

# THE STEVENS INDICATOR

SPRING/SUMMER 2020 ✦ THE MAGAZINE OF THE STEVENS SOCIETY ASSOCIATION

## THE TIME IS NOW

COMING TOGETHER FOR  
A GREENER FUTURE



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Photo: © Kat Kendon/Kendon Photography

Cover Design: Simone Larson Design





# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH INNOVATIVE RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

At the time of this writing in late April 2020, “resilience” characterizes our university in ways previously unimaginable. Stevens has reacted quickly and with great agility to the sudden and very significant impact of the coronavirus pandemic: students are studying remotely; faculty are teaching online; academic and student life colleagues are supporting students through Zoom and reaching out directly by phone and email; and those responsible for conducting the business of the university have found creative ways to continue our core business operations in this altered state. I am immensely impressed and truly grateful for the tremendous effort and resilience of the entire university community. We will continue to draw upon these critically important capabilities as we plan for the Fall 2020 semester.

This issue of *The Indicator* focuses on resiliency in the environmental sense — and highlights Stevens’ education and research programs in this area. I am pleased to report that last year, I had the honor of attending a forum for thought leaders that brought together an impressive group of researchers, government officials, corporate CEOs and state and national dignitaries to discuss an issue that is of existential importance: climate resilience. I was immensely proud to share examples of Stevens’ sustainability research that are advancing the frontiers of this field. Stevens is developing new technologies that have the potential to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels; to predict and mitigate the effects of climate change, particularly in urban areas; and to remediate and improve environmental systems.

Not only do our faculty pioneer many “green” initiatives, but they also engage both undergraduate and graduate students, who are passionate about the environment and sustainability. In fact, there are many related degree paths for students to pursue at Stevens: engineering undergraduate students can earn a minor in green engineering; graduate students can obtain a master’s degree in environmental engineering, sustainability management or ocean engineering; and doctoral students can pursue degrees in environmental engineering or ocean engineering. Stevens also offers a host of graduate certificate programs in related fields of study. Additionally, each year, dozens of our senior design projects focus on



PHOTO: AARON HOUSTON

developing solutions to environmental and sustainability issues.

Alumni and friends may recall one particular Stevens sustainability project of which I am extremely proud, the SU+RE House, which stands for SUstainable and REsilient. Inspired by the challenges New Jersey faced in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, this structure was designed and built by an interdisciplinary team of 30 students and faculty as a net-zero energy home that was resilient enough to withstand hurricane-force winds and flooding. In 2015, the SU+RE House won first place in the prestigious U.S. Department of Energy’s Solar Decathlon and is now located at Liberty

Science Center in Jersey City, New Jersey, serving as a powerful educational tool for more than 750,000 visitors each year.

Stevens is not only “talking the talk” but also “walking the walk.” We have implemented a transportation demand management program to incentivize our community to reduce vehicle trips to campus; we participate in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education STARS program and the RecycleMania program; and we have initiated a number of other energy conservation and resiliency activities on our campus and in partnership with the City of Hoboken.

I am especially proud that Stevens’ talented graduates are leading initiatives that companies and local, state and federal agencies will depend on to advance their sustainability priorities in the next decade and beyond. Our planet and future generations are depending on these bright Stevens minds. ❖

*Per aspera ad astra,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "N. Farvardin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

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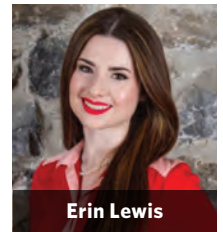
**STEVENS**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
PER ASPERA AD ASTRA

**A NOTE ABOUT THE SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE**

As work on this issue of *The Stevens Indicator* was progressing far along, the U.S. was hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. We made the decision to continue with our current content out of respect for those featured, and to present inspiring stories of important work being done by the Stevens community, to offer hope. We know that we will also have important stories to tell about life during and after this global crisis in future issues of this magazine. Starting on page 4, you will see some coverage of life at Stevens in the face of COVID-19, written in early April 2020. As you read these pages, we hope that you and your loved ones are safe, that you are reaching out to others — those in the Stevens community and beyond — in support and solidarity, and that this global pandemic will soon be vanquished. ❖ — *Beth Kissinger*

**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

I want to introduce you to Erin Lewis, the new managing editor of *The Stevens Indicator* who started with the magazine late last year. Erin has worked with Stevens since 2017, when she joined the Division of Communications and Marketing. She has skillfully helped to manage communications for some of Stevens' most important events, including the Stevens Awards Gala and the President's Distinguished Lecture Series. Before joining Stevens, Erin worked as an assistant editor with Seton Hall University's magazine. She is also a talented artist! Her latest achievement has been serving as project manager as well as an editor and writer for the 150 stories project — 150 stories and photos celebrating Stevens over its 150-year history — for [stevens150.com](http://stevens150.com), the special anniversary website marking the university's sesquicentennial in 2020. A deeply talented editor, writer, artist and project manager, Erin brings many great skills and fresh ideas to *The Indicator*, and we're so excited to have her join the team! You can reach Erin at [Erin.Lewis@stevens.edu](mailto:Erin.Lewis@stevens.edu).



Erin Lewis

**SPECIAL DELIVERY ALERT**

We are hard at work at preparing the sesquicentennial edition of *The Stevens Indicator*. This commemorative issue will pay tribute to Stevens' first 150 years and how our community is building the university's bright future.



# STEVENS' RESPONSE TO COVID-19



**I**t is hard to overstate the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The virus has presented innumerable challenges for our global society, our elected leaders and policymakers; for educational institutions; and for many individuals and families. During this challenging time, Stevens' leadership and Emergency Management Team have conducted regular virtual meetings to adapt to and plan for rapidly changing circumstances while presenting updates on local health conditions and responding to state and federal government guidance.

The actions taken by the university, as described below, were carefully considered and implemented in a timely manner — allowing Stevens to deliver on its promise of providing a world-class education to students, while helping to maintain the health of our community and contributing to nationwide efforts to “flatten the curve.”

- ▶ Stevens began monitoring the emergence and spread of COVID-19 in January and issued precautionary health guidelines to students, faculty and staff.
- ▶ Restrictions were placed on travel, including the cancellation of university-sponsored international travel and suspension of study abroad programs.
- ▶ All classes were moved online through the end of the spring semester. Summer session classes will also be held online.
- ▶ All students living in Stevens housing were required to pack up their belongings and return

home for the semester (unless they were unable to do so due to extenuating circumstances).

- ▶ All Stevens employees who can perform their functions remotely were instructed to work from home through the end of the spring semester.
- ▶ Undergraduate admissions tours, information sessions, a virtual admitted students day and other admitted student events were also held virtually.
- ▶ Innovation Expo was held virtually.
- ▶ Certain campus buildings were closed or had access restricted to approved personnel only.
- ▶ All campus events and Stevens sponsored gatherings, including the Stevens Awards Gala, Commencement and Alumni Weekend, have been postponed or canceled.

While many of these decisions were made quickly, it took hard work and thoughtful collaboration by faculty and staff across the university to ensure they were carried out successfully and — most importantly — in a way that best supported Stevens' students.

Faculty worked hard to transition their classes into the best possible learning experiences within a matter of days, thanks in part to support and training from the Division of Information Technology and tools already developed for Stevens' extensive online graduate courses.

The Offices of Residence Life and Student Affairs worked tirelessly to contact all students living in university housing and assist with move-

out arrangements. This process included allowing a limited number of students into buildings at scheduled intervals in accordance with social distancing guidelines. For students who were unable to return to campus before their residences were set to close, staff members helped coordinate direct shipping of students' belongings to their homes, or packing and storage of the items at an off-site facility at no cost to students.

Students with extenuating circumstances, including international students who were unable to travel home, or those facing housing



President Nariman Farvardin addressed the Stevens community in a video message on April 13. “I am impressed by your resiliency, agility and steadfast dedication to this institution and by your commitment to our mission,” he said. “I am grateful also to our alumni and friends for keeping in touch during these challenging times, and I stress: we need you more than ever before.”

▶ See the full video at [stevens.edu/covid19message](https://stevens.edu/covid19message)



Members of the Hoboken Fire Department outside of Jonas Hall

or financial insecurity, were permitted to stay on campus through the end of the spring semester on a case-by-case basis.

Eligible students who resided in Stevens housing or enrolled in a Stevens dining plan for the Spring 2020 semester received a pro-rated refund of their housing and dining charges.

Efforts continue to recruit a strong incoming class for Fall 2020. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions and the Division of Communications and Marketing collaborated with faculty and staff to produce the virtual accepted students day on April 18 attended online by 850 students and their families. The experience included academic webinars, student video presentations, a campus tour and interactive chat sessions.

Essential service personnel, such as Campus Police and members of the Physical Plant Department, continue to report to work on Castle Point to ensure the safety of our remaining residents and our facilities.

Stevens is continuing its operations in accordance with state and local safety guidelines, and is optimistic about the possibility of resuming on-campus classes and activities in the fall.

The university is planning for various scenarios that may be encountered in the fall semester, and looks forward to welcoming students, faculty and staff back to Castle Point when it is safe to do so.

❖ — Erin Lewis

For a full record of community announcements and more detailed information on Stevens' response to the pandemic, please visit [stevens.edu/covid-19](https://stevens.edu/covid-19)

### RELIEF FOR STUDENTS IN NEED

The Stevens Rises Relief Fund is a new fund supporting students who, due to protective measures against COVID-19, are struggling to afford housing, transportation, basic needs and required resources for remote learning, or who are facing other unforeseen personal difficulties. Any funds that remain will support the university's response in returning to normal business operations.

With your help, Stevens will rise to one of this generation's greatest challenges. Make a contribution today at [astrafunding.stevens.edu](https://astrafunding.stevens.edu)

### TENDING TO OUR FLOCK

In addition to their regular services, many offices at Stevens have supercharged their efforts to support students virtually. Here are some of their recent initiatives and accomplishments.

**Student Affairs and Athletics staff** conducted "Quack Chats," calling every undergraduate student to check-in and see how they're faring at home.

**Student Affairs staff** also developed Zoom communities — virtual communities centered around a variety of topics each week to help students stay connected to Stevens and engage with other students. Weekly topics range from leadership, lunches, hangouts, affinity groups and other lively discussions.

**The Office of Graduate Student Life** partnered with local business Simply Chai to deliver DIY chai kits to graduate students in their homes. They have also developed virtual experiences that promote engagement and communication, such as an etiquette lunch, dance party and virtual playlist bingo.

**The Career Center** reports serving more students this year than ever before. Career advisors are available to meet with students virtually to review their resumes, conduct mock interviews and discuss post-graduation plans. The center also hosts informative webinars and

online workshops, in addition to providing access to Handshake, a job search and application portal which can connect students with prospective employers.

**The Office of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** is offering tele-behavioral health services (teletherapy) for Stevens students so that they can connect with counselors remotely during this time of stress and uncertainty.

**Residential Education** hosted a week of "virtual spring break adventures" on Instagram, providing five days of links and resources to help students make the most of their time at home. Suggestions included virtual museum tours, exploring future vacation destinations on Google Earth, downloading mindfulness and meditation apps and streaming free workout classes. Res Ed also regularly posts tips on how to maximize virtual learning and take meaningful study breaks.

### HOUSING FOR HEROES

In addition to supporting our campus community, Stevens is committed to supporting its Hoboken neighbors and those who, at great personal risk to themselves, are working to ensure the health and safety of others. The university has collaborated with the Hoboken Office of Emergency Management to make rooms available in Jonas Hall for members of the Hoboken Fire Department and healthcare professionals affiliated with Hoboken University Medical Center (HUMC).

The residence hall will help accommodate medical personnel from other areas who have been contracted to assist HUMC in anticipation of a surge in COVID-19 cases, as well as provided space for firefighters to practice social distancing while on shift.

As of press time, HUMC and the City of Hoboken had planned to occupy the building for a period of six weeks (from early April through mid-May), with the option to extend the term if necessary.

## A COURSE OF ACTION IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

In the midst of COVID-19, business leaders are finding themselves in uncharted territory — physical workspaces closed, financial markets posting significant losses and experts divided on the short- and long-term outlook.

To help leaders manage complex challenges during this time of great disruption, the Stevens School of Business created “Course of Action,” a series of eight 20-minute webinars released weekly from April 8 through May 27. The faculty-led talks addressed timely issues, such as cultivating teamwork in a virtual space; managing teams remotely; responding to interruptions in workflow; and developing strategies in the face of an uncertain future. ❖

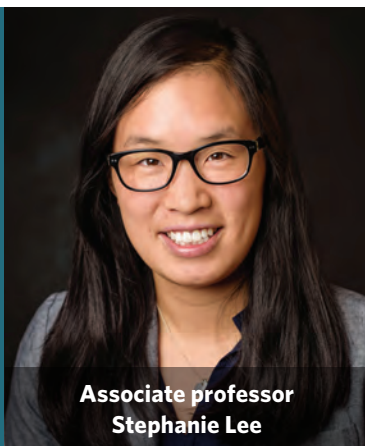
 **Recordings are available to watch at no cost by registering online at <https://courseofaction.tech>**

### HOMESCHOOLING HELP

COVID-19 has caused the closure of schools and a rapid switch to online learning for children across the county. For many parents, this means working from home while also ensuring their child’s engagement with learning. To help ease this transition, chemical engineering professor Stephanie Lee spearheaded a new initiative “Ask a Stevens Prof” — a webinar series for K-12 students. The daily lectures began on March 16, hosted by Stevens professors discussing a wide variety of STEM subjects to appeal to diverse interests (topics like concussions, The Great Barrier Reef, artificial intelligence and atomic bombs). Each session concluded with a “question and answer” portion to make the experience interactive. Webinars were recorded so that students can view lectures they may have missed.

A mother herself, the idea came to Lee when she had to move her Stevens classes online. “I realized we have the technology to use when we need it,” Lee said. “All these kids would be bored at home, and I thought, maybe now I can get them interested in STEM — science, technology, engineering and math!”

By the conclusion of the series on April 10, 20 webinars were conducted by Lee and other faculty members, representing all four of Stevens’ schools. ❖



Associate professor  
Stephanie Lee

 **Read more about “Ask a Stevens Prof” and view recorded webinars at [stevens.edu/askaprof](https://stevens.edu/askaprof)**

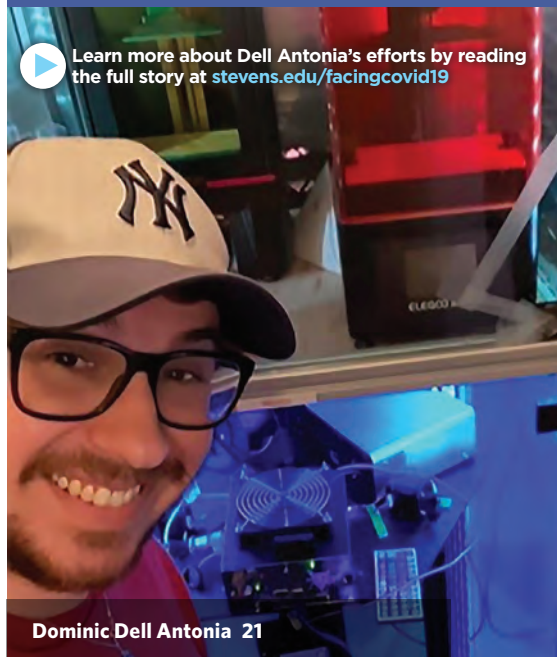
## FACING COVID-19

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is in very short supply as the COVID-19 crisis escalates in the U.S., especially in New York and New Jersey, which have become “hot spots” for the virus.

But thanks to Dominic Dell Antonia ’21, regional medical centers are receiving a much-needed boost. As of April 6, the Stevens chemical engineering student had produced more than 750 face shields using 11 3D printers in his grandmother’s basement. Dell Antonia and a friend have personally delivered the life-saving products to Montefiore Medical Center in New York City, and Morristown Medical Center, Saint Barnabas Medical Center, St. Mary’s General Hospital and Victoria Mews Assisted Living in New Jersey.

He realized he was well-suited to help shortly after the crisis began. “I already had my own side business repairing 3D printers, called DDA,” Dell Antonia explains. “I had more than a dozen on hand, plus plenty of filament. I realized I could do this and help fulfill an urgent need for PPE.

The effects of the relief effort are already being felt by medical personnel, who continue to request the printed shields. ❖

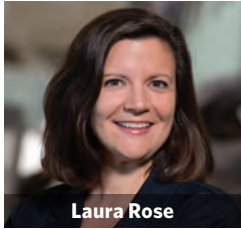


 Learn more about Dell Antonia’s efforts by reading the full story at [stevens.edu/facingcovid19](https://stevens.edu/facingcovid19)

Dominic Dell Antonia ’21



## NEW VP FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT



Laura Rose

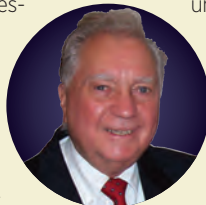
Laura Rose, an accomplished leader with more than two decades of experience in educational and nonprofit advancement, was appointed vice president for Stevens' Division of Development and Alumni Engagement in May. In her role, she will undertake the ambitious challenge of completing the university's \$200 million campaign, *The Power of Stevens*, while continuing to build world-class development and alumni engagement programs.

Rose is a talented fundraising executive who has helped to advance multi-billion-dollar capital campaigns. She has worked closely with alumni and volunteer boards and academic leadership, and built, led and mentored high-functioning development and alumni engagement teams.

Most recently, Rose served as vice president for development and membership at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), where she led individual fundraising efforts, including major and planned gifts, membership and annual fund, benefit events and corporate relations in support of the museum's programs, operations and capital program since 2013. Prior to joining AMNH, Rose held leadership positions in development and alumni relations at Columbia Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and the University of Chicago. ❖

## DAVIDSON LAB ICON PASSES

Daniel Savitsky M.S. '52, the esteemed Stevens professor who, during an extraordinary 70-year career at Davidson Laboratory, touched generations of students and faculty while making major contributions to naval architecture and marine engineering, died on March 23, 2020, at age 98. Savitsky worked as a consultant with the lab — where he had previously served as director, professor and was professor emeritus — until age 96, under five Stevens presidents. He joined Davidson Lab in 1947 as a project engineer and rose to deputy director and later director. As director, he was instrumental in expanding analytical techniques and developing unique capabilities for testing a variety of marine vehicles. During his prolific career, he directed research on high-speed marine craft. In 1964, he published a seminal technical paper that developed the "Savitsky Method" for predicting the horsepower requirements for high-speed planing boats. It is still



universally used by naval architects around the world. Savitsky produced many important designs including landing craft for the U.S. Marine Corps, advanced planing craft for the U.S. Navy and floats for converting a Lockheed C-130 aircraft into a water-based aircraft. He was also a much-admired professor of ocean engineering and taught graduate courses in naval hydrodynamics and physical oceanography. Stevens christened the R/V Savitsky, a research vessel used in New York Harbor, in his honor. "He lived a great, long, productive life," said research associate professor Raju Datla Ph.D. '97. "He was a great teacher, mentor and friend to all of us at the Davidson Lab, and we will miss him dearly." Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Mary; his sister, Emily; his children, Jean '85, Jim '88 and Anne; two sons-in-law; and his granddaughter. A technical symposium commemorating his contributions is being planned for a future date. ❖

▶ See [stevens.edu/savitsky](https://stevens.edu/savitsky) for an online tribute



## HOSPITAL ON THE HUDSON: VIEW FROM AN INSIDER ALUMNUS

When the ten-story-tall, three-football-field-long Navy medical vessel USNS Comfort pulled into New York Harbor and docked at Manhattan's Pier 90 on March 30 — on an urgent mission to support the city's response to the growing COVID-19 health crisis — one very interested observer in the Middle East stayed up late to watch it happen online. New Jersey native Capt. Kevin Buckley '89, an emergency doctor now posted as Fifth Fleet surgeon in the naval fleet's Bahrain headquarters, had commanded the ship's military treatment facility from 2017 through the summer of 2019 and knows every inch of its medical facilities like the back of his hand. Designed for primary combat support, the main deck includes a 55-bed emergency room, a CT scan facility and one of the largest blood banks in the world; 12 operating rooms; a post-operative care unit; and four intensive care units (ICUs) with up to 100 ICU beds and ventilators. "We have some of America's best and brightest sons and daughters on the front lines of the war against this virus helping our fellow Americans, as this ship — and its sister ship the USNS Mercy — maintain readiness to assist," he says. ❖



Buckley appeared in *The Indicator's* Fall 2019 issue. To read more from this March 2020 interview, visit [stevens.edu/usnscomfort](https://stevens.edu/usnscomfort)



Three events for the university community began Stevens' sesquicentennial celebration on a high note

# A KICKOFF TO 150

President Nariman Farvardin addressed the crowd at the Founder's Day Soiree. "I feel privileged to serve Stevens at this momentous point in our history," he said.

Photos: Jeff Vock

## How do you celebrate a university's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday?

For Stevens Institute of Technology, one party just isn't enough. On February 21, 2020, three celebrations kicked off a year of events that will honor Stevens' sesquicentennial.

More than 600 undergraduate students gathered at The Westin Jersey City Newport in their best cocktail attire for the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Founder's Day Ball** — the largest attendance in the event's history.

Weehawken's Chart House hosted the **Founder's Day Reception**, an event that drew 160 graduate students, faculty and staff for a lively dinner, music and dancing with spectacular views of the Hudson River and New York City skyline.

And in Hoboken, close to 500 Stevens alumni, faculty and staff flocked to the Samuel C. Williams Library for the **Founder's Day Soiree**. This gathering allowed attendees to explore the first 150 years of the university through interactive displays, tours of the building's special collections and new exhibits featuring lesser-known Stevens history, with some objects on display for the very first time.

Meanwhile, federal, state and local officials honored Stevens with proclamations and letters of congratulations, as an American flag was flown over the U.S. Capitol building on February 15, 2020, the same day that Stevens was founded 150 years ago, in 1870.

During the soiree, participants navigated the event as travelers, given a "passport" to guide them as they toured themed stations, completed activities for passport stamps and spun a wheel to win prizes.

Some of the special items on display included a recently discovered letter dated June 5, 1919, from then-Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt, thanking the university for its Navy training program during World War I; a Japanese samurai helmet, mask and sword donated by Keiiche Abe, Class of 1899, Stevens' first Asian-American graduate; and Johnsonburg engineering camp photos and a camp jacket — signed by campers, who added jokes and drawings — from 1938.





School of Business assistant professor Dan Pirjol, left, and data engineer Olorundamilola Kazeem.

It was striking how many generations of Stevens alumni returned for the soiree — graduates from the 1940s to the university's most recent graduating class. Photos on display from the archives mirrored the diversity of decades, providing a window to the lives of Stevens students over the last 150 years.

**Wayne Monsees '71 M.Eng '72 M.S. '78** was particularly moved by photos of children sled riding downhill from campus, recalling a fond childhood memory of his grandfather: when it snowed, the Stevens family would open the gates to campus and allow the local kids to sled ride from the top of Castle Point all the way down to Washington Street.

