest I’ve planned, will establish a tribute to my father: the Julius Szeremany Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund. It’s immensely satisfying to combine fiscal responsibility with philanthropy that ensures future Julius Szeremany Scholars will have opportunity and access to a great education.”

**The Reverend Dr. J. Richard Szeremany**  
Member, Stevens Legacy Society

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- 3 The remainder goes to Stevens

## To Learn More:

Michael Governor, Director of Planned Giving

201-216-8967 | [Michael.Governor@stevens.edu](mailto:Michael.Governor@stevens.edu)

## Annuity Rates\*

Immediate payments (one life)		Immediate payments (two lives)	
AGE	RATE	AGE	RATE
65	4.7%	65-70	4.4%
70	5.1%	70-72	4.7%
75	5.8%	75-78	5.2%
80	6.8%	77-80	5.5%
85	7.8%	82-85	6.4%

\* Rates issued by the American Council of Gift Annuities, effective January 1, 2012. Special rates apply for deferred payment gift annuities. Charitable Gift Annuities with Stevens are not available in all states. You should seek the advice of an attorney for applicability to your own situation.

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# HELPING HAND



*"The Pinnacle Scholarship encouraged me to delve into research as soon as I could, and allowed me to live on campus through the summer and complete a challenging research project in the Sensorimotor Control Laboratory."*

— KATIE VAN ORDEN '19

Katie Van Orden '19 dreams of creating better prosthetics — and has already begun creating them, thanks to scholarship support.

Supported by a Pinnacle Scholarship — a program created to reward top Stevens students with travel, study and research opportunities — Katie Van Orden spent the summer following her freshman year in Professor Ramana Vinjamuri's lab, prototyping a human-hand exoskeleton with three-dimensional printers. We empower students to do their very best through both need-based and merit-based support. Scholarships help us recruit exceptional students like Katie, and enable them to discover new opportunities to grow both personally and intellectually.

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