**Namankita Rana '19** and **Victoria Piskarev '19** were struck by pictures of Stevens' ever-evolving campus. "It's a flashback in time," said Rana. "[In the photos], you can recognize rooms and objects, but you also see the new technology of the time. It's a stark reminder that the school existed before us, and it will continue after us."



Enjoying the evening, from left, are Olivia Schreiber '18, Jessica Smith '17, Victoria Piskarev '19, Vicky Velasco '04 and Monica Velasco Caldwell '02.

DeBaun Performing Arts Center director **Carl Russell**, who attended Stevens in the 1980s, also felt a connection to students of yesteryear. "Stevens does have this rich history, and it's nice to put yourself in the timeline and great to empathize with people in the past. The many leaps forward are impressive. It's very easy to place yourself in the history."

One of the most popular exhibits was "Early Campus Traditions" that included photos and stories behind beloved and sometimes strange student rituals. "Calculus Cremation" — the ceremony in which calculus was put "on trial" and a calculus effigy was placed on a wooden pyre at the athletic field, before a jeering crowd of students — fascinated.



S.C. Williams Library director Linda Beninghove M.S. '03 presents treasures from the Lieb Memorial Leonardo da Vinci Collection.

**Joe Schneider '46** — a longtime Stevens benefactor — said that he couldn't miss the 150<sup>th</sup>. As he turned 96 on March 9, Schneider is forward-looking. "It's going to be a big year," he said of the 150<sup>th</sup>. "The years go by ... the campus is so much nicer with the new buildings. It's going to look like a brand-new place."

**June Markkanen '77** made it a point to speak with women students and recent alumnae at the gathering. She shares their desire for a greater number of women on campus, but she also noted progress in many areas. "I feel proud of what Stevens has been doing... I'm glad to hear that Stevens is branching out into new disciplines."

**John Dalton '60**, who has researched, written and co-produced several Stevens history videos over the years, praised the Williams Library staff for a job well done. "I think that they did a great job of displaying our past and setting the scene for our proud future," he said.

To read more about Stevens' 150th anniversary kickoff — and see photos from each of the day's events — visit [stevens.edu/kickoff150](http://stevens.edu/kickoff150).



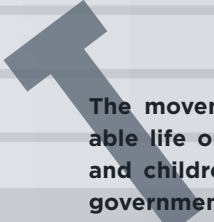
President Farvardin, second from right, greets celebrants, from left, George Johnston '72, Nancy and Tom Moschello '63, Maryann Johnston and Bob Fiocco '58.

### What's in Your Attic?

Many of the photographs and items on display at the Founder's Day Soiree were donated by alumni and their families. The Archives & Special Collections department is seeking more documentation on Stevens history in order to better represent the rich diversity of life at the university — both inside and outside the classroom. If you have items that you are interested in contributing to Stevens' historic collections, contact Leah Loscutoff at 201.216.5416 or [leah.loscutoff@stevens.edu](mailto:leah.loscutoff@stevens.edu).

The President's Ensemble performed historic tunes from *Songs of Stevens*, a university song book from the 1930s.





The movement to combat climate change and to demand solutions for a more sustainable life on Earth has a defining face — the face of youth. • Masses of young adults and children protested on every continent last September, demanding action by government officials in a global climate march that organizers say attracted up to 4 million people. Greta Thunberg, the 17-year-old climate activist from Sweden, has shamed world leaders at the United Nations, begging them to act before it's too late. As the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has given policy makers until 2030 to avert the worst consequences of global warming, there is a great sense of urgency among many young people. • Young people are working to make a difference when it comes to the environmental health and future of our planet. So, we wanted to speak with some of them at Stevens. These students come from across the U.S. and around the world, representing different areas of study and life experiences. They are all driven by a desire to make a better world. • They follow in the footsteps of generations of Stevens alumni who have pursued solutions to environmental problems. Stevens graduates have gone on to work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and various state and municipal environmental protection agencies, playing a role in creating and enforcing clean air and

# THE TIME IS NOW

## COMING TOGETHER FOR A GREENER FUTURE

water regulations. (The first commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection was a Stevens graduate, Richard Sullivan '49.) They have become entrepreneurs, creating companies that are exploring options for renewable energy. They work for companies that specialize in green solutions or environmental remediation, or they are working to bring sustainable practices to their corporations. • In 2015, a team of Stevens students made history when they built SU+RE House — the sustainable and resilient solar house that captured first place in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon and is now on permanent display at Liberty Science Center, educating the public about the need for housing that will combat future storms. • When it comes to environmental solutions, a new generation of students knows they can't do it alone. • "It's not something that one generation is going to change," says Abigail Circelli '21. "This is a worldwide issue that needs to be addressed by everyone." • Our discussion with these students — along with stories that highlight the important work of Stevens students, alumni, faculty and staff seeking environmental solutions — appears in the following pages. ❖ — *Beth Kissinger*



# A FORUM FOR THEIR THOUGHTS

**O**n February 19, 2020, *The Stevens Indicator* invited a diverse group of undergraduate and graduate students, recommended by their professors and peers, to a panel discussion on the current state of our planet. We asked what keeps them up at night, and what gives them hope; how they feel about past environmental stewardship; and how they plan to pursue their careers in a way that may make a difference.

What we found was some anxiety, much urgency, and a great sense of purpose and faith in what they — and all individuals — can do.

Among them: a future vaccine developer; two researchers exploring solar energy; a Ph.D. candidate devoted to reducing fossil fuel consumption; two engineers combatting the damage of sea level rise; a sustainability management wizard; a nuclear energy advocate and a civil engineer seeking to improve water quality for communities in need.

## WHAT DRIVES THEM

Antony Cruz '21 has an unabashed love of his hometown of Jersey City, New Jersey, and an eye for justice.

Growing up, he was keenly aware of the struggles of poor and working-class people. Living in a city with a proud past, he also saw the legacy of its industrial history in neighborhood lots and ballfields shuttered because

***“I am driven because I want to make the world better, and this experience put that into vivid, more strategic words for me.”*** —ALEX DUBRO M.S. '20

of chromium contamination. But it was really the Flint, Michigan, water crisis — in which the city's drinking water became contaminated with lead after officials switched to a cheaper option of obtaining untreated water from the corrosive Flint River — that compelled him on his career path.

“I just remember being very angry at that fact, that a mistake like that could happen just for profit's sake,” he says. “I feel I needed to do something about it, and that's why I chose civil engineering. I felt that those mistakes could be stopped by people who care.”

Sarah Chan '20 M.Eng. '21 poured through books like *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert in high school. This early experience, among others — from studying abroad and experiencing the natural beauty of Norway to seeing sea level rise near her hometown of Port Jefferson Station, New York, — drive her, as she studies environmen-

tal engineering and ocean engineering.

A high school service trip to Haiti left a lasting impression on Alex Dubro M.S. '20, who just earned his master's in sustainability management. One moment that shaped him: children bathing in water that was clearly unsafe for drinking or swimming.

“I am driven because I want to make the world better, and this experience put that into vivid, more strategic words for me,” he says. “Rather than say ‘let's change the world,’ I can now come up with a waste management plan.”

## CAUSES FOR CONCERN

Air pollution, waste management, sea level rise, a lack of strong international cooperation — all weigh on these students' minds when they think about environmental issues.

The world's continued reliance on fossil fuels and the harm caused by fossil fuel emissions was cited often.

According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 4.3 million premature deaths worldwide in 2016 were due to exposure to outdoor air pollution. Emissions from industry, vehicles and power generation, among other



▶ From left, Antony Cruz '21, Saeed Vasebi Ph.D. '20 and Taylor Zimmerman M.Eng. '20

(Continued on page 15)

## ABIGAIL CIRCELLI '21

Woodbury, New York, *Bachelor of Engineering, Chemical Engineering*

One of Circelli's favorite places is her family's house in the wilds of upstate New York. The dwelling was built to be entirely sustainable, from rooftop solar panels to a well which pumps water from a local aquifer into the home. Her personal connection to outdoor spaces created a general awareness of environmental issues, which was further refined through her research on emerging organic solar cell technologies with Stevens associate professor Stephanie Lee. "I want to change the world for the better, and for me, that all starts in a lab," she says. Chemical engineering has even allowed her to see possibility in a material that is attributed to many environmental issues: plastic. "It's a blessing and a curse because it's probably one of the most brilliant discoveries that we have," she observes. Circelli is optimistic that researchers, like herself, can find new ways to break down and dispose of the polymer. "I can't wait for the research that's going to come out within the next 50 years ... it's really exciting." Circelli plans to continue her research in energy and sustainability, working toward efficient organic solar cell technology. Her goal is to further research into optimization of plastic decomposition.



## DYLAN MOON '21

Santa Fe, New Mexico, *Bachelor of Science, Science, Technology & Society*

Becoming vegan was a turning point for Moon during his first semester at Stevens. "That was the first moment I really connected my personal actions to the broader scope of things," he recalls. "That snowballed into an awareness of not only the human diet, but our impact on the globe through our everyday actions." As science editor of *The Stute*, Moon has penned articles advocating for reduced meat consumption as well as nuclear power. One of his pieces, "Why Do Some Environmental Activists Eat Meat?" was recently published online by *Scientific American*. Overall, he believes in the power of individuals to make a global difference. "Don't wait for laws and regulations to solve our problems," he says. "Change begins with your everyday actions." In the future, Moon hopes to make a change through his continued advocacy of nuclear power, helping to bring this alternative energy source to greater prominence in the U.S. and around the world.

## DONGRUN JU '21

Chuxiong, Yunnan Province, China, *Bachelor of Engineering, Chemical Engineering*

When Ju began her studies at Stevens, she was surprised to see that stores in the area provided plastic bags to shoppers. In China, she remembers her hometown curtailing the use of plastic bags since her elementary school days. "At the time, global warming was a big topic, and also water pollution," she says. She notes that Hoboken's recent ban on plastic bags and switch to paper bags has been an improvement. In the future, Ju is committed to making her own impact on the environment through continued education in graduate school and research related to alternative energy. A highlight of her time at Stevens so far was joining Stevens associate professor Stephanie Lee's research group during summer 2019 to work on developing flexible, organic solar cells — cost-effective, lightweight alternatives to the silicon-based solar panels on the market today.



## SAEED VASEBI PH.D. '20

Sarab, E Azerbaijan, Iran, Ph.D., *Systems Engineering*

Growing up in his native Iran, Vasebi noticed changes in the weather. “In my hometown, I think climate change is so rapid and happening so fast you can actually see it,” he says. “Every year we will see less snow, less rain.” As a high schooler, he realized that this was not just a local trend, but rather a global one. Since these issues affect everyone, he believes strongly in collaboration across nations — as well as individual efforts — to find solutions. Vasebi is doing his part through research into automated vehicles, and how these technologies can reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Ultimately, he hopes to apply this knowledge in the field to consult with corporations on strategies to reduce their environmental impact.



## VICTORIA STABILE '20 M.ENG. '20

Mansfield, New Jersey, *Bachelor of Engineering, Chemical Engineering*  
*Master of Engineering, Environmental Engineering*

A self-described “outdoor person” and Stevens legacy student (parents Christine and Jeffrey Stabile '90 and uncle Werner Seitz '94 also attended the university), Stabile grew up enjoying time in the woods and at the beach. Graduating at the top of her class (along with four other first-in-class students in the Class of 2020), she remembers becoming aware of climate change through a seventh-grade project on global warming. “I saw that our actions were harming the planet and threatening the natural spaces I had a connection to,” she says. “From then on, I started learning whatever I could about the topic.” Her quest for knowledge continued at Stevens where Stabile worked with professor Christos

Christodoulatos Ph.D. '91 in the Center for Environmental Systems on growing algae in wastewater to produce biofuels (*read more about the project on pages 20-21*). Stabile has already accepted a position with Merck in vaccine process development, which she will begin after she completes her degree. In this role, she hopes to further explore the possibilities of sustainable manufacturing, “examining how we make things and finding ways to be more Earth-friendly.”

## ANTONY CRUZ '21

Jersey City, New Jersey, *Bachelor of Engineering, Civil Engineering*  
*Master of Engineering, Civil Engineering, Class of 2022*

Raised in Jersey City, New Jersey, Cruz recognizes that urban populations may have less awareness of environmental issues due to lack of access to natural spaces. “You don’t see the ramifications until it’s too late,” he says. Some of these problems have hit close to home, including the pollution of the Hudson River, chromium contamination in some Jersey City neighborhoods and lead contamination in Newark, New Jersey’s drinking water. As a lab assistant for the Art Harper Saturday Academy (a program that brings high school students from under-resourced communities to Stevens for ten Saturdays per academic year with the goal of developing their STEM skillset and learning more about the college experience) and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Cruz works with Hudson County youth, educating students on ethical missteps and mismanagement by government that led to water quality issues and how to avoid them in the future. Through a career in civil engineering, Cruz hopes to take on projects that will improve water quality for under-resourced areas and continue youth mentorship in STEM, helping young people to succeed socioeconomically and professionally.





(Continued from page 12)

sources, produce a complex mix of air pollutants, with fine particulate matter having the greatest effect on human health.

“I’d just like to see people be less tentative about green technologies,” says Dylan Moon ’21, a science, technology and society major. “The current way we’re doing things is making huge numbers of people and animals suffer.”

Changing human behavior and social values is the most difficult change to make but can have the greatest impact, says Saeed Vasebi Ph.D. ’20, whose research focuses on automated vehicles and technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

If driving passenger cars — a major

contributor to greenhouse gases in the U.S. — were to become less accepted socially and the use of public transportation socially preferred, the shift in behavior would create a major positive impact, he says.

“If we decide to use our cars at least 20, 30 percent less, it’s going to be a huge change in the market. If we feel shame for leaving our lights on or our office heating or cooling systems on during the night, we can make a big change.”

Perhaps Vasebi’s greatest worry, however, is the urgent need for international cooperation to combat climate change.

“All of the nations — at least most of the nations — should collaborate on this. And looking at the possibility of collaboration

sometime soon, I’m not thinking that it’s going to happen, at least by government. And that’s a serious concern.”

Sarah Chan, meanwhile, worries about sea level rise. One reason? It’s hitting close to home.

“I’m from Long Island so I basically live at sea level,” she says. “Sea level rise is going to displace so many people.”

According to NASA, the melting of ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica has accelerated in the last decade, leading to global sea level rise and a continued threat to coastal and low-lying communities. Indeed, global sea level rose about 8 inches in the last century. The rate in the last two decades, however, is nearly double that of the last century, according to *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

## Environmental Extracurriculars

Stevens students can extend their education and involvement in “green” initiatives beyond the classroom through a variety of clubs and organizations.

### ► SUSTAINABILITY, ACTIVISM, VOLUNTEERING, & ENGINEERING CLUB (SAVE)

Founded in spring 2013, SAVE is the Stevens chapter of Engineers for a Sustainable World, an international non-profit network of students and professionals united by their shared passion for technical sustainability. On Castle Point, SAVE has spearheaded a number of initiatives, including “Sustainability Smackdown,” a competition challenging all clubs at Stevens to host the most sustainable event; an annual campus-wide Earth Day celebration; and participation in RecycleMania, a national collegiate recycling challenge. The group is also in the early stages of engineering a unique fundraiser: a solar smoothie cart. They envision a bicycle that propels a cart featuring two blenders — one powered by a solar panel and one powered by pedaling the attached bike — allowing club members to serve up sustainable smoothies. SAVE also participates in beach sweeps, hikes and Hoboken city clean-ups. Members even joined the Global Climate Strike in New York City this past fall.

### ► ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS (EWB)

Engineers Without Borders USA is a non-profit, national humanitarian organization that partners with communities around the world to help meet basic human needs through engineering solutions. Groups of professionals and students — like Stevens’ EWB chapter — fundraise and apply to work on projects through the national organization. Last

summer, following more than five years of work, the group completed a project assisting small villages in northern Thailand. Using foundational knowledge from Stevens classes, students built an irrigation and water filtration system and taught the community how to maintain the technology. Because of their work, more than 1,000 residents now have reliable access to clean water. Recently, Stevens EWB was selected to take on a new challenge — this time for a community in Bolivia — helping to replace and expand an existing water delivery system as well as identifying new water sources. The group hopes to begin the project in early 2021, but funding is difficult to come by; most projects require an average investment of \$30,000 to \$50,000. If you are interested in supporting their work, visit [stevens.edu/supportewb](http://stevens.edu/supportewb)

### ► STEVENS ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY (SEEPS)

SEEPS was created in 2018 to centralize several environmental engineering professional society chapters at Stevens, including the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (AAEES) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA). By bringing these groups together, SEEPS members aim to gain a more holistic understanding of professional opportunities in fields related to environmental engineering and a wider social network. The club has hosted panels featuring professionals in the field and plans sustainability-focused events. They have also toured wastewater treatment plants and conducted other industrial site visits through AWWA. ❖ — Erin Lewis

Taylor Zimmerman M.Eng. '20, who earned her master's in coastal engineering, spoke of her fear that environmental action has tended to be reactive.

"I would say that what keeps me up at night is what the future looks like if no changes are made ... so I think that what makes me hopeful is seeing companies and people doing things proactively to help prevent and mitigate problems before it's too late."

## RECONCILING INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENTALISM

Publications from *The New Republic* to *The Wall Street Journal* have reported a generational divide between young and older people when it comes to attitudes toward climate change, with younger people feeling a much greater sense of urgency to address a crisis they believe will affect them during their lifetimes.

A CBS News Poll in September 2019 found that the majority of Americans believe that climate change is a serious problem though younger people are more likely to think so. Among Americans ages 18-29, 70% say that climate change is a serious problem, while that number drops to 58% for people age 65 and older.

The same poll found that 63% of Americans under 40 blame older generations "a lot" or "some" for climate change.

But among most students in this Stevens group, there was an acknowledgement that

society has, throughout history, industrialized without knowing the absolute effect, and that some great technological advances have come with an environmental price.

Indeed, the planet's average surface temperature has risen about 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit since the late 19th century, "a change driven largely by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions into the atmosphere," according to NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Most of the warming, though, has occurred over the last 35 years, with the five warmest years on record

***"The youth are always the people who create revolutions ... people who felt very passionate about something they believe in."*** — ANTONY CRUZ '21

taking place since 2010; 2016 meanwhile, was the warmest year on record.

These students spoke less of blame and more of a need for a combined sense of purpose among the generations to combat vexing environmental challenges.

Environmental engineering major Victoria Stabile '20 M.Eng. '20 gave the example of chlorofluorocarbons, once found in aerosol sprays, refrigerators and other products. The damage to the ozone layer was not well known until the 1970s. But nations came together to later ban their use.

There was an acknowledgement of modern technology's ability to solve problems that seemed intractable in the past. And previous generations made this possible.

"What they were doing was getting us ahead," says chemical engineering major Abigail Circelli '21.

"Now we have to make another historic revolution as well," she says — the development of green energy and sustainable practices.

Dongrun Ju '21, who grew up in China, said that her father's generation faced possible hunger and worked hard to survive, advancing technology. But this brought its own set of environmental problems. Noting that each generation learns

from the one before it, she is confident that her generation will innovate to find solutions.

Citing March for Our Lives and other social movements, Antony Cruz places most of his faith in the younger generation to become leaders in climate activism.

"The youth are always the people who create revolutions ... people who felt very passionate about something they believe in."

## A TEMPERED OPTIMISM

Can individuals make a difference? Most of these Stevens students ardently believe so. They

are encouraged by recent actions by individuals, by some companies, by communities — large and small — to confront environmental challenges. And many say that individuals can't rely on the government to take the lead.

Several students noted a plastic bag ban that has gone into effect in communities across the country, as an example of people making a difference when united in a cause.

These students are also optimistic about the power of social media to drive awareness of environmental issues to a young audience. From Snapchat and Instagram to YouTube, young people communicate and consume news from a variety of online platforms.

Sarah Chan mentioned a popular YouTube video that shows a plant-based water pod that allows you to consume the water and dispose of the container — all in one bite.

"There are a lot of memes on climate change, and it really makes a big impact because it brings awareness to the younger generation who really scroll through social media every single day," she says.

The redeeming power of technology and the chance for science to make a difference was mentioned again and again.

"I feel that research can just change everything in such a great way; there's such impactful information that people are producing every single year, it's constantly making the planet better," says Abigail Circelli, who has done solar energy research at Stevens. "And I feel like I want to be part of that so bad." ❖ — Beth Kissinger



## TAYLOR ZIMMERMAN M.ENG. '20

Colonia, New Jersey, *Master of Engineering, Ocean Engineering*

In 2012, the floodwaters of Hurricane Sandy destroyed Zimmerman's family beach house on the Jersey Shore. "I think that's when climate change became real to me," she recalls. "It affected my family on a personal level." Since then, Zimmerman has turned adversity into action through coastal engineering. When it comes to protecting shorelines from erosion and storm surge, "green infrastructure" is becoming a more common approach, replacing "gray infrastructure" (such as concrete or steel bulkheads which impede the growth of plants and animal habitats). Zimmerman's research has included the design and monitoring of living shorelines, a green infrastructure technique that employs materials such as marsh grass, oyster reefs or coir fiber logs to mimic the natural shoreline. Living shorelines can restore or stabilize a shoreline, prevent erosion and be designed to adapt to sea level rise. Along with coastal protection, living shorelines can improve water quality, increase fish habitats, among other benefits. Zimmerman will begin her career as a coastal engineer this summer with McLaren Engineering Group in New York City.



## ALEX DUBRO M.S. '20

New Rochelle, New York, *Master of Science, Sustainability Management*

Dubro's interest in sustainable development was inspired by a high school service trip to Haiti. There, he was struck by how waste management affected public health and impeded economic growth — especially infrastructure. It wasn't until college, however, that he realized how food waste contributes to climate change. "I didn't see the connections between where waste is going ... from my garbage can into a landfill and into the atmosphere," Dubro says. He notes that climate change has gone from a "not in my backyard" issue to one right before our eyes. Dubro has made it his personal mission to engage students, faculty, staff and community members to create a culture of sustainability through several initiatives on campus, including the Stevens Sustainability Coalition and the Stevens Sustainable Projects Program. While he is unsure where life will take him, Dubro is certain his career path will integrate sustainability assessment and management, business development and stakeholder engagement.

## SARAH CHAN '20

Port Jefferson Station, New York, *Bachelor of Engineering, Environmental Engineering; Master of Engineering, Ocean Engineering, Class of 2021*

An elementary school recycling competition got Chan thinking about the environmental impact of plastics. "I transferred what we did in school to my home life," she says. "I made sure we recycled everything." Years later at Stevens, Chan is still focused on sustainability — now with a passion for green infrastructure. Since her freshman year, she's researched responsible solutions for stormwater runoff and wastewater treatment, including designing and testing raingardens in the New York metro area as well as during a study abroad experience in Trondheim, Norway. She hopes an upcoming coastal engineering internship with Mott MacDonald in Seattle will bring her one step closer to a major career goal — designing green or hybrid coastal structures to combat flooding and storm surge due to rising sea levels. ❖ — *Erin Lewis*



Lead dust from house paints, an aging water supply infrastructure and other sources have been linked to declines in IQ in exposed children as well as a host of neurological disorders and birth defects. The U.S. banned lead from paints in 1978 and from most plumbing fixtures in 1986, yet much remains in the built urban environment.

Most recently, news headlines have focused on the crises of elevated lead levels in the water supply in places such as Flint, Michigan, and Newark, New Jersey. But soils and plants in urban neighborhoods — in people's own backyards — also pose an ongoing threat.

Deterioration of exterior lead-based paint in older homes, industrial pollution and the use of lead-based gasoline have contributed to the contamination of soil, ac-

residential backyards contaminated with lead. The early results have been encouraging.

In one field site in Jersey City, for example, where the team has been working since 2018, the soil lead level decreased from 750 mg/kg to 460 mg/kg, according to Sarkar. (The safe/permissible lead level in residential soils set by the EPA is 400 mg/kg.) At the second Jersey City site, the lead level decreased from 704 mg/kg to 574 mg/kg. And in San Antonio

and hoped to plant a new crop in Jersey City this spring, though this may be postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"We are reducing pollution in big cities," Sarkar says.

"I think that we have made progress. We still have a lot to do."

Sarkar, who is founding director of the Sustainability Management Program at Stevens, pointed out that this solution, though not a silver bullet, is affordable, ecologically sustainable and is being developed so that it's simple enough for a gardener to use.

"If it's technologically complicated, people cannot use it. Our job is to come up with green technologies that can be easily implemented."

The process works like this. Vetiver plants

# GETTING THE LEAD OUT

## RESEARCH TEAM USES NATURAL GRASSES TO RID CONTAMINANTS FROM SOIL, WATER

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This contaminated dirt from the outside can make it into people's houses, as they track in lead dust from the backyard on their shoes. This problem is most critical for young children, from birth to age six, because exposure to lead can be particularly harmful during this time of rapid brain development.

When it comes to abating the lead crisis in some communities, progress has been slow and solutions cost-prohibitive to residents. But Stevens environmental engineering professor Dibyendu Sarkar and his team are working on one affordable green solution: vetiver, a fast-growing bunchgrass from India with long, dense root systems that absorb significant quantities of lead and other heavy metals from contaminated soil with the help of biodegradable green chemicals.

With a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) — the third phase of a \$1.4 million grant that dates back to 2004 — Sarkar and his team are working on two pilot sites in Jersey City, New Jersey, and two in San Antonio, Texas, where they have planted vetiver in

PHOTO: JEFF VOCK



— where Stevens is collaborating with Michigan Technological University — one site saw a decrease from 445 mg/kg to 396 mg/kg. At press time, Sarkar and his team were growing a new crop of vetiver at a greenhouse

are planted in the soils in the backyards of the residential pilot sites. The soil is then treated with a green biodegradable chemical called EDDS (ethylenediamine-N, N'-disuccinic acid), which makes the lead in the soil soluble,



◀ *Opposite page: Stevens professor Dibyendu Sarkar, right, with fellow researchers Virinder Sidhu, far left, a postdoctoral fellow, and doctoral student Viravid Na Nagara, display vetiver plants inside Sarkar's Environmental Sustainability Lab. Above, Virinder Sidhu tends to a crop of lead-absorbing vetiver plants at a field site in Jersey City, New Jersey, last summer.*

enabling the vetiver to absorb it. The vetiver grows and is harvested periodically, thus removing the lead. In Jersey City, the vetiver is harvested, and new grasses are replanted each spring. In San Antonio where winter is mild, grasses do not need to be replanted.

In a separate project, vetiver has also been tested by Sarkar's team to remove nutrients and antibiotics from wastewater. These substances pass through wastewater treatment systems unabated and percolate into surface and groundwater. Prolonged exposure to water suffused with antibiotics may promote antimicrobial resistance in humans.

Sarkar's team performed a greenhouse test on tanks filled with municipal wastewater, spiked with two common antibiotics — ciprofloxacin and tetracycline. The vetiver's massive root system removed nearly all antibiotics — along with excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous — within as little as two weeks, the team found. The vetiver is later burned into biochar and the antibiotics destroyed.

Another vetiver partner: The Town of Secaucus, New Jersey. Sarkar's research team, with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, will test a floating water treatment platform, filled with vetiver grass, on top of a storm water retention basin, in an industrial area of town next year. Indeed, when it comes to the capabilities of vetiver, Sarkar says that his team is "just scratching the surface."

Students and researchers working on the vetiver projects appreciated this opportunity to find solutions to vexing environmental problems while getting to see the results of their work in a relatively short period of time.

"The most satisfying thing is how the lead concentration is going down in the soil," says Virinder Sidhu, a postdoctoral fellow with the Department of Civil, Environmental and Ocean Engineering. "You can see it in real time. And this is much more sustainable and less destructive."

These projects have been deeply rewarding, Sarkar says. His HUD-funded project, in particular, is trying to right an environmental justice problem, he points out, where children in poor neighborhoods suffer.

He is also helping young researchers to come up with solutions that benefit all of society.

"We should train students that development comes at a cost — a cost to the environment. We are actually walking the walk of sustainability." ❖

**The Hugo Neu Corporation Sustainability Seminar Series — which includes a free live webcast and is organized by Stevens' Sustainability Management Program — continues this fall, with experts speaking on important sustainability issues. See [stevens.edu/hnseries](https://stevens.edu/hnseries), and view past lectures at [stevens.edu/hnarchives](https://stevens.edu/hnarchives).**

# GROWING TOWARD NET ZERO

## HARNESSING MICROALGAE TO TRANSFORM WASTEWATER INTO GREEN ENERGY

Stevens environmental engineering professor Christos Christodoulatos Ph.D. '91 admits sustainability was about the last thing on his mind when he began his career nearly 30 years ago.

“When we had to clean a site that was contaminated, we didn’t think of how to clean it in the most effective way in terms of energy,” he explains. “We just wanted to clean it.”

Three decades later, balancing environmental impact with long-term natural resource management is now his top-most concern.

Since 2014, Christodoulatos, who is also director of the Stevens Center for Environmental Systems, has been leading a multi-million-dollar sustainability initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Defense. Part of the Army’s Net Zero Initiative established during the Obama administration, the multifaceted, multidepartmental project aims to improve energy efficiency, water consumption and solid waste reduction at military industrial base facilities through sustainability best practices.

“The target is to have zero emissions and zero waste,” Christodoulatos says.

One primary focus of the project entails generating biomass energy by cultivating microalgae on industrial wastewater. What began as 100-ml flask experiments in a campus lab three years ago has since grown to a field pilot study of 1,000-liter, oblong-shaped raceway reactors located in a munitions facility greenhouse in the southern U.S.

### FROM TOXIC WASTE TO CLEAN ENERGY

Wastewater from munitions manufacturing is rich both in carbon as well as in nitrogen, an element commonly found in plant fertilizer that can also be explosive.

By growing *Scenedesmus obliquus* algae on these industrial streams, researchers are able to repurpose these chemicals into plant sustenance, generating algal oil and biogas that can be converted into biofuels while simultaneously ridding the wastewater of compounds harmful to the environment.

The underlying methods can apply to

any industry that produces nitrogen-rich streams, such as municipal wastewater treatment plants. Additional benefits include a reduction in a facility’s carbon dioxide footprint and reliance on fossil fuels, Christodoulatos says.

Environmental engineering doctoral student Andrew Mai M.Eng. '17, who first began working with Christodoulatos as a master’s student, says the project affords new ways of thinking about recycling.

“You wouldn’t think right away, ‘Oh, I can use this [used] water to grow something else, and then use that to do something else, too,’” he says. “It adds a novel perspective to what reuse can really mean.”

Potential usable products resulting from the process include the manufacture of biopharmaceuticals, nutritional supplements

PHOTOS: JEFF VOCK



▶ From left, Research scientist Juliana Abraham, Victoria Stabile '20 M.Eng. '20 and Ph.D. student Yanxia Lin monitor algae biomass being grown inside Stevens' Nicoll Laboratory. Oils from the algae, cultivated from munitions industrial wastewater, will eventually be converted into bioenergy. Right, Cultivated algae from the lab's bioreactors

and fortified foods and bioplastics, as well as power to generate electricity or fuel cars and public transportation vehicles.

## SCALING UP

After nearly three years of bench-scale algae experimentation on campus, the first of two pilot-scale demonstrations at the munitions facility was completed last summer. Christodoulatos and his team applied knowledge gleaned in the lab to determine the parameters necessary to sustain algae growth at scale for extended periods.

Although algae is a fast-growing, high-yield feedstock, one major challenge of scaling up its production is avoiding contamination.

Because the algae is grown in ever-larger open ponds, “it’s very difficult to keep the algae culture you’re growing pure,” Christodoulatos says. High culture purity is particularly vital for use in pharmaceuticals.

Biomass output is another major concern in the scaling-up process. Microorganisms that feed on the algae can reduce algal yield, and the harvesting and algae concentration processes are energy intensive with high financial costs.

By growing algae attached to substrates rather than in the traditional method suspended in water, however, researchers were able to decrease their water usage while increasing biomass solids yield tenfold.

“It’s a very promising way of growing algae and would eliminate the need for concentrating the algae prior to using it for biodiesel or biogas production,” Christodoulatos says.

## STUDENT IMPACT

One of the largest research efforts on campus, the sustainability project engages 30 faculty and student researchers. Additional focus areas include systems analysis of facility operations, pre-treatment of wastewater to degrade explosive compounds and increasing algal oil and gas content to maximize biofuel output.

There are so many interrelated opportunities and tasks, in fact, that Mai describes working on the project as “almost like a startup.” Though his work is in environmental engineering, he’s enjoyed working with researchers in different fields, who are focusing on various aspects of this large research project, as part of

an interdisciplinary team.

“I wasn’t just working on this one part but a part of this bigger group. It really gave me a good perspective on how technologies come to life and is allowing my dissertation to become part of applicable technology that’s actually being used somewhere,” Mai says.

Victoria Stabile ’20 M.Eng. ’20, who was one of this year’s first-in-class students for the Class of 2020, has derived a similar benefit from this research experience.

Having contributed to both increasing algae growth yields and improving biomass

concentrations, she says “both of these experiences have been an amazing opportunity to learn how to work in a lab, design experiments and use the knowledge I’ve gained in class to solve real-world problems.” (Read more about Victoria on page 14.)

With approximately half the research team composed of undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students, such student involvement is crucial to the project’s success.

“They’re part of the innovation process from the basic research to the design and execution of the experiments and field studies,” Christodoulatos says. Students also generate the majority of publications, he says, with over 25 journal articles produced from the project thus far.

## A GREEN FUTURE

The research team has analyzed the six months of data gathered from last year’s field study to further refine their approach and processes. As of this writing, Christodoulatos plans to conduct a two-month follow-up optimization study, based on these updated parameters, in summer 2020.

Christodoulatos expects they’ll be ready to scale up to 1-acre raceway reactor experiments by then and estimates final recommendations for full-scale implementation of their biomass energy technologies will be available in another year or two.

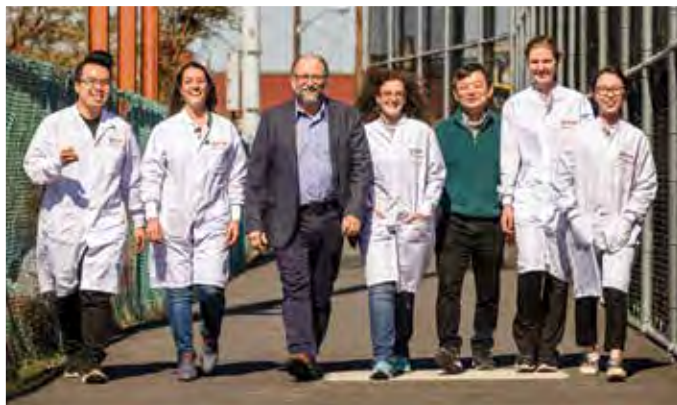
Through its expansive size and scope, the project, Christodoulatos believes, has contributed significantly to the Stevens community’s approach to sustainability, fitting it squarely within the university’s foundational pillar of resilience and sustainability.

“I definitely believe we motivate people to think more sustainably and apply these concepts on campus,” he says.

The project has also influenced Christodoulatos’ own sensitivity to the environment — a far cry from when he started 30 years ago.

“The whole project is a tremendous learning experience for me,” he says. “It also changed me because now I do think more sustainably than I used to, which is something I also integrate into the courses I teach. So I’m rewarded as a researcher but also as a teacher working on this project.” ❖

— Kellie M. Walsh



▶ Professor Christos Christodoulatos Ph.D. '91, third from left, is leading the multidisciplinary sustainability initiative.



# BUILDING A MORE SUSTAINABLE STEVENS

As technologies advance, so does the potential for our university — and institutions around the world — to operate in more efficient and environmentally-friendly ways. Stevens is making steady progress in the utilization of clean energy sources, creating green infrastructure on campus, rethinking transportation for our community and planning sustainable new construction projects. These initiatives have been put in place over the course of several years with input from energy and sustainability consulting experts as well as faculty and student groups. While green efforts will always be a work in progress, the hope is that sustainability will become more than a goal — it will be woven into the fabric of everyday life at Stevens.



## GREEN CERTIFICATIONS

- In 2020, Stevens received a STARS (Sustainability Tracking and Rating System) Gold ranking from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), a nearly 1,000-member group of universities striving for environmentally friendly campus facilities, social responsibility, and equitable work policies and work environments.
- All new construction on campus will target LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification — a globally-recognized standard for high-performance green buildings developed by The U.S. Green Building Council. The Gateway Academic Center is targeting LEED® Gold and the Student Housing and University Center project is targeting LEED® Silver.



## ENERGY

- Nine buildings on campus have been constructed or retrofitted with LED lighting and occupancy sensors. The new fixtures reduce energy consumption and have a longer lifespan than incandescent lights, leading to less waste.
- Several of Stevens' largest campus facilities employ cogeneration units — devices that can generate electricity and simultaneously recover and repurpose waste heat.
- Solar panel arrays have been mounted in the Eighth Street parking lot and on top of Davidson Lab, The Samuel C. Williams Library, Schaefer Athletic Center and Jonas Hall. These panels generated enough electricity to power the equivalent of 25 homes in fiscal year 2019.
- Stevens is supplementing its campus efforts with the purchase of Green-e Certified Renewable Energy Certificates (Green-e RECs) which support the production of renewable energy in our region. By funding projects like these, Stevens is offsetting its emissions until it is feasible to bring larger scale alternative energy technologies to campus. Green-e RECs have allowed Stevens to achieve 100% renewable, zero emissions for reported electricity usage in fiscal year 2019 for the entirety of its Hoboken campus operations.



## TRANSPORTATION

- The “Going Green Commuter Program” was put in place to encourage faculty and staff members to forgo their cars and use public transportation to get to work. Members are offered free JerseyBike, Citi Bike and Zipcar memberships as well as annual cash incentives. The university is also exploring how the program can be expanded to benefit students in the future.
- The Babbio Garage is home to five well-used electric vehicle charging stations. Two additional stations will be added to campus as part of the Student Housing and University Center project.
- Campus police patrol cars and Stevens campus maintenance vehicles are being replaced by or converted to hybrid or electric power.



## RECYCLING

- Each spring, Stevens participates in RecycleMania, an eight-week competition and benchmarking tool promoting waste reduction at colleges and universities across the country. Stevens had an impressive showing in 2019, ranking 16<sup>th</sup> out of more than 200 participating schools in the “diversion” category which measures how much trash, recyclables and food waste is diverted from landfills.
- Water bottle refilling stations can be found in many buildings across campus, encouraging the use of reusable water bottles by the Stevens community. These stations have diverted more than 250,000 bottles from landfills since their installation.



## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- Inspired in part by student research, Stevens has constructed several rain gardens on campus. These green infrastructure projects are designed to collect storm water runoff and prevent flooding, allowing the water to be naturally filtered by vegetation and gradually absorbed into the earth.

❖ — Erin Lewis



It is amazing to think how all the science behind electricity fits into batteries that are portable, efficient and inexpensive. Thanks to Stevens research, backed by a powerful partnership, those batteries might get even better.

A team of Stevens professors — Stephanie Lee, Dilhan Kalyon, Jae Chul Kim, Matt Libera and Nick Parziale — is making scientific discoveries in the realms of energy harvesting, conversion and storage, including the design of lighter, safer and more potent batteries. The team has received pivotal philanthropic support from PSEG (Public Service Enterprise Group), the energy provider to millions throughout the Northeast.

The team's research into batteries involves engineering the atomic arrangement and chemistry of various materials, as well as the surface properties of their particles, to store more energy more stably. The result could be smaller batteries that last longer — and ignite a revolution.

"These batteries will shift the paradigm of future living, enabling autonomous electric vehicles, long-range electric jets and a renewable microgrid," Kim said. "This will reduce carbon footprints and increase work efficiency, making society and the environment more productive and sustainable."

we can use these batteries to power devices," Lee said.

PSEG's support of sustainable energy research builds on a long, close and mutually beneficial partnership with Stevens that addresses the company's shared pursuit of energy innovation and public service.

"Our team is focused on designing materials and processes for sustainable energy applications in a way that is compatible with large-scale, low-cost manufacturing," Lee said. "Along with pro-

example of how industries and universities can work together to advance one another's missions," said Ralph Izzo, chairman, president and CEO of PSEG. "PSEG is proud to support the development and enhancement of educational programs that inspire students to pursue their interests in sustainability. Compa-



▶ PSEG Scholars who did green energy-related research on campus last summer included, front row from left, Nicholas Sparta, Abigail Circelli and Dongrun Ju. Back row, from left, Kayleigh Kubit, Kristin McAtee, Nicholas Lavigne and Michael DeVita.

# A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP

## STEVENS, PSEG JOIN FORCES TO FIND GREEN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Battery research in Kim's group complements Lee's cutting-edge work on solar energy, including the design of ultra-thin solar panels made of perovskites. "They could be used for electricity generation in remote locations, as wearable panels embedded in backpacks or clothing, or even as cell phones and screens," said Lee, who received the prestigious CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation in 2019. "Because they are so portable, lightweight solar panels will allow us to generate electricity anytime there is sunlight."

Of course, the sun doesn't always shine, which is why battery research is so important. "When solar energy is not accessible,

providing crucial resources, the PSEG-Stevens partnership has helped reframe our research ambitions and goals by providing a platform to share ideas with industry leaders."

In addition to supporting Stevens research into energy conversion and storage, PSEG has funded scholarships for both undergraduate and pre-college students, introductory science and engineering day camps for middle-school children through the Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education, and the OnStage at Stevens performing arts series. In turn, Stevens has prepared generations of students with refined technical skills to work at PSEG.

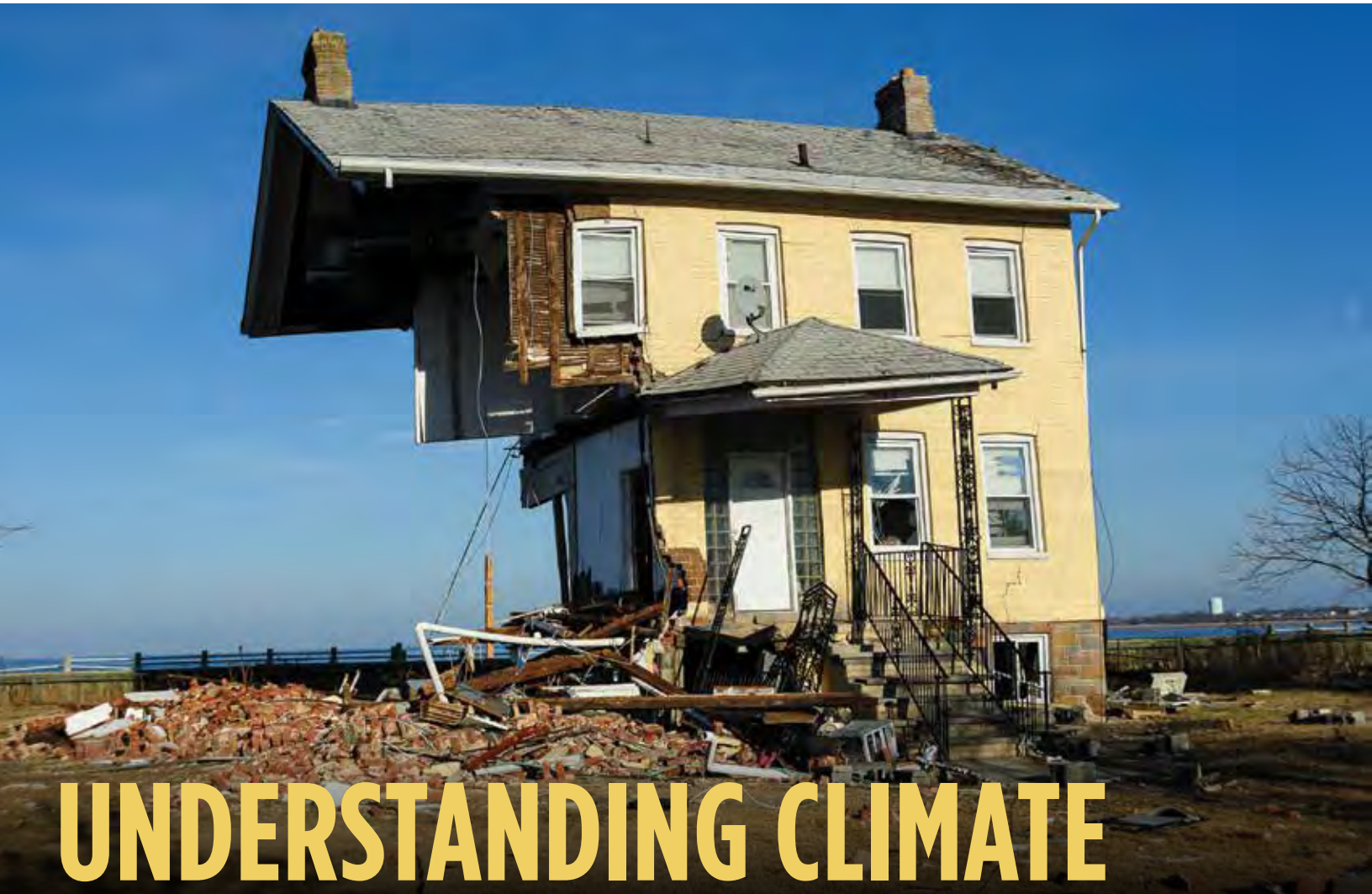
"Our partnership with Stevens is an

example of how industries and universities can work together to advance one another's missions," said Ralph Izzo, chairman, president and CEO of PSEG. "PSEG is proud to support the development and enhancement of educational programs that inspire students to pursue their interests in sustainability. Compa-

panies like ours will look to the next generation of innovators to help with issues such as climate change and energy independence. That requires people with the knowledge, curiosity and creativity."

"We're proud to support the advanced research taking place at Stevens," said Ralph LaRossa '90, PSEG's chief operating officer. "Stevens is working to solve our most critical energy needs. The world will require more and more renewable energy resources as we move closer to our carbon-constrained future. And battery storage technology will be essential to ensuring that renewables, such as solar and wind, can provide homes and businesses with around-the-clock power, no matter the time of day or the weather conditions." ❖

—Alan Skontra



# UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE, EXTREME WEATHER AND SEA LEVEL RISE

STEVENS RESEARCHERS PHILIP ORTON AND REZA MARSOOLI ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS

**Q: Is weather becoming more extreme?**

**A:** Climate change and extreme weather are in the news almost daily — and it turns out they have a close relationship with one another.

A host of recent studies worldwide have confirmed that, indeed, summers are becoming hotter and rainier; storms are becoming stronger; and floods are becoming more frequent and stronger.

**Q: Why is this happening?**

**A:** The Earth's base temperature has warmed by almost two degrees Fahrenheit during the past century alone. That doesn't sound like much, but it has already been enough to melt and unlock huge quantities of glacial ice at Greenland, Antarctica and other locations. All this extra meltwater empties directly into the world's oceans,

### ◀ **The iconic half house of Union Beach, New Jersey, is seen after Hurricane Sandy.**

where it slowly rises against continents and islands. Sea level rise is one of the primary challenges created by global warming.

The warming atmosphere also warms the ocean, providing increased tropical heat and humidity that help birth and strengthen destructive storm systems known as hurricanes, typhoons or cyclones.

#### **Q: How does this affect people living near coastlines?**

**A:** If you live in a low-lying coastal area that occasionally flooded during storms in the past, you need to prepare for a vastly different future.

Recent Stevens research in support of the New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC) has concluded that several low-lying areas of Queens and Brooklyn, among other New York City boroughs, may begin flooding on a monthly basis within the next 30 years.

Coastal areas along the entire Eastern Seaboard, from Florida to New England, would experience higher coastal flooding during storms. In 2019, Stevens published research in *Nature Communications* confirming that hurricane-induced flooding would become more severe along both the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf coasts due to the effects of climate change.

#### **Q: In 2012, Hurricane Sandy overwhelmed the metro New York City region and coastal New Jersey. How will Stevens help prepare for the next big storm or flood?**

**A:** Physical defenses and warning systems are regularly discussed, planned and tested locally, regionally and nationwide. Stevens' historic Davidson Laboratory has long been part of this process in the metropolitan New York region and along the Jersey Shore.

The Davidson Lab's experts have provided flood prediction, modeling and warning systems and services to agencies and clients including NJ Transit, the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey (*see*

*sidebar*) and New York City, for example, as well as to the federal government and the general public.

The Stevens Flood Advisory System (SFAS), a free real-time resource accessible to the public, produces flood forecasts for the New Jersey and Metro New York coastal region.

Not only does SFAS provide a central forecast, but it also shows the uncertainty in a given forecast, helping to convey the potential high-end (worst-case) consequences.

In addition, Stevens has operated the New Jersey Coastal Protection Technical Assistance Service since 1992 out of the Davidson Lab, supporting shore protection efforts with research related to innovative shore protection approaches and technologies such as living shorelines. The Lab assists in the creation of New Jersey's annual State of the Shore coastal assessment report.

#### **Q: What are students doing in these areas?**

**A:** Working with faculty, Stevens undergraduate and graduate students contribute to Stevens' storm-surge modeling and adaptation research; conduct field research on beach replenishment along the Jersey Shore during the summer; and engineer novel, more resilient types of architecture

capable of withstanding stronger storms such as the award-winning SU+RE House, which placed first in the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon in 2015.

#### **Q: Where can I learn more about these challenges and the ways in which Stevens contributes to solving them?**

**A:** You can find much more about Stevens' resilience and forecasting work on Davidson Laboratory's website, located at [stevens.edu/davidson](http://stevens.edu/davidson).

— *Compiled by Paul Karr*



*Philip Orton (top photo) is a leading expert on coastal flood risk and a member of the New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC), studies storm surges and applies computational models to study impacts of climate change. Reza Marsooli has developed a suite of flood models and studies impacts*

*of climate change on hurricane flood hazards along the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The two researchers are part of the team within Stevens' Davidson Laboratory, a nationally recognized research center with expertise in hydrodynamic modeling, storm surge forecasting and resiliency planning. ❖*

## **\$4.9M Award to Protect NYC Region from Floods**

**Stevens' Davidson Laboratory was awarded a \$4.9 million contract from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey over five years to continually produce four-day meteorological ensemble-based high-resolution storm surge forecasts for New York and New Jersey infrastructure sites. Lab director Muhammad Hajj, faculty researchers Raju Datla Ph.D. '97, Jon Miller '99, Philip Orton and Reza Marsooli and research engineer David Runnels will serve as primary investigators.**

**The project's scope includes performing all computations in the cloud, continuous updating of topographical changes, improved performance using machine learning, and installation and maintenance of observation stations and communication networks. ❖ — Paul Karr**



# Blowin' in the Wind

**ALLA WEINSTEIN '77 HELPS CONVERT WEATHER TO ENERGY**

“The class I liked least when I was at Stevens was energy conversion. I was like, ‘Ugh. I don’t want to do that.’ Guess what I do now?” asks Alla Weinstein ’77, founder and CEO of Trident Winds.

That class Weinstein felt so much disdain for so long ago focused on the conversion of solar power. Yet, ironically, she has been at the forefront of renewable energy, as a pioneer in marine renewables, ocean energy and offshore wind technologies, since 2000.

And nowadays, she is often mingling with powerbrokers — on the state, national

and international levels — to try to move the offshore wind energy agenda forward.

The longtime Seattle resident, who is married to Stevens alumnus Dennis Weinstein ’76, was appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to serve on the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council in 2014.

In addition, she has met business and

world leaders, as well as dignitaries like Caroline Kennedy, and participated in influential climate change events like the Global Climate Action Summit in 2018.

However unexpected, Weinstein’s long career speaks to a steely determination forged by a persistent ability to adapt to larger forces beyond her control.

Fear of change is simply not part of her makeup.

“Just the opposite. I thrive on it. I thrive on uncertainty.”



Alla Weinstein '77 enjoys a breezy Luther Burbank Park on Mercer Island, Washington, on March 4, 2020.

PHOTO: DANIEL BERMAN

## COMING IN FROM THE COLD, STEVENS GRAD IS HONEYWELL-BOUND

Weinstein's fearlessness and mental toughness helped carry her through a rigorous curriculum at Stevens — and the culture shock of life in America.

A Jewish émigré from the Soviet Union, Weinstein moved to the United States in 1974.

She came to Stevens with a great deal of university coursework she had completed in the Soviet Union. And while she received credit for hard sciences like physics and chemistry, she had to juggle freshman, sophomore, junior and senior courses at the same time to satisfy her major in electrical engineering.

On top of that immense course load, she was faced with the challenge of adjusting to a new language.

“In one of the tests, I had to ask the professor what the word ‘integer’ meant. Things like that, you remember.”

After graduation, Weinstein joined Honeywell as a test equipment engineer, even though she was qualified for much higher-level positions in high frequency processing.

“Those jobs required U.S. citizenship, which I did not have at the time,” she points out.

Still, that entry-level job at Honeywell served its purpose, catapulting Weinstein to positions at that company ranging from design engineering to program manager and international business development.

## A DESIRE TO ‘MAKE THINGS HAPPEN’ FORCES A CAREER LEAP

After two decades, and on the urging of her late brother, she left Honeywell and started her own engineering consulting business.

That phase of her life lasted only two years as she realized that her temperament and hands-on approach to problem solving were ill-suited for the inherent nature of consulting.

“I didn’t want to just give advice and go away. I wanted to make things happen. And in consulting you don’t have that opportunity.”

It was at this time that she was approached by a former client with a business proposition that would dramatically change the course of her career. It was to help turn a new technology — to convert ocean waves into electrical power — into a viable business.

“I said I knew nothing about wave energy, oceans and electrical power systems because my experience was in electronics not electrical power, which is a very different field.”

Despite the unknown and her lack of experience, Weinstein, with her characteristic gumption, agreed to lead the effort.

“I was thinking, hmm, it’s good for the world, it’s international, and it has never

been done before. I might as well do it. I have a master’s in international management. I needed a challenge and, of course, I can do this,” she recalled.

That spark set Weinstein on a 20-year mission to bring marine renewables — particularly wave energy and offshore wind — to commercial viability. Development had to be done in Europe, where the demand and financial support for such innovation was at the time.

In 2008, she cofounded a company, Principle Power Inc., located in California, to develop floating offshore wind technology to open deep water locations, previously unattainable. Principle Power installed its prototype in 2011. It was the first installation of the U.S. floating offshore wind technology that just happened to be located 3,000 miles offshore in the territorial waters of Portugal. That prototype served as proof of concept for five years in that location, until it was re-installed in the United Kingdom as part of a pre-commercial project.

Weinstein’s ambitions for floating offshore wind technology only grew from there.

After leaving Principle Power, and forming a new company, Trident Winds, in 2015, Weinstein took steps toward what may be her boldest project to date when the company submitted an unsolicited lease request to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), an agency under the Department of Interior, to build and install a 1,000 megawatt floating offshore wind farm off the central coast of California, near Morro Bay.

That project is currently in waiting for the lease auction that will be conducted by BOEM, once it receives clearance from the Department of Defense.

The expansion of floating offshore wind will continue to play a more vital role as the global demand for renewable energies grows, she says, “and floating offshore wind is the future of offshore wind.”

“When people say it’s more expensive, well not really. It was at the beginning — but not anymore,” says the woman who helped make that evolution possible. ❖

— Young Soo Yang

# Toward a Cleaner HUDSON RIVER

## CIVIL ENGINEER RYAN BERTANI '18 SEEKS GREEN SOLUTIONS

### HE HAS VISITED HIS FATHER'S HOME COUNTRY OF URUGUAY

since he was a young child and has noticed, at his favorite beach, ocean overtaking the sand more every season, a legacy of rising sea levels and erosion.

His mother composted before it was fashionable, and Ryan Bertani '18 has found himself doing those little things that he says can make a difference for the planet: avoiding plastic utensils and Styrofoam, shutting off lights, deciding that, living in Jersey City and working in Manhattan, he really doesn't need to own a car.

All of these moments inform his work today, as he tries to find new solutions to an old environmental problem. And he is doing this at one of the world's most prestigious engineering consulting firms, where he and his team are poised to make a big difference.

Bertani is a civil Engineer in Training (EIT) who works with green infrastructure and storm water management with HDR, in its Manhattan office. His specialty: rain gardens, permeable pavement structures and underground systems that combat water runoff and combined sewer overflow (CSO). CSO is an ongoing battle in cities like New York with older sewer systems in which storm water shares one main sewer pipe with raw sewage bound for treatment plants. During a heavy rain, this antiquated system can overflow, discharging polluted water into rivers and streams.

Helping to prevent CSO with green infrastructure means capturing rainwater before it even flows into a storm drain — which means less water flowing through city streets, picking up noxious chemicals and combining with untreated sewage that can pollute New

York's mighty bodies of water.

"The work we're doing now is going to lead to better water quality in our community, in the Hudson River, the East River and in Jamaica Bay," Bertani says.

About 200 people work inside HDR's Manhattan office — a sleek, open floor plan with large windows overlooking Seventh Avenue, just a few blocks from Times Square. The firm has offices around the world and its project portfolio is vast, from a state-of-the-art medical center in China to sustainable housing in Vancouver, a new university science center in Berlin to a bridge-widening project in St. Louis and dam safety initiatives in Seattle.

Bertani's work centers on the city's beloved green spaces — its parks and recreational areas. The project's territory: Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx.

Designing blueprints for new green structures, his work also involves site visits and investigations with his team, and later collaboration with construction crews.

When it comes to green infrastructure, "rain gardens are the ones that everyone

loves," he says. "They reduce runoff and improve the site aesthetically." The gardens are actually complex systems with engineered media, such as sand, compost and gravel, that work below the ground to absorb water, filter out pollutants and control runoff.

Bertani also works with permeable asphalt and concrete that is installed strategically throughout the parks, designed to allow water to flow through the surface, similar to grass. Another green structure: detention storage chambers that are installed below the ground to store and delay water runoff.

"What's a small area of permeable pavement going to do?" Bertani asks. "But if you do it over multiple parks over a decade, you're going to make an impact."

His work is part of a larger effort by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to reduce CSO into New York Harbor in a cost-effective way. But these projects also deliver many community and environmental benefits, including increased urban greening, urban heat island reduction and more habitats for birds and pollinators across the city.

The Linden, New Jersey, native had long been an aspiring engineer but discovered his love of green infrastructure when he landed a co-op job with HDR while at Stevens.

"It didn't feel like work, it really felt like I was doing something I wanted to do," he recalls. "And it was something where I could see my impact."

He enjoyed the freedom and responsibility that HDR gave him, assigning him projects like any full-time employee. The company was so impressed that he was later hired again for an internship and then brought on fulltime, right after graduation.

Bertani praised his experience at Stevens, from the co-op program that exposed him to several real-life engineering experiences, helping him discover work he really loves, to the curriculum that encouraged the critical thinking that he brings to his job today.

But Bertani's path to Stevens was far from certain. He is the son of immigrants; his mother is from Argentina and his father arrived from Uruguay in the U.S. with just \$200

in his pocket. Bertani won a Stevens scholarship and says that he never could have attended the university without it.

Scholarship money meant he could cover meals for two months at school, he said, make some needed trips home — and also keep his focus on completing his degree.

So today, he wants to give back. As a Stevens Technical Enrichment Program (STEP) and Lambda Upsilon Lambda fraternity alumnus, he is committed to advancing diversity in STEM, devoting his time and making donations to these groups.

This drive to give back — and to improve his community — runs deep. Bertani sees himself doing this now and in the future

“The work we’re doing now is going to lead to better water quality in our community, in the Hudson River, the East River and in Jamaica Bay.”

— *Ryan Bertani '18*

through civil engineering.

“When I get older, I can tell the younger generation: ‘I worked on these projects. I improved the Hudson River so you can swim in it now.’” ❖ — *Beth Kissinger*



Ryan Bertani '18, a few blocks from his office in Times Square, New York City, on March 6, 2020

PHOTO: M. COOPER



# ALPHA HAS ARRIVED

— Stevens' first black fraternity is opening doors — and important dialogues on representation —

**AS** a freshman, Grant Fowler '21 noticed something was missing from Stevens' extracurricular landscape. Despite an extensive list of clubs promoting a litany of interests and activities, organizations devoted to advocacy, representation and social opportunities for African American students were limited. Conversations with his peers confirmed that he was not the only one who saw a gap.

In response to this collective feeling, Fowler took action along with Jerome Massicot '21 to establish a social group, organizing opportunities for black students to come together beyond the professional and academic pursuits of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) or Black Student Union (BSU). Interest in the group grew, and soon, E'Nigel Ansah '21, Antony Cruz '21, Kobe Dawes '21 and Joshua Hector '22 joined the roster.

Having built a strong foundation, Fowler proposed an ambitious next step. "I came upon the idea of a fraternity because Greek life here at Stevens is everything," he explains. "Greeks are involved all over campus. I wanted to create a more inclusive home for people who look like me."

## Finding Inspiration

One of the first decisions the group had to make was which of the five national black fraternities they wanted to become affiliated with. Alpha Phi Alpha (also known simply as "Alpha") was an easy choice. "It was Alpha or nothing," remembers Dawes. "The sense of brotherhood, work ethic and the influential people that stem from this great organization, I couldn't see myself being a part of anything else."

Established in 1906 at Cornell University as the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African American men, Alpha Phi Alpha boasts an incredible list of high-profile alumni — civil rights leaders, prominent legal and political figures, scientists, writers, entertainers, athletes and more. Members of the national brotherhood have had an impact on just about every facet of society.

Of particular inspiration to Dawes is Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "I grew up reciting his speeches," he says. Cruz cites brother Jesse Owens' heroic track and field performance at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, during which Owens won four gold medals and crushed Hitler's





ILLUSTRATION: OLIVIA WISE

▲ Members of Alpha Phi Alpha proudly display the fraternity's hand sign. Clockwise from left: Grant Fowler '21, E'Nigel Ansah '21, Kobe Dawes '21, Antony Cruz '21, Jerome Massicot '21, Jacques Clovis '21 and Joshua Hector '22.

Aryan supremacy propaganda. Fowler remembers watching Stuart Scott on ESPN every day before school as a kid, marveling at his unapologetic individuality.

## Putting in the Work

With the example of their heroes in mind, the group embarked on a two-year journey to establish Alpha at Stevens. Countless meetings, piles of paperwork and months of campus campaigning earned them their charter in spring 2019.

As newly minted founders, the group remembers complex emotions. "It was definitely big for me, I cried that day," admits Ansah. "It was a hard process — two years invested in college — that's half the time you're here ... so to see it come to fruition, it's special to you."

But completion of the charter process also meant the start of a new one — following through on the promise of building a brotherhood at Stevens. "The work afterward,

that overwhelmed me, because we had to make sure this charter wasn't for nothing," remembers Hector. "We have to bring people in with the same ideas, and they need to keep this chapter sustainable."

The pressure goes even deeper than merely keeping the fraternity active. "As an underrepresented community in STEM, we've always felt pressure to represent our people, and if we feel like we mess up, we're letting our entire people down," explains Cruz.

Though the expectations placed on them have been immense, Alpha is growing. The five founding members — Ansah, Cruz, Dawes, Fowler and Hector — welcomed Massicot and Jacques Clovis '21 to the brotherhood as part of their first new line, or class, in fall 2019.

**"It was Alpha or nothing. The sense of brotherhood, work ethic and the influential people that stem from this great organization, I couldn't see myself being a part of anything else."**

**— Kobe Dawes '21**

## Service on Castle Point and in Local Communities

These seven brothers are involved in a seemingly endless slate of good works on campus and are working to extend their commitment to community service through Alpha Phi Alpha's four national philanthropic causes.

"A Voteless People Is a Hopeless People" is an initiative centered around voter registration and education. With the 2020 presidential election approaching, Alpha is planning to help set up voter registration on campus with the goal of ensuring their fellow classmates have their voices heard.

The "Go-to-High-School, Go-to-College" program is a partnership with area public schools in which the brothers provide mentorship and support, emphasizing the importance of education for future success. "Project Alpha" is another outreach program in schools designed to facilitate discussions on responsibility, relationships, teen pregnancy prevention and safe sex.

**"There has really been a paradigm shift in culture on campus. A lot of voices that were not heard are starting to be heard, and we are a part of that." — Joshua Hector '22**

For several of the Alphas who grew up in the Hudson County, New Jersey, area, the opportunity to be a positive role model in their hometowns is particularly meaningful. "In my schools, I didn't really see any Alphas," recalls Dawes, a Jersey City native. "Whether it's boosting [student] confidence or teaching about mental health... I want to go back to the places we come from and build them up."

The fourth initiative, "Brother's Keeper," encourages members to visit and help fraternity brothers who are elderly, disabled, ailing or vulnerable. Care and advocacy are also extended to the member's family when needed. "Brother's Keeper" exemplifies one of the most important tenets of Alpha membership: Brotherhood is for life.

## A Proud Alumni Connection

While Ansah, Cruz, Dawes, Fowler, Hector, Massicot and Clovis are the first members of the Stevens chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, they are not the first members of Alpha Phi Alpha to attend Stevens. In years past, a few alumni, including James "Jay" Lewis '93, joined the fraternity's Iota Rho metro chapter. Headquartered at NJIT, the chapter accepted members from colleges and universities in the surrounding area who did not have an Alpha



Phi Alpha chapter at their home institution.

As a student, Lewis briefly considered the idea of forming a Stevens chapter, but decided not to pursue the chartering process due to a heavy academic course load and doubts about the chapter's longevity without a larger core group of members at the time. But

almost 30 years later, he is excited to see the rise of a new generation of Alphas at his alma mater. "It's the start of something great," he said. "The Greek system of support in fraternities and sororities can play a big part in the development of young men and women on campus." Lewis believes that by diversifying options for affiliation, students have more of a choice when it comes to finding an organization that aligns with their interests and values.

The chartering of Alpha Phi Alpha at Stevens will have a positive effect not only on Greek life, but also on the university community as a whole, he says. "I think that [the addition of the fraternity at Stevens] helps expose students to different cultural identities, which is important, especially if we want to be more inclusive of different viewpoints," noted Lewis.

## Building Their Legacy

As the Alphas look forward, they hope to increase membership to ensure the survival of the chapter — but they don't see recruitment as the most important part of building a legacy. Instead, they are focused on founding and partnering with other new student groups focused on advocacy and celebration of black culture, including the Cultural Greek Council, Black Affairs Council, African Student Association and a new step squad.

Malcolm McDaniel, who serves as campus advisor to Alpha as well as Stevens' assistant director of fraternity and sorority life, has observed that increased interest from the Greek community in Alpha Phi Alpha has led to further inquiry about other cultural Greek letter organizations and historically black fraternities and sororities.

Nathalie Waite Brown, Alpha's staff advisor and Stevens' director of Graduate Student Affairs, commends the fraternity for how quickly and intentionally they have integrated their organization into the university community. "I'm excited to see how they will support and influence our narrative here at Stevens," she says.

Though they are proud of their chapter's successes so far, Alpha Phi Alpha finds the greatest fulfillment in service to others. "There has really been a paradigm shift in culture on campus," says Hector. "A lot of voices that were not heard are actually starting to be heard, and we are a part of that." ❖ — Erin Lewis

Richard Reeves '60  
in *The New York Times*  
newsroom in the  
early 1970s

LARRY HAUCK/THE NEW YORK  
TIMES

# Witness to History

Author, Commentator Richard Reeves (1936-2020)

**D**istinguished Stevens alumnus Richard Reeves '60 Hon. D.Eng. '87, the author and political commentator who frequently chronicled history in the making, passed away at the age of 83 in March. Reeves' wife, Catherine O'Neill, died in 2012. He is survived by his son Jeffrey Reeves, his daughters Cynthia Fyfe and Fiona Reeves and his stepsons Conor and Colin O'Neill.

Though he studied electrical engineering at Stevens — writing humorous pieces for the student newspaper *The Stute* on the side — and began his career as an engineer, journalism would become Reeves' chosen profession soon enough. A chance meeting on a New Jersey street corner launched a career that would eventually take him to *The New York Times* and beyond, documenting and commenting upon some of the most important world events in modern history over a remarkable career.

Reeves would go on to author a prolific 20 books, including authoritative volumes about U.S. presidents John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford, among other projects.

## FROM STEVENS TO SOUTH ASIA TO HOLLYWOOD

After graduating Stevens and taking a new position at Ingersoll Rand in Phillipsburg, New Jersey, Reeves found journalism almost by accident at the age of 23 during a chat with a local businessman just then establishing a new local paper for the town, the *Phillipsburg Free Press*. Reeves soon left his engineering job to edit the paper for a time, then moved on to the *Newark Evening News*, *New York Herald Tribune* and eventually *The Times*, where he became that newspaper of record's chief political correspondent.

Reeves' newspaper columns were syndicated nationwide, and he also authored books on

**Reeves authored 20 books, including authoritative volumes on Presidents Kennedy, Nixon, Ford and Reagan.**

subjects beyond politics as varied as the pathbreaking nuclear physicist Ernest Rutherford; the famed Berlin airlift of 1948-1949; and the internment of more than 100,000 Japanese-American U.S. citizens at the height of World War II. Later he moved into broadcast journalism, reporting and narrating *Lights, Camera... Politics!*, a 1980 documentary about the impact of television on national politics, and contributing to *Red Star Over Khyber*, a 1984 documentary about Afghan Muslim resistance to Afghanistan's then Soviet-backed government that contributed to a George Foster Peabody Award conferred upon PBS that year.

Reeves wrote and edited for *Esquire*, *New York* magazine and *Travel & Leisure* while lecturing and teaching at Columbia University, UCLA and, most recently, the University of Southern California, where he became a fixture for more than 20 years in the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. Reeves even made cameos in two successful Hollywood films: as himself in the political comedy *Dave* in 1993 and as a radio reporter in the horse racing drama *Seabiscuit* in 2003.

Though he lived in California much of his life, Reeves, who grew up in Jersey City, New Jersey, made time for his alma mater. His voice can be heard narrating "Stevens and Sons: America's First Family of Engineers," an official history of the university's founding family. In recognition of his long and distinguished career, Stevens awarded him both an honorary doctorate and the Distinguished Alumni Award for Arts & Humanities.

"Rigorous is an understatement," he told the audience about his Stevens coursework as he accepted the alumni award from university President Nariman Farvardin at the Stevens Awards Gala in New York City in 2015. "I had to work harder. I learned to think."

Today, generations of readers, viewers and former students are richer for it. ❖ — Paul Karr





# *Introducing* **The Castle Point Club**

**A NEW CLUB RECOGNIZES FACULTY AND STAFF WHO SUPPORT STEVENS**

**A**ll alumni have memories of Stevens from their student years even long after they graduated, and however far they ventured from Hoboken. But some alumni refresh their memories every day, by working on campus as professors, researchers or administrators. In addition to dedicating their time and expertise, many of these alumni employees are also giving back to their alma mater as members of The Castle Point Club.

## **Campus Connection**

The Castle Point Club is a new recognition group for faculty and staff (including retirees) who make annual gifts to Stevens. Around 30% of the roughly 80 current members are undergraduate or graduate alumni.

Employees automatically become club members by making a gift of any amount during a given fiscal year, which starts on July 1 and ends on June 30. They can renew their membership with a new gift each fiscal year.

“Many faculty and staff have a special connection to Stevens,” said Dawn da Silva, Stevens’ associate vice president for Development (and a Castle Point Club member). “They feel personally invested in our students and the research we do here, so many also want to contribute resources for Stevens to continue on a rising trajectory.”

Professor Kevin Ryan Ph.D. ’96 is one Castle Point Club member who reflects often on his connection. “I am very grateful to the people of Stevens and to the university for the way they have changed my life and the life of my family,” said Ryan, who teaches in the School of Business. “I continue to see the positive impact the university is having on our students. It is a blessing to be a part of the Stevens community.”

## **Powerful Purposes**

Faculty and staff can join the Castle Point Club through a one-time gift, though many already give through a recurring payroll deduction. Members support numerous programs and projects, including scholarships, academics, student life, athletics, performing arts and more.

“I support active learning in all its forms, whether in the classroom, on the job, on stage or on the volleyball court,” said Catherine Rooney M.S. ’91, a specialist for graduate student development in the Stevens Career Center. “If everyone in the Stevens community contributes to one activity outside their domain, whether that is theater, sports or career services, it would mean so much to the students and their future.”

“I donate to help our women’s athletics teams grow,” said Meredith Spencer-Blaetz, head coach of the women’s field hockey team. “I know that every little bit counts and having a competitive side certainly doesn’t hurt during our fundraising drives.”

Anthony Barrese ’70 M.Eng. ’71 Ph.D. ’78, who is a systems engineering faculty member and the dean for undergraduate education, supports the Class of 1970 Scholarship and a School of Systems and Enterprises scholarship.

“Without a scholarship, I would not have been able to attend Stevens,” said Barrese, who has also worked for Teradata, NCR, Bell Laboratories and AT&T. “My relationship to the university has a strong emotional element to it. I tie what success I have had to my Stevens experience. Now, I see giving for scholarships as part of paying back. Giving in general is good for the soul, and when you have received assistance, it is even more so an imperative to give.”

## Club on Campaign

Castle Point Club members can gain concurrent membership in the Edwin A. Stevens Society, the society for leadership-level giving. In addition to knowing that their support has an impact on the university's strategic priorities, members of the Edwin A. Stevens Society receive special publications and invitations to exclusive events. Faculty and staff who are alumni are also eligible to gain membership in the Gear Society, which recognizes all annual alumni donors.

"I am a proud member of the Gear Society," said Nicole Malantchouk '12 M.S. '18, the assistant director of outreach and professional advancement in the Stevens School of Business. "As an alumna, and now an employee of Stevens, I know our contributions have a direct impact on creating a more meaningful student experience."

All faculty and staff donors are counted among supporters of *The Power of Stevens* campaign, which is an effort of the broader Stevens community that also includes alumni, individual friends, corporate and foundation partners, students and parents.

"I'm pleased to be able to contribute to Stevens, which has been my professional home for the past ten years," said Kathy Schulz, the university's general counsel. "I have watched Stevens develop and grow over these years and feel extremely proud of all that we have accomplished. Given many current issues, our STEM and other technology-oriented graduates are needed more than ever. The dedication, hard work and spirit of the Stevens community never ceases to impress me!" ❖ — *Alan Skontra*

*For questions about The Castle Point Club or Edwin A. Stevens Society, contact Suela Thomas, director of leadership annual giving, at [sthoma10@stevens.edu](mailto:sthoma10@stevens.edu) or 201.216.8294.*



### Castle Point Club members include

❶ Men's Volleyball Coach Patrick Dory walski, second from right, and Career Center specialist Catherine Rooney, far right (with donors Karen and John Zaccaria '76) and ❷ Kathy Schulz, Stevens' general counsel. ❸ Meredith Spencer-Blaetz, right, women's field hockey head coach and Castle Point Club member, with Kevin Stockel, assistant men's lacrosse coach, and Megan Haughey, head women's basketball coach and senior women's administrator, Stevens Athletics



❹ Stevens School of Business professor and Castle Point Club member Kevin Ryan Ph.D. '96 ❺ Gear Society members Roman '10 M.Eng. '11 and Nicole Malantchouk '12 M.S. '18, assistant director of outreach and professional advancement, Stevens School of Business ❻ Stevens dean and professor and scholarship donor Anthony Barrese '70 M.Eng. '71 Ph.D. '78



# STEVENS' SOLDIER-ATHLETE

**TOP-RANKED WRESTLER FOUND STRENGTH WHILE BALANCING THREE MAJOR COMMITMENTS**

"I am not the wrestler I am without ROTC, and I am not the cadet I am in ROTC without wrestling. I wouldn't be the student [I am] without both of those."

— Dylan Van Sickell '20



**D**ylan Van Sickell '20 comes across like so many other 22-year-olds — independent and ready for the challenges of post-graduation adulthood.

Unlike most of his peers, however, Van Sickell has spent his college career not only taking on rigorous academics, but also competing as a nationally ranked wrestler and preparing to serve his country in the United States Army.

Hailing from Little Silver, New Jersey, Van Sickell had an impressive career on the mats in high school and sought an opportunity to continue wrestling at the collegiate level. Stevens was the right fit. In order to help fund his education, he applied to the Army ROTC National Merit Scholarship. He was awarded a three-year merit scholarship which supplemented the support offered to him by Stevens.

Though he hadn't considered military service before, Van Sickell saw the parallels between the training and mental toughness he developed throughout his life as a wrestler and the discipline needed to become a soldier. After careful thought and consideration, he accepted the scholarship and the serious commitment that came with it.

"It was a scary thing to decide [I wanted] to pursue the military at a young age, but people have made greater sacrifices and you have to keep that in perspective," Van Sickell says. "Courageous people are courageous because they do things when they are afraid."

When he arrived on campus as a freshman, Van Sickell had to find balance as a student-athlete while commuting back and forth to Seton Hall University in South Orange for cadet training. (Stevens has a joint agreement with Seton Hall to train its Army ROTC students.)

During that first year, Van Sickell felt pulled between his wrestling teammates and his fellow ROTC cadets, while recognizing the need to perform academically. Physical and mental exhaustion challenged his time management skills.



Van Sickell preparing for an airborne insertion training exercise

PHOTO COURTESY OF DYLAN VAN SICKELL

"I told myself, 'I'll quit tomorrow,'" Van Sickell joked. "If you end up saying that every single day, you'll never quite quit."

Despite his grueling schedule, Van Sickell posted an impressive 38 victories in his first season as a Duck. Throughout his college career, he would go on to amass 126 victories against just 44 losses during his four seasons, capturing three conference championships and earning three trips to the NCAA Tournament. He concluded his career ranked ninth at 157 pounds by the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA).

Van Sickell's academic record stayed just as strong throughout his four years at Stevens — he maintained a GPA that earned him three NWCA Scholar All-America honors.

Unfortunately, Van Sickell's senior year and final wrestling season didn't play out as planned. The 2020 Division III National Wrestling Championships — where he was to be among seven wrestlers representing Stevens — was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the unprecedented circumstances, the NWCA decided to announce its All-American honors based on performance through regional tournaments and up to the national championships. Van Sickell was named a Second Team All-American and is one of only 14 All-Americans in the history of Stevens' wrestling program.

Another small bright spot was acknowledgment on ESPN's *SportsCenter*, during which anchor Scott Van Pelt included Van Sickell and fellow wrestlers Troy Stanich '20 and Thomas Poklikuha '20 as part of a #SeniorNight segment, recognizing senior student-athletes who had their seasons cut short this year.

Though his time at Stevens has come to an end, Van Sickell looks forward to a new beginning. With aspirations of becoming an Army Ranger, he will commission as a second lieutenant this summer. As an infantry officer, he will attend Infantry BOLC (Basic Officer Leadership Course), along with ranger school. ❖

— Charles O'Brien

 Read the full story at [stevens.edu/soldierathlete](https://stevens.edu/soldierathlete)

# alumni **news**



**FROM 1930 THROUGH 1955**, rising sophomores attended the Stevens Civil Engineering Camp — a mandatory summer experience where students learned to survey, work with level circuits and transits and read topographic maps. The rural northwestern New Jersey camp known colloquially as “Johnsonburg” (named after a tiny nearby town) is also remembered fondly by alumni for athletic contests, lake swims and poison ivy that created bonds among classmates.

PHOTO: ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, SAMUEL C. WILLIAMS LIBRARY, STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

# SAA President's Letter

## Alumni Making the World a Greener Place

Dear fellow alumni,

Gathering at the Founder's Day Soiree on Feb. 21, with hundreds of alumni, staff and faculty to celebrate our storied past and embrace our bright future as we commemorated the start of Stevens' 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we could not have imagined how our lives would be changed in a matter of weeks.

As we are all too aware, these are difficult times. COVID-19 has transformed every aspect of our lives. As Stevens, Hoboken and the entire country address health and safety concerns, major campus events that gather the Stevens community, including the Stevens Awards Gala, Commencement and Alumni Weekend, have been impacted. In our email notification to all association members on March 26, we shared that the directors of the Stevens Alumni Association (SAA) unanimously resolved that all previously scheduled in-person association meetings, gatherings and activities through June 30 are postponed until further notice. The schedule for officer elections will be postponed until a date may be set for the annual meeting at Alumni Weekend. Where possible, work and planning by the SAA will continue virtually. The directors will reconvene to reassess the situation and provide an updated plan and timeline to the alumni community, in accordance with the Stevens calendar and available guidance, by June 30.

Though we face many challenges at this time, we must continue to celebrate the good happening in our community. In this "Green Issue," we are proud to showcase the work being done by our students, faculty and alumni in sustainable initiatives. I'm inspired by the environmentally focused projects taking place on campus and the partnerships we've formed with various members of the Stevens community interested in alternative energy research. Alumni are pioneering offshore wind power technology,



while student groups do their part to address climate issues. This work to find solutions for environmental issues and ways to combat climate change make me proud of my Stevens connections!

As we wrap up the second year under our new governance structure, I continue to be impressed by the alumni leaders of our association who volunteer their time and talents to continue to ensure that the SAA mission is lived out. This year, John McDonnell '72, chair of the SAA Engagement Committee, has guided members to find exciting ways to connect with alumni around the country, revitalize some of our former regional alumni clubs and support programming for our many active clubs. While we cannot plan in-person events at this time, we continue to work hard to deliver programming virtually to our 48,000 alumni worldwide. John and I would love to hear from you and how you would like to be involved in your area, no matter where you are located.

These are definitely challenging times for each of us. Let us make sure to reach out to one another — whether by phone, email, social media or video conference — to check in and offer support. We are a strong and resilient community, and we will get through this, together.

*Per aspera ad astra,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Velasco".

Victoria Velasco '04

President, Stevens Alumni Association  
SAAPresident@alumni.stevens.edu



**The Stevens Alumni Association Engagement Committee nurtures alumni involvement by cultivating activities, regional/affinity communities and initiatives that reward alumni by meeting their desire for social, learning, service and philanthropic fulfillment. — John McDonnell '72**





# Class Logs

*Editor's Note: This issue's class logs were written before the COVID-19 pandemic became widespread in the U.S.*

**'38** March 4, 2020 — *Editor's Note: Arthur Gertz, one of Stevens' oldest living alumni, a World War II veteran and a highly accomplished engineering manager, passed away on Nov. 23, 2019, at the age of 101. His children shared the following moving tribute to their father.*

Arthur Gertz, who passed away on Nov. 23, 2019 at his home in California, was one of the dwindling numbers of "The Greatest Generation." Born in 1918, a son of New Jersey and graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology, he would move through life building a successful, exemplary career and full family life.

Arthur grew up in Lakewood, New Jersey, as one of three children of mechanical engineer Jake Gertz, who would witness the tragedy of the explosion of the *Hindenburg* dirigible at Lakehurst Naval Air Station on May 6, 1937. At the time, Arthur was a junior at Stevens and went with classmates the next day to view the scene where 37 people died from the explosion of the airship.

Arthur was a high-intellect mechanical engineer, graduating sixth in his class from Stevens in 1938 and who, in part of his nearly 102-year life, served his country in World War II as a major in the Army Air Corps designing airplane cameras and mounts for high altitude bombing sorties in the European Theater operations. It was rumored that the camera project he was working on may have also been an element of the Manhattan Project, intended to photograph the dropping of the atomic bombs over Japan.

He spent a 40-year career with Sperry/Rand/Unisys as a head of Sperry System Management overseeing the navigation systems installed on the *Polaris* Missile submarines for the U.S. Navy. He later represented Sperry in Tokyo on the board of directors of their Japanese subsidiary.

Married in 1944, Arthur remained wed to his wife Ruth Davis Gertz for 74 years, losing her in 2018. Arthur is survived by his three children, Betsi (Sandra), Bill (Debra) and Steve (Lauren), who followed their father's path to success in



Arthur Gertz '38

life; four grandchildren, Stephanie, Ryan, Audrey and Aleks; and a great-granddaughter, Reese; as well as his brother Alan Gertz '46 (also a son of New Jersey, graduate of Stevens and another of the Greatest Generation) and numerous nieces, nephews and grand-nieces and nephews.

Arthur epitomized the characteristics of hard work, integrity, grace throughout life and understatement of achievement that are the hallmarks of his generation, and was proud to be a graduate of Stevens Tech. Because of the ethos of his "Greatest Generation" and Arthur's embracing his role in it, the world became a safer and better place. His legacy is a tangible testament of the potential within the Stevens Tech family of graduates.

**'46** February 17, 2020 — It's of more than passing interest to note that 1946 marked the year following the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stevens' founding and now the Stute is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Make you feel any older?

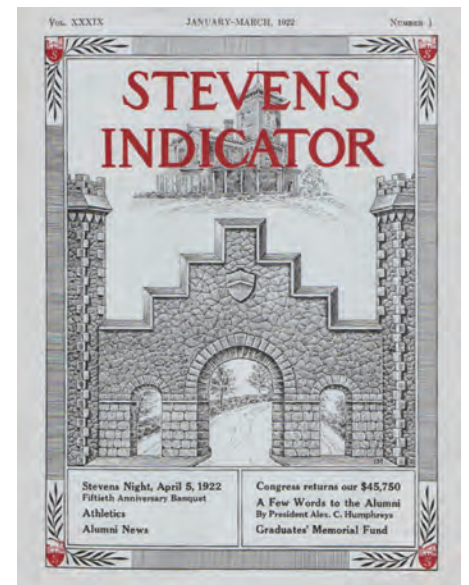
The receipt of each issue of *The Indicator* is accompanied by a message from our Alumni Office reminding us of the date that copy for the '46 class log's next issue is due. With the Winter 2020 issue's arrival a few days ago, that leaves me with just nine days to get the creative juices flowing or pray that my classmates will surprise me this week with update news, anecdotes and/or photos to fill that space reserved for us. With about 25 pages of class logs allotted to our latest exploits, awards, milestones and memorials, have you noted that '46 is now on page one of that block, deferring now only to '43? Scary, huh?

There being no surprises in my mailbox since the last issue, and after having read through many other class logs of our era for ideas or inspiration — unsuccessfully — I searched my file cabinet to see what might be found along the lines of matters historical...to use as a space filler. The first result might possibly be of interest to some; it caught my attention only because it first surfaced three years before my father was born. (My grandfather was born when Millard Fillmore was president; what a young country we are!) Volume I, Number 1, of *The Stevens Indicator* first arrived in the postal boxes of our earlier alumni (no alumnae just yet) in January 1884. Here 'tis, excerpted from a 1922 edition of the publication;

see a photo accompanying this log.

If you were able to read the contents that appeared on the 1884 cover, you would find these editorials/content on pages 1-5: The Stevens Indicator, Athletic Games, The Score with University of Michigan, Foot Ball (*sic*), College Cheer, and Editorial Sanctum. These were followed by content and stories such as: Verses – Skating with the Girls; Stevens' Foot Ball Record for 1883; University of Michigan vs. Stevens; University of Pennsylvania vs. Stevens; Verses - New and Old; Shall the Reputation of Stevens increase or decrease; Important Electrical Tests at the Institute; Indicator Cards; Personals (*on page 12*).

At the time, the page size was only 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 8 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches. It was not until 1922 that *The Indicator* became an alumni magazine; our own "Gussie"



▲ Dick Boera '46 submitted these photos of the Navy V-12 at Stevens and a front cover from the January-March 1922 issue of *The Stevens Indicator*.

**Freygang, Class of 1909** (whose courses I barely passed and never understood), was then the Alumni Association's secretary and editor; he enlarged the size.

What is an indicator and why was this magazine named after it? In the days when the steam engine was king — in the late 1800s — the indicator was, very simply, an instrument for showing what was taking place within the engine. It charted on a piece of ruled paper the efficiency of the engine; it was designed to get more work out of each pound of coal. It told what was happening on the inside — and this thought captured the imagination of **C.W. Whiting, Class of 1884**, *The Indicator's* first editor-in-chief. Years later, he wrote, that, "The name seemed appropriate for our publication because, as I thought, it was to be an instrument for showing what was taking place within the Institute." Over the years, it has become just what he envisioned, a publication that is still telling the story of the Institute, its students and its alumni/ae — what is happening on the inside of the red and gray machine, in Hoboken and elsewhere.

Incidentally, the administration building's original design looked like a rendering that appeared in an 1885 issue but the spires — one rising 50 feet above the tower — were never built...dispensed with "for economy's sake."

The sad news is saved for last, the distressing announcements that class secretaries would prefer not to learn about. Looking through the now-outdated '46 roster of survivors that the Alumni Office sent out some time ago, I checked through the list this week for obits online, discovering that the following '46 alums have been lost to us recently...in addition to **Ennio Rocchini** (memorialized in the Winter Vitals of the magazine, page 66): **George R. Lederer**, on 1/13/19, **Philip Savage**, on 2/9/20, and **Robert Styer**, on 10/9/19. (If you care to Google the name, followed by the word "obit," you will be able to learn more about the careers of these classmates since graduation. It happens that all four gents served in the Navy via V-12 training along with us fellow gobs at the Old Stone Mill.) — **A. Richard (and Julie) Boera, Allenwood, 90 Allen Road, Apt.16, South Burlington, Vermont 05403; (802) 495-5815; arbjlb@comcast.net**

**'48** February 2020 — Had a great telephone conversation with **Walt Graulich**. He has been fighting lung cancer for the past two years. He is

now completely clear of the cancer! Talking with Walt, he sounds like a 32-year-old. Walt claims his good life is due to his exercise and staying in shape. He taught ballroom dancing for 30 years, retiring just three years ago.

My phone call to **Miles Kuchar** (mkch3@msn.com) replied that his phone is disconnected. I have no way to reach Miles. He is age 98. I hope he is OK.

Had a good contact with **Jim Ware**. Jim's hearing has declined, so my conversation was with his daughter Jennifer (who happened to be visiting Jim). Jim and his wife are both doing well near Santa Clara, California. And Jim has never lost his skill with his feats of magic!

**Howard Heydon** (joyfulpoppa@comcast.net, 941-228-5020) brought me up to date. He spends winter in his home in Fort Myers, Florida. During the rest of the year, he tours about 10,000 miles in his motor home, visiting family and friends. He was originally from the Class of 1944 but wound up a radio operator doing 26 missions on a B-29 in the Pacific Theater. His career has been fantastic, with special operations worldwide.

I was not able to reach **Dan Haagens** (dan@haggans.com, 415-382-7760). Left him a message to email me.

Had a good conversation with **Curt Van Valkenburgh** (tcvan47@yahoo.com, 631-751-0575). Curt still lives in his home bought back in 1957. Curt spent his career in aviation with Grumman, retiring about 27 years ago. Like all of us, Curt has slowed down and devotes his time to special projects in his basement workshop.

Received a phone call from another member of our Class of 1948, **Peter Ash**, 561-496-5697.

Our Stevens Class of 1948 seems to be dwindling. We eight are the only ones of 1948 remaining of record, as of this writing of the class log. USE IT, or LOSE IT. Here is contact information for our classmates, and if you would like their home addresses, please contact the Alumni Office at 201-216-5163: **Peter Ash**, 561-496-5697; **Curt Van Valkenburgh**, tcvan47@yahoo.com, 631-751-0575; **Dan Haagens**, dan@haggans.com,

**Joe Schneider '46**, right, attends a Stevens event last year; with him is photographer **Jeff Vock**. ▼



415-382-7760; **Howard Heydon**, joyfulpoppa@comcast.net, 941-228-5020, 239-694-5403; **Jim Ware**, ellieandjim@cox.net, 714-832-0743; **Miles Kuchar**, mkch3@msn.com, 201-391-7014; **Walter Graulich**, thechadda@gmail.com, mgraham33@verizon.net, 516-486-1298 — **Louis L. Shook, 220 Bay Colony Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451; (919) 619-3955; 757-428-1952; loushook@cox.net**

## Alumni Weekend Reunion 2020

*Editor's Note: Due to COVID-19, Alumni Weekend 2020 has been postponed to a future date. Please stay tuned for more details.*

**'50** February 2020 — **Walt Carow** in Florida. Well, I gave it "The Old College Try" to contact members of the February and June 1950 classes. Did get some self-written notes and spoke to a number, but lots missing. Found ten had died. Made a bunch of calls per the Alumni Office phone list but, unfortunately, got a lot of "out of service" messages or no number. Listed them in the last issue asking for info, but no inputs.

Our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary is this summer. Asked for possible attendees, but no inputs. Got comments from **Chuck Macaluso** and **Joe Finnerty**. Asked Joe for some inputs, as follows.

"I am a Hoboken native who lived for years near the Stevens campus. It served as my grade school playground. I had failed to win one of three scholarships Stevens offered to Demarest grads annually. But that's where I wished to go. My brother marched me into the office of **Harold Fee**, the Alumni Association executive director, and showed him my transcript. He looked it over and said, "I'll offer him a partial scholarship." On or about July 1, I began my freshman Stute days, one of 90 civilians. From the beginning, I knew I didn't have the aptitude for engineering, but I simply yearned to attend Stevens. Quite by happenstance, I pledged Chi Phi fraternity. It fulfilled a boyhood dream. I had spent many summer hours playing in the yard and atop the trellis of the chapter house.

"The school operated on a tri-semester schedule. By June 1945, only ten of the original 90 civilians remained enrolled, all of whom managed to earn their degrees in the remarkably short time of two years, eight months' time. I dropped out of school after that third semester. I had flunked many subjects. My military induction

notice coincided with Japan's surrender. Upon my discharge, not knowing what else to do, I re-enrolled in June 1947. Funded by my GI Bill benefits package, I plodded and muddled my way through school over the next three years. I used to joke that my GPA left me atop the bottom third of my fellow classmates. The social life provided to me by Chi Phi kept me in school. I didn't want to give it up.

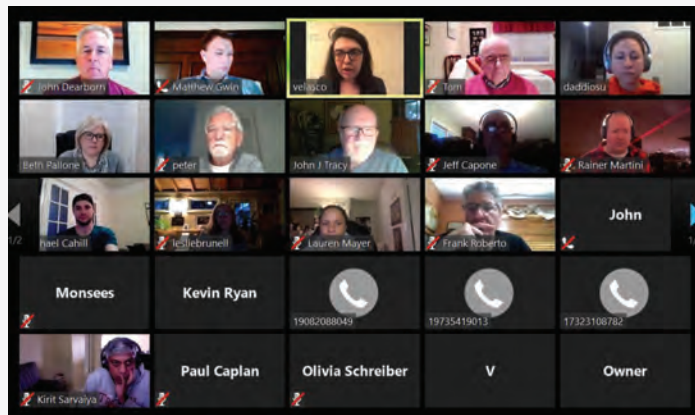
"After graduation, I worked for 39 years at five different companies, beginning in July 1950 with Fairbanks Morse as a diesel engine sales trainee in lower Manhattan. Nine months later, I joined Foster Wheeler Corporation's cooling tower department. In 1954, I accepted their offer to relocate to San Mateo, California. In 1955, I married Angelina Sammarco, a co-worker. We now have a family of six children, nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, almost all of whom live near us here in Scottsdale, Arizona. When FWC sold its cooling tower business to a competitor, I began working for De Laval Turbine's filtration division in Millbrae, California. It moved this operation back to Trenton, New Jersey. I quit and began working in downtown San Francisco for Rogers Engineering, a very small firm. I realized I needed more education. Over the span of the three years, I earned an MBA degree from Santa Clara University, attending a night program created to serve Silicon Valley engineers.

"In early 1967, the Arizona-based semi municipal entity known as the Salt River Project hired me as its purchasing agent. I moved to Scottsdale, and my wife and I remain here still. The company severed me in 1989 and I gleefully ran out the door. What happened next? Thirty years of retirement fun!

"I retired in 1989 at age 62. Yes, I had retired, but how would I pass my remaining days? I had made no plans of any specific nature. Happily, I found much to do. Here is a recap of my journey since then, to date. I began to write stories of my childhood while attending a class called reminiscence writing. It evolved over time into a blog containing over 150 vignettes outlining my entire life. I joined other writing groups and have composed numerous poems and short stories. A relative suggested I pursue genealogy. My four-family tree computer program now contains hundreds of entries, all descendants of maternal/paternal grandparents. My wife and I made our maiden trip to Europe later that year. I lugged a heavy camcorder with me. Much to my surprise and delight, I mastered its use and became

## SAA Update

Nothing will keep the directors of the Stevens Alumni Association (SAA) from following through on their duties to the alumni community! On March 19, practicing social distancing, the directors from across the U.S., from coast to coast, gathered virtually through Zoom to discuss association business. All alumni subsequently received an update regarding all programming scheduled through June 30, 2020. All alumni are encouraged to reach out to the directors about ways the SAA can support them and help them stay connected through this unprecedented time. Please send a message to [SAAPresident@alumni.stevens.edu](mailto:SAAPresident@alumni.stevens.edu).



proficient enough to tape weddings and various social events afterwards. A regular Hitchcock, I became! The nearby Scottsdale Community College offered me many options to enjoy new activities. Despite having no musical training, I joined its nighttime chorus class which, in turn, prompted me to take two years of piano lessons to help me read sheet music.

"I am not in a wheelchair. I manage to take a few steps using a walker to get to the bathroom, shower stall, to my chairlift or to a car. Don't have a smartphone, don't receive or send text messages. I use AOL email to stay in touch. I have carpal tunnel syndrome on both wrists, little sense of finger touch, and I 'peck type' very slowly with my right index or pinkie. This afternoon, my Broadway Babies chorus entertained an audience of about 75 residents at a ritzy assisted living retirement place near the Mayo Clinic."

Spent many hours on the internet looking for classmates through K's (more in the next issue). Just free searches. Some may be on Facebook, which I do not use. Some of same names may not be correct. Published a list in the fall issue, but no response. So, this may be a fool's errand. So here are more: **Sahip O. Akosman; George W. Ball; P.S. Benson; Robert Bjorkman; Charles Blum; A.L. Busch**, Hampton, New Jersey; **H.P. Cano; J.F. Carter; L. Cooper; R.H. Cunneen**, who is 91 and living in Pittsburgh; **R.C. Dahn; T.M. Donaldson; L.P. Farung; P.W. Fauntleroy; G.S. Garbarini;**

**W.H. Graf; M.P. Gussack**, age 93; **L. Hamon; R.R. Hamilton; W.J. Hillman; E.V. Holahan; M.S. Kirwan; F.W. Kleiner**. Let me know if you have any info on these members.

Deaths: **Robert E. Bauer** passed away on 5/24/2019 at age 92; he married Grace in 1950. Worked for 30 years in manufacturing and lived in six East Coast states, retiring to Lake Monticello, Virginia, in 1988 then to Meadowood in 2006. **Alford W. Brower**, on 2/12/2020 at age 93 of Pearl River, New York, leaving five children, 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He worked for Bendix for 35 years. He also was an attorney. **Charles J. Casaleggi**, on 10/24/2019 at age 91, had five children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He focused his career in the automotive industries. He was vice president of operations at Champion Labs. He lived at Oakview Heights for the last five years of his life. **John Chahbandour**, on 3/3/2016 at age 93 in Aptos, California. He was founder and principal of Sales Engineering, Inc. in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and served as a naval aviator in the Pacific. He had four children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. **John J. Chichak**, on 4/94 at age 86; and **Frank H. Corbally**, in 5/2001 at age 74 in Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey.

**William Ganther** died on 11/26/2013 in Peoria, Arizona. He had a long career with GE and raised five children in Rumson, New Jersey. He had 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren

and had retired to Virginia Beach, Virginia.

We just sold our condo in Florida after 30 winters. It's a hassle to come and go, and we need to be near kids.

So, without inputs, our log may just fade away. Send your inputs to [wcarow@yahoo.com](mailto:wcarow@yahoo.com) or call 865-805-6134. — **Walter M. Carow, 790 Emory Valley Road, Apt. 803, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830; (865) 805-6134; [wcarow@yahoo.com](mailto:wcarow@yahoo.com)**

**'52** February 20, 2020 — My dear classmates, I have news from or about four of our classmates:

**Bill Baarck, Dave Demarest, Carl Birkevaag and Bob Mahran.**

I recently spoke with Bill Baarck's wife, Harriet, and she told me the sad news that Bill passed away in April 2019, at the age of 89. Here is a remembrance.

Bill was born in Fairview, New Jersey, on May 5, 1929. He wanted to enroll in Stevens in 1947 but the school had already met its student quota, so he worked for a year. That year was spent in the Army, and he was then able to enroll in Stevens the following year, with financial assistance from the GI Bill. Bill was a good student and also interested in athletics. He joined the Sigma Nu fraternity and was involved in the Interfraternity Athletic Council. He was tall and athletic and a good basketball player.

Bill was always involved in class activities and after graduation, he became our first log writer for *The Indicator*. My father, **George Wolf**, was the log writer for the **Class of 1925** at that time and, therefore, Bill and I became good friends. It seemed that Stevens would have an annual meeting of log writers in the late 1950s/early 1960s, and between my father and Bill, I kept in contact with Bill. After I accepted the role of class log writer in 1987, Bill and I continued to remain in contact, and I still have many letters that Bill wrote to me.

Bill married his wife, Harriet, and they lived most of their lives in their home in Fair Haven, New Jersey, where they raised one son and two daughters. Their family had four grandchildren over the years.

He had two professional careers at the same time. One was as a project engineer with the Emcore Corporation, and he also served as a commissioner and technical adviser with the Fair Haven Sewerage Authority. He was still a technical adviser when he passed away.

To Stevens, he commuted by car, and his

memories included the experience at the Johnsonburg engineering summer camp and the senior trip as both valuable and memorable. His interests after college included boating (he owned a sailboat) and traveling; he especially enjoyed river cruises in Europe. Bill and Harriet split their time between Fair Haven, New Jersey, and Fort Myers, Florida. Bill's recommendation about living was to keep actively alive with people and communities.

I'll really miss Bill. He was a very good friend, and I have many letters that he wrote over the years.

Another classmate I have maintained contact and communication with over the years is Carl Birkevaag. Like many of us who graduated from Stevens in 1952, Carl and I were drafted in 1953 and served in the Army at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, in the Army Corps of Engineers lab. Carl was married to his wife, Dorothy, while I lived in the barracks at Fort Belvoir. We both spent about 20 months working at the vibrations lab at Fort Belvoir.

Carl was one of those very good high school students who did consider college as an option. He got talked into it by a fellow high school classmate whose father was a member of the Stevens Class of 1925. Carl and Dotty spent most of their lives in Ridgefield, New Jersey, where Carl worked in the electronics-related industry and served as the financial elder of his church.

Like many of us, old age has taken its toll, and Carl is living with his son and his family in Massachusetts, while Dorothy is in a nearby nursing home. I miss my visits and conversations with Carl.

I contacted two classmates who are, in some ways, still involved with the careers that they chose. They are David Demarest and Bob Mahran.

David was one of our "golf pros" who lives with his wife, Barbara, in Oceanside, California. It was a scholarship that got Dave to Stevens. He had a decision to be made — to be a golf pro at River Vale Golf Course in northern New Jersey, or attend Stevens, and the scholarship tipped the scales to Stevens.

During his time at Stevens, his golf skills resulted in him becoming a golf instructor at Stevens together with classmate **Bob Blackburn**, and they organized a golf team that competed in matches against other colleges. Dave considered Buzz Seymour as the Stevens educator who impressed him the most. While the scholarship pro-

vided financial support, Dave had to live at home and join carpools and hitchhike to attend Stevens to meet expenses. After Stevens, Dave married Barbara and started a successful business in selling life insurance and becoming a financial adviser. He still does some of that now. This year, Dave and Barbara gave up their coordination of a senior golf tournament in Oceanside. However, he still remains very active.

Bob Mahran continues to live in his lifelong country home with his wife, Marian, in the Ramapo Mountains near Monroe, New York. Bob's career with IBM finetuned his ability to take on community service work with the Red Cross, leading rescue and rehab missions in the aftermath of hurricanes in the Caribbean and New Orleans, and floods in the northern U.S. He has also been a dedicated instructor with the American Heart Association. His interest in flying has currently resulted in him taking helicopter piloting lessons.

Neither Bob nor Dave appears to have slowed down. — **Robert F. Wolf, 3740 Broadview Road, West Lafayette, IN 47906; (765) 497-3853**

## Alumni Weekend Reunion 2020

*Editor's Note: Due to COVID-19, Alumni Weekend 2020 has been postponed to a future date. Please stay tuned for more details.*

**'55** February 2020 — As Californians enjoy very pleasant spring weather (except for the skiers), the calendar makes clear that a full 65 years will soon have passed since we received diplomas from Stevens; then only in its 85<sup>th</sup> year. My mail bag (computerized or otherwise) has stayed nearly empty, however — maybe reacting to all the election news as well as to viral epidemic/pandemic concerns. The gravity of the last-named topic unfortunately seems to grow on a daily basis, which prompted me to read about the situation using the Mayo Clinic website, a trustworthy health information source that has never disappointed me.

I did, however, receive one item from 1955's many-year secretary **Jim Spady**. Jim sent news about his friendly, talented wife, June (Kinney) Spady, someone who has contributed to all of us through her support of Jim's secretarial efforts. Jim's news item follows (paraphrased). "Although I retired from Penn in 1996, June continued her responsibilities as director at the U. Penn. Wharton

School and professor in its MBA healthcare tract. After nearly 30 years in these positions, June will retire at the end of the present term. Her service was honored in 2013 when she received the 'Health Care Educator of the Year' award at the Harvard Business School, an honor granted by a selection committee which represents 11 leading MBA schools. Further recognition for June came in the creation of an \$800,000 'Kinney Scholarship' fund for Wharton healthcare track MBA students." Jim's letter concludes, "June and I expect to spend one-third of each retirement year in our Greenwich Village and Philadelphia condos; a second third in our Sarasota, Florida, condo; and the final third in foreign and domestic touring. Class friends are invited to arrange to visit us at any of the three locations."

I am fairly certain that all 1955 colleagues receive (as do I) regular reminders of the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday being celebrated in Stevens events this year. These announcements join many others sent from UC Berkeley, which counts its origin from first classes in 1868 following considerable stimulus from the 1862 Federal Morrill Act. The Morrill Act had a giant influence on the inception and growth of higher education institutions in the increasing number of states then being formed in the United States. Abraham Lincoln signed the act into law in 1862, at the height of the Civil War. Another engineering milestone of the period is dated 1865, when MIT offered its first classes following the Civil War. The MIT founding purpose was, "to unify *mens et manus*, mind and hand, theory and practice," into a coherent program of study within a single institution. Although the Stevens purpose is the classically stated "*per aspera ad astra*" — through adversity to the stars — I think that much of our education as Stevens engineers 65 years ago fits well the purpose expressed in the 1865 MIT goals statement.

That MIT "purpose" statement certainly seems to apply to some "choice" Stute educational events in our student days. For example, who can forget "chipping and filing" done on metal castings to make them suitable for machine parts? Our own *Mens et manus* were big contributors in this activity as well as for the earlier steps in the wood shop — to prepare molds followed by forge activities — where we actually poured molten metal into the green-sand molds that we had also prepared. These activities were supervised and graded by Stute old-timer Bill Dexheimer, who celebrated 50 years on the

Stevens staff during our student years. In 1955, I interviewed the memorably friendly Dexheimer for a *Stute* profile during which I could only marvel that he had passed on these skills to people like professor **Speed Wegel** and **Alexander Calder** (both graduates in the Stevens Class of 1919). Only later in time did it occur to me that Calder may have gained considerably more inspiration from the Dexheimer labs than many other Stevens engineers, as demonstrated in the huge impact of the sculpted mobiles and stabiles that he introduced to world art. At Berkeley, the influence of Calder's genealogy to his artistic talents seems evident through my near-daily view of his artist father's charming classically sculpted Dryad perched on the bank of Strawberry Creek.

Both my age and your lack of correspondence prompted old-time thoughts about our student days, such as the above. I'd be happy to read any similar stories from you — so please send them to me, using email. What do you remember from your student days? What are your memories or impressions of Jersey and Hoboken gained while living there? Memories and/or impressions of Johnsonburg? Of the Castle? Faculty? Health and happiness to all. Richard — **Richard S. Muller, 1519 Oxford St., Apt H, Berkeley, California 94709-1542; (510) 559-0866; muller@berkeley.edu**

**'56** February 2020 — Linda Spring, the daughter of **Conrad H.F. Spring M.S. '60**, informed the Alumni Office that her father passed away on Dec. 17, 2019. She shared an obituary and fine tribute to her father, with this excerpt included with his class log.

"Conrad Henry Frederick Spring, 84, of Pompton Plains, New Jersey, passed away peacefully on Dec. 17, 2019 surrounded by his loving family. As a husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, engineer, college lacrosse player, skier, tennis and squash player and walking unpaid Grey Goose advertisement, he leaves behind a familial legacy stretching from Maine to South Carolina.

"Connie was the first born to German immigrants Conrad and Anna Spring (née Wenz) and grew up in Ridgefield, New Jersey. As a teenager, his family owned a summer cabin on Shady Lake in West Milford, New Jersey, where he ultimately met his future wife, Betty, who lived across the lake. Connie graduated with a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Stevens in 1956, followed by his master's in 1960. While at Stevens, he was

a proud member of Sigma Nu fraternity and enjoyed lifelong friendships with his fraternity brothers and fellow lacrosse buddies.

"Connie's career as a mechanical engineer began with Bell Labs in Whippany, New Jersey, where, for 16 years, he worked on the design and development of anti-ballistic missile systems. From 1972 to 1984, he was in charge of the department of physical design and telephone building engineering. The final leg of his career brought him to Bell Communications Research, where he headed the network physical protection and information exchange management department. He retired in 1992.

"Upon his retirement, Connie spent the majority of his time supporting his family in various ways — supplying his knowledge and labor on endless home improvement projects and gathering family and friends together in Maine on the Five Kezar Ponds and Moosehead Lake for lobsters, steamers, happy hours, music and sunsets. The fierce support of his children and grandchildren through their college educations were his priority and his gift.

"Additionally... for 19 years, he was treasurer of Corbe, Inc., which protected the interests of retirees and actives of Bell Communications and Telcordia Technologies regarding their pensions, 401(k)s and medical benefits.

"He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Elizabeth 'Betty,' his four children, Kathleen Spring of Irmo, South Carolina, Susan Spring Smith of Pompton Plains, New Jersey, Brian Spring and his wife, Stacy, of Kinnelon, New Jersey, and Linda



▲ Bob Lautenschlager '57 marched with the Old Guard alumni — and his grandson Peyton Ouano '19 — at Commencement 2019.



▲ Olivia Schreiber '18 speaks with Bob Fiocco '58 at the Stevens Founder's Day Soiree in February.

Mycock and her husband, Jim, of Windham, Maine; his five grandchildren; his two sisters Carol Farbanish and her husband, Robert, and Elizabeth Newkirk and her husband, Gary; and his sister-in-law, Sister Mary D. Spano. Connie is also survived by many nieces and nephews and many close friends." — Alan Lager, 6585 Maggiore Drive, Boynton Beach, FL 33472; Alan\_e\_Lager@msn.com

**'57** January 2020 — Here's a great update from Bob Lautenschlager!

"Last May 2019, I had the privilege, as a member of the Stevens Old Guard, to participate with my grandson, Peyton Ouano '19, in his graduation from Stevens. It was a wonderful experience; caps and gowns, and walking in the procession with the faculty and students. The Alumni Association did an excellent job in accommodating the Old Guard members and their families who were there. Barbara and I had a great, happy and proud day to see our grandson graduate from Stevens. It was good to get up to North Jersey again, as that has not happened recently. But I hope that we will be able to get to Alumni Weekend this year, as a new date will be announced soon. We are still in Ocean City, New Jersey, and everyone comes to our house, especially in the summer.

"Last December, Barbara and I celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a dinner party for relatives and friends at a local restaurant. We can't believe that all those years have passed already!" — S.J. "Chuck" Filippone, 84 Paul Place, Fairfield, CT 06824-5836; (203) 254-3197; sfilippone@aol.com

**'59** February 2020 — I guess you old groundhogs haven't crawled out of your winter burrows yet! I haven't heard from any of you folks since my last class news article (except John "Slats" Slattery, with whom I have a monthly chat).

At the time of this writing, the media seem to be mostly focused on our nation's ugly political situation and the Coronavirus, which is having widespread economic impact.

One of my other "hats" is as the executive director of the Transportation & Logistics Council, which has its 46<sup>th</sup> annual conference, Education for Transportation Professionals, at the end of April. We have 14 educational sessions scheduled during the three-day program, with moderators and some 44 presenters and panelists, two guest luncheon speakers, exhibitors, etc., and usually expect at least 250 attendees. We are already hearing that a lot of companies are banning "non-essential" travel and that airlines and hotels are seeing a loss of revenue.

In any event, if you are still out there, keep washing your hands and send some news to your class secretary. — George C. Pezold, 120 Main St., Huntington, NY 11743; (631) 271-8817; george.pezold@transportlaw.com



Gerry Osborne '66 is his class' new secretary. Read more from him on page 48.

### Alumni Weekend Reunion 2020

*Editor's Note: Due to COVID-19, Alumni Weekend 2020 has been postponed to a future date. Please stay tuned for more details.*

**'60** February 2020 — Who would have thought that we would last long enough to celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion from Stevens? Not me!! We will celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> on a new date to be announced soon. So far, we have 15 signed up but expect

more as we get closer to the reunion.

Watch your mail and email for more info from John Dalton on our reunion.

If you get a chance to visit Hoboken, you will see many, many spectacular changes.

First is the new Gateway Academic Center, which is a world-class educational facility.

It spans 6<sup>th</sup> and Hudson streets and is located where the old S. W. Library was (I was night librarian in my sophomore and junior years) and the parking lot where the church was, when we were freshmen.

The second major construction project is the replacement of Hayden dorm and Jacobus with a new high-rise dormitory and student center. Currently, the Gatehouse has been taken down and will be rebuilt when the new dormitory and student center is complete.

According to John Dalton, we are more than two-thirds of the way to our goal of donating \$60,000 from the Class of 1960. The Class of 1960 Student Scholarship Endowment is one of the largest class scholarship funds. We were also the first class to set up a class endowment for student scholarships in perpetuity. A generous act we can all be proud of.

If you do not receive John Dalton's email blasts, send him your email address at jjdalton1@verizon.net. While you are at your computer, drop me a line for the class log. Don — Don Merino, dmerino@stevens.edu

**'61** February 2020 — Greetings, '61ers, I'm very grateful that my plea for class log material for this edition was answered promptly. Thank you, Wayne Knapp, for your brief reply and Vito Brenna for good material.

Vito's email follows: "I am taking the time on my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday to respond to your request for some input. The latest change in the Brenna Ranch is that I have given up on horses. I'm too old, too brittle, and too tired to shovel processed hay and alfalfa anymore. The 22 years since I retired and acquired the ranch have been truly wonderful. This stuff we all have been told about 'work' is overrated. In all fairness, I really enjoyed my career and pay homage to Stevens for making it possible. My wife of 52 years, Diana, and I are in good health and enjoying life in this crazy state of California. When I first got to California, I lived in Santa Barbara and thought I had died and gone to heaven. Then I moved to Carmel, California, where I met my bride (after residing

on Casanova Street) ho ho. The amazing thing is that she has put up with me for all these years. I'm truly blessed!

"I hope that the current students at Stevens appreciate the incredible opportunities that will open to them. I feel that Stevens made all the difference for me. When you hit 80 you tend to get philosophical. The reality is: it's been a blast, all of it! I wish all '61ers the best. Hopefully I'll get a chance to chuckle with them in the future. Hope you and your family are well. Best personal regards, Vito"

The email from Terry Davies' wife, Penny, was more sobering. Terry passed away on December 7, 2019.

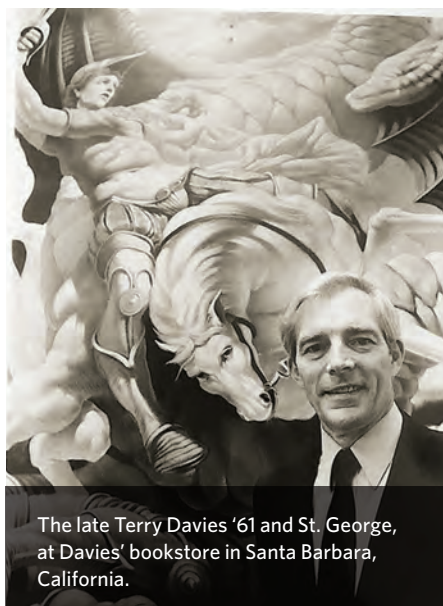
"Terence Davies died in Brevard, North Carolina, nine weeks short of turning 86. He lived most of his life in Santa Barbara, California. Surviving Terry are his wife, Penny, son Philip, daughters Thalia and Dorien, and grandchildren Leah, Adam, Luke, and Penelope.

"Terry was born in London. He lived through the Blitz and his home was nearly bombed twice. He didn't know it, but he was dyslexic. He had difficulties reading but he loved math and science. When he came to the U.S. with his mother and sister, he attended high school at night and passed the New Jersey regents exam. He entered Stevens late because he decided late that he wanted to become an engineer. My brother, Louis Lucas '59, was a year ahead of Terry at Stevens and introduced us. Terry and I eloped in Plainfield, New Jersey, on Halloween night, 1958.

"Upon graduation, Terry accepted a job offer from EG&G, Boston. After five years, we and our three children moved to Rochester, New York, to work for Xerox doing research and development. In 1966, a huge blizzard in Rochester motivated us to relocate to Santa Barbara, California, where he rejoined EG&G. I taught school when we met and continued doing that until we opened the Earthling Bookshop in downtown Santa Barbara in 1974. Our lives were also devastated in 1974 with the drowning accident of our beloved son, Adam. Helping that recovery was the birth of daughter Dorien, born on Christmas Day, 1975.

"During the next 25 years, Terry had four overlapping careers: his work at EG&G; the back office work and maintenance of the Earthling Bookshop; getting involved in Santa Barbara politics and community activism; and lastly, buying, restoring, and selling run down historically significant houses."

*Note from Jay: The Earthling Bookshop got to be*



*very famous: In the mid-1980s, the Santa Barbara Redevelopment Agency planned to develop a mall that would have required the demolition of The Earthling Bookshop. The Davies gathered signatures for a ballot measure urging voters to vote "no." The measure was defeated, and the bookshop was saved. Terry commissioned the painting of a mural of St. George slaying the Dragon on a wall in the bookshop to commemorate the victory. (See photo above.)*

"Terry did not say much about his work. EG&G has a long history of doing classified government work. He often traveled to the Nevada Atomic Energy test site. He worked with optics and lasers through the years, always in research and development and became a project leader. Terry worked for EG&G SB (later called Nestec) from 1966 to 1998.

"When the Earthling Bookshop closed in 1998, we left for Mammoth Lakes, California, where Terry became a ski instructor for youngsters. After three years, we returned to Santa Barbara from 2001 to 2005, and during that time he went back to his old job with his same group doing electro-optics. He really loved his job and his team. I was told by his co-workers that he was a marvelous boss.

"In 2009, we moved to Brevard, North Carolina to be close to our daughter, Thalia, and her family. Terry loved the relocation, mostly because of Thalia's son, Luke. He is almost 17 and is a student at Midland School, the same private school in Los Olivos, California, where all three of our children attended."

"Dorien is a professional puppeteer for the

Jim Henson Company in Los Angeles. She and Kenny have a 7-year-old daughter Penelope. Thalia and Drew, both clinical psychologists, live in southern Oregon. Phillip lives on Long Island with wife Lauren. Their children, Leah (28) and Adam (25) both work in Manhattan. Phil works for the American Booksellers Association, the national group that helps independent booksellers."

Penny concluded: "The above are my memories of 61 years of marriage to a remarkable man." Reading Terry's history has to be inspiring. A life fully lived. We are all saddened by the Davies' loss.

Just a reminder that Stevens is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> year. Many new buildings have been completed. Attending the upcoming Alumni Weekend will be visually rewarding. Hayden and Jacobus were demolished and a skyscraper "dorm" and student center will stand in their place. President Farvardin has done great things for the school. The undergraduate population has doubled, and Stevens is attracting national attention and growing in stature. Health permitting, I do intend to be there. Hope to see you there! — Jay I. Wartell, [letraw@yahoo.com](mailto:letraw@yahoo.com)

**'62** February 2020 — Michael Stupinski wrote, "I'm sorry to report that we lost another member of the Class of '62 in November. Arthur (Art) Davenport passed away on November 30, 2019. Art and his wife Wendy lived on Bainbridge Island, Washington. He and I both served in the Air Force as maintenance officers after graduation from Stevens and both of us worked at Hamilton Standard after our service. In 1986, he left Hamilton Standard to do engineering consulting in the Seattle area and spent many years at Boeing before retiring. Art was a top-notch engineer and was always ready to help anyone with a problem by offering a fresh perspective in analyzing and solving it. He provided the inspiration for me to get my P.E. license. We stayed in touch over the years since they moved to the West Coast and I visited them there several times. In looking over the many emails Art and I exchanged, I'm amazed at the range of subjects we discussed and debated. He was a principled man with many interests and talents (including authoring several novels) and held high standards in all he did. I'll miss him a great deal."

In January, George Jurick left his home on the lake in northern Michigan to spend the next two months in Texas on Lake Conroe. "No Harley this time and I miss not riding on the ranch roads

here. I turned 80 last July and I feel it! Anyway, I can still enjoy powering out my high-performance Mustang.”

Alex McKenzie has been busy working on his bucket list adding, “Last summer I crossed one item off my list by renting a houseboat in Page, Arizona, and spending four days soaking up the incredible beauty of Lake Powell. We then revisited Zion, Bryce, Capitol Reef, Canyonlands, Arches and Grand Canyon National Parks. I don’t think I’d want to live in Utah, but it is really spectacular! My wife and I spent two months helping care for our twin five-year-old grandsons in Indianapolis. I’ve gotten together with classmates Al Kiel and Tony Mirabella in Florida during the past year and, in fact, I was sailing with Tony yesterday! This coming August, I expect to cross another item off my bucket list when we go to Kenya and Tanzania to see the great wildebeest migration among other wild animals.”

And this from Dick Sard, “Since it’s a big year for anniversary celebrations, I thought I’d share a brief story and photo from my 32<sup>nd</sup> annual ski trip to Courchevel in the French Alps, where Bruce Boylan ‘63 and I just completed our seventh trip together. We spent two weeks with two European friends, roughing it by skiing a total of 11 days, out of 13 possible; on the days off, common sense prevailed as it was snowing so hard the visibility was non-existent. As ‘Veterans’ over 75, we ski for free, but reinvest that savings and more in Michelin-starred dinners with fine wines every night. I know that sounds rough, but somebody has to do it!

“My data tracker indicates that we managed



Dick Sard '62 shared this photo of his 32<sup>nd</sup> annual ski trip to Courchevel in the French Alps. Here, he is at the Col de la Loze.



Bruce Boylan '63, left, visited Ellen and John Zajac '63 at their home on Maryland's eastern shore.

to take 208 lifts in three valleys for a total vertical distance of 88.8 km and a skied distance of nearly 500 km in the largest interconnected ski area I know of, all in an average of six hours a day; so we earned those celebratory dinners.

“Our location, some 50 km south of Mt. Blanc, will be featured in this year’s Tour de France where the most difficult ride of the entire tour will end at the Col de la Loze, between Courchevel and Meribel, where I am standing next to the whimsical sculpture of a bicycle that was created for the race. All the best, Dick”

I heard from Juris Kaugerts who said that he and his wife, Diana, plan to visit Germany and Latvia again this coming summer and expect to plan their trip around Alumni Weekend.

Lastly, Jim Canfield sent the following, “Carolyn and I still live in northern New Jersey. We have remained very active in our retirement years. This year we celebrate our 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

“For about ten years we wintered in Frisco, Colorado and skied for three months each year getting in about 60 days of skiing each year. We have also traveled extensively and have hiked on all continents except Antarctica. In 2016, we decided it was time to give up skiing and slow down a little, so we purchased a small motorhome. Since then, we have been on the road for about five to six months per year and covered 75,000 miles. We have made summer trips to Alaska, the West Coast, visiting Los Angeles and the Olympic Peninsula on separate trips, as well as the Canadian Maritime Provinces. Also, we made a hiking and travel trip through Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico, spending a week at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, one of our bucket list activities. Winter trips were made

to Arizona twice and Florida. Last summer, we spent three weeks in Iceland and have plans to hike in France and Switzerland next summer. We have created a website documenting our travels at <http://spiritof76cjc.com>. Best, Jim”

Certainly, more classmates have bucket list activities, so let’s hear from you! Many thanks to all who contributed and, rest assured, our officers will be in touch via email with plans for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary Alumni Weekend, date to come. — Philip B. Kimball, [pbkim25@gmail.com](mailto:pbkim25@gmail.com)

**’63** March 5, 2020 — Guys, a couple of notes involving our class prez — Bruce Boylan, Rich

Stomber and Bohdan (Domo) Domaradsky, all Delt fraternity brothers, visited Matt Malinowski and his wife, Barbara, in their home in Union, New Jersey. A lot of talk and laughter about the old times. Unfortunately, Matt suffers from spinal stenosis which causes weakness in his legs but it was still a good time for all.

Bruce also recently traveled to Norfolk, Virginia, to have dinner and see his son-in-law off to Kuwait for approximately seven months. (His son is an ex-Navy pilot in the reserves and has been deployed.) Bruce’s daughter is also in the reserves and is on her way back to Afghanistan for the second time for approximately seven months. She is currently a nurse practitioner and was there while in the Navy for about the same amount of time during the surge. Next, John Zajac wrote that, on the way home, Bruce stopped in to visit John and his wife, Ellen. Bruce says, “John and Ellen have a great house and property by one of the bays across from Assateague Island Park and all the wild horses.”

John said, “Got a nice New Year surprise with a brief visit from Bruce Boylan who stopped by on his way home from a family visit. As you might guess we talked about wine, too. Anyone visiting the eastern shore of Maryland around Assateague is welcome to contact us. All the best.”

Then Robert Dobrowolski wrote, “I was inspired by fraternity brothers and classmates Bill Proskow and Les Cohen to write. A shout-out to both. In the summer of 1963, I, along with classmate Robert Reale, was hired by the Navy to work at the jet engine test facility near Trenton, New Jersey. There, I was a test engineer performing tests both at sea level and simulated altitude conditions to evaluate new engine performance and fleet engine problems to establish solutions for these problems.



"In the early 1970s the Navy, Air Force and Army wanted to increase the performance and life of current and future engines for their fleets. To do this, each service named engineers for each engine component to work with the engine manufactures to achieve these goals. I was named the turbine component technology manager for the Navy. By sponsoring research programs with the engine manufacturers, we were able to reach the goals of increased performance and life of the engines.

"In the late 1980s DARPA initiated a program to develop a 'common engine/airframe' to replace the Navy F18, Air Force F16 and the Marine Harrier. The idea was, with small changes to the engine and airframe, you could get three aircraft doing three different missions at a cheaper cost than if you had three separate developments. I was selected as the team leader for lift systems. This was all the engine components that allowed the Marine aircraft to perform short takeoffs and vertical landings like the Harrier. This program has led to the F35 aircraft currently in the three services' fleets. I retired in 2000 after 37 years of service.

"I reside in New Jersey with our three children and four grandchildren. My wife and I do some travel and enjoy landscape painting and I also play golf."

From a personal standpoint, Carol and I are doing well, but the increased frequency in doctor's visits is beginning to cut into our social and volunteer schedules. We've continued with our skiing adventures, and I think I've probably already mentioned that the acronym S.K.I. stands for "Spending Kid's Inheritance." Somebody has to keep North America's economy going!

A final, and very important note, please help keep Jules' and Joe's memories alive and make a contribution to the Class of '63 Scholarship Fund. — [Neville W. Sachs; nevsachseng@gmail.com](mailto:neville.w.sachs@gmail.com)

**'64** February 2020 — Dear Class of '64, here is some news I received from our class president, Peter Astor. While in Florida this winter, Peter and his wife Harriet had dinner with John and April Geer at one of their favorite North Miami Beach restaurants, Sea Grille. This has been an annual tradition for five years now, and it has been a wonderful way to get the two Stevens roommates together. John and Peter both play tennis three times per week at the same courts. They were making plans to see their mutual college friend,

Gary Cymrot and his wife, Leslie. Peter also had dinner in Hallandale, Florida, with August Ruggerio and his wife, Bonnie. They were about to go on a cruise to some of the Caribbean islands. In February, Peter attended an informal dinner for East Coast Florida residents at the home of Phil Crowley '71 and his wife, Dr. Diane Young. President Nariman Farvardin gave a twenty-minute summary of the state of Stevens, which included slides of the new facilities and planned buildings on campus. There is a now a Wellness Center and walkway from the Ninth Street entrance to the Howe Center. The Gateway Center on Sixth and Hudson is finished and now operational, and the new 1,000-bed dormitory is scheduled for completion in 2022. The president encouraged alumni to come to campus for Alumni Weekend (date TBD) to celebrate the school's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

I also received a nice thank you email from Gene Orosz concerning the article written about him in the last issue.

On a personal note, how about the rest of our class? We have been away from Stevens for 56 years. You have read some stories from our classmates — how about your life, even now in retirement? What are you doing in retirement? I have lunch monthly with fellows I worked with until retirement. We are ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out). Anyone else? Anyone get a hole-in-one? Take a cruise to an exotic port? Who has the most grandchildren? Great-grandchildren? I met a fellow the other day that I worked with over 35 years ago. He is babysitting for his great-grandchildren. Me, only my grandchildren. You must have some interesting stories to relate. We want to hear from you.

Hope everyone is doing well. Keep those cards and letters coming. — [Harley Graime; hgraime@att.net](mailto:hgraime@att.net)

### Alumni Weekend Reunion 2020

*Editor's Note: Due to COVID-19, Alumni Weekend 2020 has been postponed to a future date. Please stay tuned for more details.*

**'65** February 24, 2020 — It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our classmates Sig Stockinger and Luis de Larrauri. Luis died in March due to complications from the coronavirus; we will remember him in a future issue. Sig is remembered here. They were loyal and caring alumni of our beloved university and will be deeply missed.

### Siegfried L. Stockinger

Siegfried L. Stockinger, 76, passed on November 7, 2019. He leaves behind his loving wife, Bernadette, and his son, Trevor.

Sig recently celebrated his 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with Bernadette, who he took to his senior high school prom. He also gave a proud and loving toast to Trevor and his wife, Angela, at their wedding in June. Together with Bernadette, he moved 13 times, and visited all 50 states and over two dozen countries.

Sig was born in Yokohama, Japan, on February 3, 1943. He moved to West Germany after World War II and then emigrated to Union City, New Jersey, where he was raised.

Sig graduated from Stevens Institute of Technology, received a Master of Science from Loyola-Marymount University and attended the UCLA Management Program. Sig started his career designing nuclear submarines and most recently worked at the Department of Energy overseeing nuclear waste disposal for the national laboratories. He was a named inventor on several patents relating to water treatment and published numerous papers through the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and American Nuclear Society.

If you would like to make a donation in Sig's memory, please designate the gift for "Class of 1965 Endowed Scholarship Fund" and note it is in memory of Sig.

Stevens has been celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in different ways this year. Past achievements, current developments, fundraising and plans for the future have been the central focuses.

Last autumn, focusing on our class, I thought about Alumni Weekend and the good 50<sup>th</sup> reunion we had in 2015. It seemed that a 60<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2025 is long way off, particularly for some of us. Most people I talked to agreed that a 55<sup>th</sup> reunion would be a good idea.

While planning a dinner for the 55<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2020, I spoke to Bruce Boylan '63 who expressed an interest in attending, so it was decided to open the dinner to others. A letter was sent to all members of the 1962, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1967 and 1968 classes. We have had some positive interest from 20 members of those classes and will welcome them to the occasion. The dinner became the Class of 1965+/-3.

We also wanted to encourage all members of the Class of '65 to submit bios, especially those who are unable or choose not to attend.

We hope to publish a book containing the bios of everyone who can submit one soon. The bios need not be in a structured format, but this is an invitation to share what has been important to you: family, career highlights, hobbies, more recent activities and commitments or just a special holiday and thoughts. The length should be between 400 and 800 words. As of February 22, 2020, we had received 25 submissions. A collection of six bios were sent by mail to all members of the class as examples. I received mine yesterday, February 21. We hope more bios will be received and you will probably have some other reminders; email [alumni@stevens.edu](mailto:alumni@stevens.edu) for more information.

Further details of the reunion, which will be rescheduled soon, will be sent to you by email or mail. Thanks are due to a number of people, particularly **Steve Cochran** and representatives of fraternities.

When I first contacted Steve, I asked him if he could contact some classmates. He gave me a list of about six and I sent him the contact information that I had. Three days later he called me and said "I had no idea how much fun this would be." I gave him some more and then he embarked on a crusade to contact all the independent members of the class. He was very determined and clever in tracking down the people using the internet as well as registered mail. Some classmates had passed away. As of the date of writing this only one member is still "lost."

I would like to encourage support of the Class of '65 Scholarship Fund. Money from the fund is often allocated to good students who are in need of additional financial support and often a significant number of the grant recipients are grandchildren of alumni from the Class of '65. Donations can also be directed to your fraternity, sport or other activity as well as general funding for Stevens. There are many ways to donate and Stevens can provide guidance if requested.

We look forward to meeting classmates at our reunion and reading bios about everyone who sent one. I will always welcome news from you. — **George Greene**; (781) 631-1323; [gwgreene43@hotmail.com](mailto:gwgreene43@hotmail.com)

**'66** March 6, 2020— Dear Classmates, as your new Class Secretary, this is my first class log, with hopefully many to come. I haven't heard from too many of you yet, but that's to be expected.

Aside from being a relative novice, I am also practicing functioning without the use of my left arm, in order to get ready for upcoming surgery on my left shoulder. Like me, I suspect many of you have also gone through this process, which tends to be a reminder to be grateful for the many day-to-day gifts that we may take for granted! At this point, I have repaired a number of areas on my right side, so I guess it's time to begin the process on the left.

One of the first emails to be received was from **Bob Baptista**, who writes that he is now retired from Bayer Corporation, after 30 years in research and manufacturing positions, and presently lives in Orange, Texas. His last assignment for Bayer was as VP, synthetic rubber manufacturing, with plants in Orange, Houston and Charleston, South Carolina.

Post retirement, he is also serving as executive director of an economic development group promoting investment in the chemical industry of West Virginia and has also consulted as an expert witness in litigation involving the identification of companies responsible for the disposal of hazardous waste at Superfund sites.

He is also active in community efforts to develop flood control projects. One of the projects, to remove debris from a storm water channel, was financed with a \$1 million grant from federal and state agencies. A second project to enlarge drainage culverts under roadways is awaiting a FEMA grant.

Bob also reported that with his wife, Elaine, they enjoy life in a small town within easy reach of all the attractions of Houston, including visiting their daughter Joanne, who resides there. In the humanities courses at Stevens, he found it a challenge to write essays. "Now that I am retired, writer's block has disappeared. I have written two pictorial history books on places I've lived, titled *Elizabeth, New Jersey Then and Now* and *Randolph, New Jersey Remembrances*. I am self-published with book sales coming mainly from Facebook.

As I write this log, I am hoping to meet Bob and Elaine when Carolyn and I fly to Houston at the end of March to see my son, **David '92**, and his family, with a particular focus on grandkids: Sydney, Eda, Erik, and Jakob.

Hopefully, I will be able to expand on Bob's life, since graduation, in the next *Indicator*!

I also received a short email from our classmate, **Jose Hernandez**, who simply thanked me for reaching out, but I expect that Jose may have more to say in the next *Indicator(s)*?

**Richard Seeley** also contacted me via email and reported that he is a wildlife photographer. After a quick look at his blog, I would say that he is a very good wildlife photographer. [www.richardseeleyphotography.wordpress.com](http://www.richardseeleyphotography.wordpress.com)

**Bill Brummer** and his wife, Candy, also sent me a quick "HELLO."

As far as my life is concerned, I find that I'm spending an increasing amount of time devoted to music and charitable activities. Perhaps I am making up for lost time from when I was younger and focused on career and business.

This past fall, Carolyn and I spent ten days on a Baltic cruise aboard the *Norwegian Dream*, covering the ports of Copenhagen, St. Petersburg, Helsinki, Tallinn (Estonia), Stockholm, Visby (Isle of Gotland), before returning to Copenhagen to tour the Tivoli Gardens.

I guess it was time for me to visit the area where my father's parents and family came from. This particular photo, which appears on page 44, was taken at an outdoor souvenir shop in Helsinki, where I spotted a bright red ball cap labeled: "Make Helsinki Great Again." I thought it was amusing, but that doesn't take much!

This May, we planned to travel to the Washington, D.C., area to perform with my Community Singers of Lake Norman at the Kennedy Center, and participate in Memorial Day ceremonies around D.C. Including the other choral groups from around the U.S., there will be 250 to 300 singers on stage. (*Editor's Note: This was written before the U.S. was hit by COVID-19.*)

Hopefully, I'll be receiving more details from other classmates, before the next *Indicator* is due to be published. — **Gerry Osborne**, [Scandia44@twc.com](mailto:Scandia44@twc.com)

**'67** February 27, 2020 — I received a brief note and joyful photograph from **Gary Stein**. He writes, "Our new home is closer to our granddaughter and near the Monon Trail, Indianapolis to Carmel (the Indiana Carmel, not the California Carmel). The trail is an abandoned railroad line that provides many miles for bikes, walkers, etc. My first ride with granddaughter Claire and wife Jeanne ended at the yogurt shop. My bike has 24 speeds and disc brakes but a 74-year-old motor."

On occasion, I chat with **Don Daume**. Don lives in Teaneck, New Jersey. Don has steadfastly refused to connect with the outside world via the internet. He assures me that he does use automobiles and that he has in-house water and no

outhouse. I try to cajole him to go to the library and use their computer to no avail. I was afraid to ask if he has a computer, but why should he? He has plenty of No. 2 pencils.

I had a lovely exchange with **Victoria Stabile '20**, the recipient this year of the Class of '67 Scholarship. Victoria has a very impressive CV: she's recording secretary of the Honor Board, president of Tau Beta Pi, business manager of the Running Club, recreational subcommittee head of the Committee on Student Interests, and a resident assistant at Davis Hall. (Don't we all remember Jess Davis?) Her family are serious Stevens graduates. Her mom is **Christine Stabile**, her dad is **Jeffrey Stabile**, and both of them graduated in 1990. Her uncle is **Werner Seitz** and he graduated in 1994.

I asked her several questions, the answers I am delighted to share with you.

*Question 1: What have you learned at Stevens that has gone beyond what everyone knows one learns at Stevens?*

"College has been a learning experience in many ways. Everyone learns from the classroom — calculus, chemistry, physics, engineering design — but I've found I've learned a lot from everything else I've done.

"I'm from rural northwestern New Jersey and coming to a big city was a very big change for me — all the noise, the people, figuring out public transportation — things that some of my classmates were already familiar with. Going alone into New York City on a bus was a major accomplishment and really pushed me outside my comfort zone. I've become very independent and pretty fearless about sticking up for myself and friends or figuring out how to get something done.

"I've joined a lot of student organizations and I've found that serving on executive boards is a fantastic way to gain management experience and the soft skills necessary for a successful career. I've been a part of planning events, interfacing with administration, maintaining the honor system and mentoring freshmen as a resident assistant. The activities that I have been a part of have helped me to find an identity and a role on campus and these have definitely kept me busy.

"This past semester I've had the opportunity to do research with the Center for Environmental Systems and be responsible for collecting data and running my own experiment. That has given me amazing lab experience and shown me how the research and development process work. I am an undergraduate teaching assistant for two



Jeanne and Gary Stein 67 hit the bike trail with granddaughter Claire near their home in Indiana.

classes: chemical engineering fluid mechanics and engineering design V. Those positions have shown me the 'other side' of the classroom and how to best help other students tackle challenging problems and how to give them what they need to succeed. The best part is talking folks through a problem and seeing their faces change as they suddenly understand something. Then you know you've made a difference.

"From juggling high academic standards and commitments to multiple student organizations and on-campus work positions, I've learned balance. Doing a lot can be overwhelming, and I've learned that sometimes you have to give yourself a break and prioritize what matters most. (I've also learned how to maximize all the hours of the day to squeeze in several commitments.)"

*Question 2: As a female engineer, and you seem to be on the practical side (is that so?), have you found any discrimination solely because you are a female, e.g., "don't know as much as a male," or "this is a man's job?" And if so, how have you handled that?*

"I just determined I wanted to do engineering and then didn't really pay much attention to what others thought about a female engineer — that's what I had my mind set on and that's what I was going to make happen." (*Editor's Note: Read more about Victoria in this issue's cover story.*)

So, dear classmates, isn't Ms. Stabile quite impressive? I thought so, and thus I wanted to share her responses to my questions in their entirety. For those of us who have contributed financially to the Class of '67 Scholarship Fund, we can feel mighty proud. — **Jeffrey I. Seeman; jiseeman@yahoo.com**

**'68** February 2020 — You should be reading this log in late May of 2020, so even the most northern parts of the country should be warming up. For us in Houston, we should be experiencing our normal seasonal temps in the 80s and 90s, with matching humidities.

This is not the way I expected to start this log, but sadly, I must report the death of one of our

classmates: **George Garance**. His obituary in the local paper read as follows:

"In the early morning of February 6, 2020 with his wife and son by his side, God called George home. George, 74, of Havelock, North Carolina, is preceded in death by his parents and his much-loved daughter Julie Rose Vick. He is survived by Paulette, his wife of 51 years, his son Michael George and wife Jillanne. He also leaves his beloved grandchildren, Cecelia Anne and Michael James Garance, and Julie's sons Adam, Dominic and Noah Thomas Vick. Following his wishes, there will be no formal service, but there will be a tribute to his life at a later date. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend. He was very much loved and will be greatly missed."

A close friend and fraternity brother of his, **Frank Niemas**, informed me of his death and wrote following: "George was a good guy and he was a Chi Phi. A great M.E. with common sense and practical experience. George was a groomsman at my wedding on July 11, 1970. It was an honor to have him as a friend. **Tom Stypinski** was his roommate and friend. We had many good times shared with George and Paulette, Tom and Mary Ellen, and Arline and me. We were so looking forward to reconnecting. George will be missed."

If anyone else has more information, please write me.

On a lighter note, I'll continue my series from our class reunion logbook. Our next subject is **Steve Brown**. Steve is currently living in Nashua, New Hampshire with his wife, Jean. They have two daughters: Hilary, living in Michigan, and Eve, living in Ohio. Steve has some serious credentials besides his degree from Stevens. He is an FAA licensed airline transport pilot multi-engine with commercial privileges for single engine land and sea, rotorcraft and helicopters. He is also an FAA licensed flight instructor airplane single engine, multi-engine and instruments and FAA licensed ground instructor.

His professional resume includes project engineer with Brown & Root, electronics engineer with the U.S. Coast Guard and founder and president of Metal Marketing. He is currently founder and owner of Integrated Component Solutions, a manufacturer of custom parts and assemblies. He has lived all around the U.S., including Houston, Texas, Governor's Island, New York, Astoria, Oregon, Seattle, Washington, Newport, Rhode Island and finally, Hanover and Nashua, New Hampshire. He has also traveled



Don Silawsky '69 presents his 1969 Ferrari 365 GTC at the Washington, D.C. Auto Show in January. Inset: Don, at right, and Lee Holljes '69 during their Stevens days with Don's '68 BMW 2002. Read more in the '69 log.

extensively, including Israel, Switzerland, France, Italy, St. Kitts and Nevis, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Costa Rica, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua, Guadeloupe, Chile, Argentina and Canada.

His hobbies include sailing, flying (owner of a Mooney M20J aircraft) and skiing.

This is quite a story, Steve, and you're welcome to update since this information is now two years old.

Norm Dotti contacted me recently to ask if he had ever sent in "a blurb," as he put it (we all know about that memory thing that begins to elude us at this point in life). I told him, to the best of my memory, he had not, and I would love to hear about the last 52 years of his life. So, Norm, you're on the hook for my next class log.

One final note: if you read the last *Indicator* (Winter 2020), a first was achieved. There was not a single photo of Marty Valerio in the entire issue! I'll have to check into why that happened. His streak of consecutive issues has been broken!

Beth Kissinger is going to love me this time because this has to be one of my shorter class logs, and I am not pushing the 800-word limit for logs!

Till next time, take care and be safe. — **Allen A. Foytlin**; [foytlin01@gmail.com](mailto:foytlin01@gmail.com)

**'69** February 27, 2020 — Don Silawsky, our class' sports car guru, is shown near this log with his 1969 Ferrari 365 GTC (known as Ferrari's "Gentleman's Hot Rod" back in the day). The picture is from a display of vintage Ferraris at the Washington (D.C.) Auto Show in January.

Don thought the organizers erred (but we

think he was secretly pleased) when they named him as one of the "200 Washington's Elites" that were invited to the Auto Show's reception. Don admits he has always been a gearhead and noted, "I kept my mouth shut, head down, and enjoyed the free food and booze."

His first car was a brand new 1968 BMW 2002 that he purchased after his junior year at Stevens. He enjoyed entering this car in rallies of the Stevens Sports Car Club. Classmate Lee Holljes and Don won a two-day, 500-mile Super Rally just before graduating in 1969. He still has the windbreaker that he wore in this photo. (Don thinks it must have shrunk a lot over the years because he can get it on, but he can't get it zippered anymore!)

Don asks if anyone else has a car built in our graduation year? Please let us know if you have one and we will be sure to start a Class of 1969 sports car club!

Stu Ganslaw and his wife Donna celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in March. They have three children, all of whom are married, and by now have nine grandchildren.

(Ok, who can beat Stu for the most grandchildren award? A prize might be possible.)

Stu and Donna are taking all 17 of the immediate family on a cruise in August to celebrate their anniversary.

Florida residents that still have a home in the Hartford, Connecticut, area for the summer months, Stu still owns a manufacturing business in Massachusetts which his youngest son is now managing. He and his son have an agreement that he "works hard" and Stu "hardly works."

Sounds like a good deal to us.

Bob Eddy and his wife are enjoying retirement life after a 25-year career with Qualcomm. They currently spend half the year in San Diego during the winter and the other half of the year on their family farm in Washington state.

In between all the traveling they do, Bob has taken up choral singing as his newest pastime. This past December, Bob had the opportunity to sing as part of the 120-voice Pacific Coast Chorale backing up the great Andrea Bocelli on stage at the Pechanga Arena in San Diego.

Bob performs in various venues since his retirement, but this was definitely the highlight of his vocal avocation.

**Don't see your class log listed? Send an update to [alumni-log@stevens.edu](mailto:alumni-log@stevens.edu) or call 201-216 5161.**

This summer, Bob plans to hike 1,000 miles across France and Spain on the ancient pilgrimage route known as the Camino de Santiago (The Way of St. James). This will be his third time hiking portions of this route. Bob promises to share this amazing experience with those of us not known for walking 1,000 steps, let alone 1,000 miles, in future class logs after returning from his pilgrimage. — **Ed Eichhorn**, [ed.eichhorn@medilinkgroup.com](mailto:ed.eichhorn@medilinkgroup.com); **Gerry Crispin**, [gcrispin@careerroads.com](mailto:gcrispin@careerroads.com)

### Alumni Weekend Reunion 2020

*Editor's Note: Due to COVID-19, Alumni Weekend 2020 has been postponed to a future date. Please stay tuned for more details.*

**'70** February 21, 2020 — A few days after the last log was due, we received an email from Father Gabe Costa. He wanted to share three publications with us in which he was involved.

►Book: *Understanding Sabermetrics*, 2nd edition [with J T Saccoman (SIT M.S., Ph.D.) and M Huber] by McFarland, Summer 2019

►Chapter 24: "Babe Ruth: A Man of Simple Faith" in *The Babe* by the Society for American Baseball Research, Fall 2019

►Book: *Matrix Methods: Applied Linear Algebra and Sabermetrics*, 4 ed [with R Bronson (SIT B.S., M.S., Ph.D.)] by Elsevier, Spring 2020

Gabe can be reached at [gabriel.costa@westpoint.edu](mailto:gabriel.costa@westpoint.edu).

Lance Labun provided a picture which we did not publish in the last log. This picture is included with this log. He mentioned it was at least two years old and we hope he has not aged considerably so we can recognize him at our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.

Lance was able to contact Jim Fischbach, for whom we had incomplete contact information. Jim mentioned he still plays squash two to three times a week and works with Arizona Squash coaching underserved mid-city youth. Jim can be reached at [jcfisch500@msn.com](mailto:jcfisch500@msn.com).

Charlie Roswell, the most mature member of our class, was able to provide some missing contact information for Aaron Grosky. Charlie mentioned, "Yes, I am still working 180 days of the school year as a guardian. It has some stress associated with it. Never know when an incident might arise. But otherwise it is a good gig. I have tentative plans to attend our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion."

Charlie can be reached at charles.roswell@myoneclay.net.

Aaron and Devorah Grosky live in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania. Aaron mentioned he is still working for the FAA via Leidos (formerly Lockheed Martin): TBFM (Time Base Flow Management) — real-time scheduling of aircraft at merge points, including runway approaches. “I’m also playing and writing music for an amateur big band,” he said. Aaron can be reached at aige02@gmail.com.

Howie Brecher ran into Dave and Barbara Bencze at a Stevens alumni function in Florida. Unfortunately, they will not be attending our 50<sup>th</sup> as they will be in Norway. A picture of Dave and Barbara is included with this log.

Don (The Don) Soldiviero has offered to help with planning our reunion, as has Frank Malvezzi. Don wrote, “Tina and I visited the ground zero memorial site and it is amazing. You do not hear any traffic, just the water in the reflecting ponds. The museum is excellent. If you know any people that lost their lives, all the names are engraved around the reflecting pools. Middletown, New Jersey lost 38 people including three families in my development in Lincroft. My son, Michael, a mechanical engineer from Lafayette, works for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) and worked on the HVAC system for the memorial and the World Trade Center site. He has since moved over to Newark Airport. I also worked from 2001 to 2012 providing the engineering, construction and servicing of electric, gas and steam to the World Trade Center site and surrounding 300 blocks in lower Manhattan. My engineering/public improvement staff actu-

ally planned all the underground systems for Con Edison, New York. I had all the proper credentials to escort people on the site during construction but have lost contact. The PANYNJ is also out of the picture in controlling this now privately controlled site.”

Don can be reached at red-dog95@comcast.net.

Stay healthy and safe and I hope to see you all at our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion (date TBD). In an email from Jim Schneider five years ago, before he passed, when I reminded him of our upcoming 50<sup>th</sup>, he responded, “Our 50<sup>th</sup>? Oh, crap!” Plan on attending as you never know when we will be able to see each other again. — Eugene A.J. Golebiowski; [eagolebiowski@att.net](mailto:eagolebiowski@att.net)

**’71** February 2020 — Lee Kvidahl wrote that after 48 years of being involved in the shipbuilding industry, he has retired from Ingalls Shipbuilding located in Pascagoula, Mississippi. He says it was a great career providing many technical challenges while taking him to many interesting places around the world. In addition to working at the premier shipyard constructing U.S. Navy surface combat ships as the primary product, he was fortunate to have been selected to serve as the president of the American Welding Society. This volunteer position offered the opportunity to represent the organization in many forums both in the U.S. and internationally. The shipbuilding life has been very good to Lee and his family. Another significant blessing recently occurred with the birth of his first grandchild this past year. Much of his retired time with his wife Leslie is now spent keeping up with their very

active and curious little granddaughter and being involved in various volunteer activities.

Eileen and Jim Morris had a year of many highs and lows. Jim continues to fight off his breast cancer. Although it seemed to be in remission from his initial treatment, it has metastasized to his hip bone and he is now taking some new medications to deal with that. Eileen’s mother passed away (98), and she was playing executor, sorting out a lifetime of memories and finally selling the family house. The good news was that their daughter Christine did get a kidney transplant courtesy of son-in-law Eric, who donated his kidney to another recipient. She is now awaiting a pancreas transplant, which will hopefully eliminate the diabetes which was the cause of her problems. The four grandkids are growing up fast and are now from pre-K to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, keeping their parents busy running to soccer, gymnastics, etc. Eileen and Jim kid-sat in North Carolina for a few days so son Dan and his wife could attend the Ellen Degeneres Christmas show, pick up a bunch of really nice “presents” at the show and fit in some surfing lessons on the beach.

Sharon and Dan Bagnel welcomed their third grandchild, Nora Lynn, in July, joining older brother Henry, 3. Dan continues as building and grounds chairman at his church since his recent retirement left him without a major source of aggravation. To celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> birthdays, they headed west. After a few days in San Diego, it was off to Hawaii for a week in Waikiki Beach so Dan could relive his younger surfer dude days, a few days up to the Oahu north shore, and a week on the big island to explore Volcano National Park and some of the beautiful beaches. To readjust their biological clocks on their return from Hawaii, they spent a few days in Las Vegas before heading home. Summer was spent relaxing at home in Maryland with frequent day trips and entertaining their oldest granddaughter, Abigail, 11. The fall was a week in Myrtle Beach with Sharon’s brother and sister-in-law. Sharon remains active in their church, and is also homework assistant for Abigail, field trip assistant, and provides the frozen storage site for Abby’s insect collection.

Ginny and Paul Gaffney cranked up Da Bus for a February trip to Florida. Ginny then engaged in a painting war with the family room. She lost the first round to an injured back that eventually needed surgery. After fighting back and winning round two with a finished professional paint job without injury, it was time to head north to New



**1** Barbara and Dave Bencze '70, pictured, recently attended a Stevens alumni event in Florida, meeting up with Howie Becher '70. **2** Lance Labun '70 plans to attend the upcoming Class of 70 reunion.

England. They met up with daughter Elizabeth's family for a Red Sox game, then headed to Maine to see "Baa Haabaa," Acadia National Park and enjoy some "lobstaa." The trip included a stop in New York to see granddaughter Catie's band recital at her Carnegie Hall summer camp. The fall included a trip to Atlanta and tickets to the Georgia vs. Notre Dame football game, including RV tailgate parking rights. Their anniversary was celebrated with a trip to Emerald Isle, North Carolina.

It is now only a year until our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion — so write a note on your December 2020 calendar to reserve June 4-6, 2021 for our reunion. It will be great to see your old classmates and reminisce while most of us are still "young" enough to travel. — [William F. Stengle; wfs20hlm@aol.com](mailto:wfs20hlm@aol.com)

**'72** *Written by Enrique and George February 2020* — Fellow classmates: Well, gentlemen, I wish I could say spring is in the air, but I can't. I saw a few snowflakes this morning and walking at Stevens last night to see a musical performance with my winter coat reminded me of the cold winds we endured when we were young running from class to class. It feels colder now! What happened to global warming? Stop eliminating the cattle population. Let them continue to produce milk, meat and methane. Have you tasted that "impossible burger"? It's impossible to eat.

As I started to mention, last night I went to Stevens to attend a musical performance sponsored by the Stevens College of Arts and Letters — A Musical Journey with the Orient Express. What a fantastic journey through Europe with music. The DeBaun Theater has a very good program of music and shows, and it is small enough that you are always close to the performers. I encourage you to check the Stevens website and partake in this hidden gem. Alumni are always welcome, and the artists are exceptional.

One last item before I hand the pen over to George. Alumni Weekend 2020, which will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Alumni Weekend and Stevens' 150<sup>th</sup>, will be rescheduled soon. Make an effort to come, it's going to be fantastic.

Thanks Enrique!

**Christ Haritos** ([Haritos8@ptd.net](mailto:Haritos8@ptd.net)) writes, "I was getting around to reading an old alumni magazine when I realized that I should have sent you a card and a note as to what we've been doing."

Christ and Joanna live in beautiful Bushkill

Falls, Pennsylvania with their tween twins (say that five times fast!), Peter and Helen. Known for his love of traveling, Christ shared a partial list of the Haritos clan's recent itinerary, which included Washington D.C., New Hampshire, Boston, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Canada's Maritime provinces, Québec City, Montréal, Toronto, Thunder Bay, the Mall of America, Tuxedo, New York and Philadelphia. WOW!

Chris also mentioned, "I haven't crossed paths with anyone from '72 except for **Jim Geaneas**, who attends St. George's Orthodox Church in Ocean County, New Jersey, and is very active in church affairs. If we make another Canadian trip this summer, I'll look to see if I can visit **Tom Hahr**. He has a horse farm in Tully, New York. My daughter, Helen, loves animals and when I showed her Tom's Christmas card, she wanted to pet them." Christ, we hope Helen has fun at Tom's farm this summer. Thanks for writing!

We now leave you on a more somber note. Our last log mentioned the unexpected passing of **Alan Lewis**. **Mike Stegura** ([msteg@aol.com](mailto:msteg@aol.com)) writes, "With your encouragement, **John Gibbs** ([gibbsjj@yahoo.com](mailto:gibbsjj@yahoo.com)) and I have worked on the below memorial for Al. Most of this was John's words with a tweak or two from me."

"**Al Lewis**, fondly nicknamed Ace or Aceman by his Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity brothers, passed away on September 16, 2019, after a relatively short battle with brain cancer. John Gibbs, one of Al's fraternity brothers and roommates is ever so grateful that he was able to visit Al in hospice, where Al was surrounded by his loving family — his wife, Charlotte, his three children and their spouses, five of his seven grandchildren and his friends."

In John's words, "The personal bond that Al and I had created 50 years ago is noteworthy. It's not as if we had been particularly close since our graduation in 1972; I probably saw or spoke with him no more than five or six times before visiting him in hospice. We both went our separate ways, much of the time I was overseas; we were both busy working and raising our families. Yet, our personal bond remained strong. Truly remarkable in my mind. I don't remember a single argument or disagreement during our time together at Stevens, which is also noteworthy as Al and I came from completely different backgrounds. I attribute this to Al's easy-going manner. He wasn't even upset when I tricked him into painting our fraternity house room between 2 a.m. and 7 a.m. one night.

"His two passions were baseball and bridge. His passion for baseball, I remember. Al would often be found watching some baseball game on TV in the fraternity house's chapter room. About two months before his passing, Al drove cross-country from his home in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, to visit the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, and to visit yet another baseball field, his 17<sup>th</sup>, I think. His objective in retirement was to visit all 60 major and Triple-A baseball fields. On his way home from Cooperstown, he stopped off for a visit with Mike Stegura, another close fraternity brother, and Mike's wife, Halyna, in Macungie, Pennsylvania.

"At Al's memorial dinner, Al's family and I wore custom-made baseball T-shirts; mine had 'Lewis' written on the front and 'Ace 51' on the back. From the many pictures at his memorial service and the conversations that I had with family members, it is clear that Al did indeed live a fulfilling life with his family and friends.

"Al was a master at using his manual slide rule to solve complicated math problems with three significant figure accuracy. Time and distance often create barriers but the brotherly love between friends that we first experienced at Stevens lasts forever. Rest in peace, Al." Mike and John, Thanks to you both for sharing.

All, please keep sending us your updates and messages. We appreciate hearing from you. See you at Alumni Weekend. — [George W. Johnston, gwjohnstonjr@msn.com](mailto:George W. Johnston, gwjohnstonjr@msn.com); [Pres. Enrique L. Blanco, elbmcb@optonline.net](mailto:Pres. Enrique L. Blanco, elbmcb@optonline.net)

**'73** *February 2020* — We heard recently from **Larry DeRose**, who wrote, "... after having my own engineering practice for 35 years, I sold it. I stayed on with the buyer to see how well I would enjoy the corporate life which, to my amazement, has been a good decision. I had nothing compelling me to retire so trying the executive level in a major corporation was a career adventure. Now it has been five years since the sale of my firm, and I am still enjoying working with one of the biggest firms. I find that I reflect on my college days with great fondness and miss those times with my friends and classmates."

We spoke with **Rich Cornell** who reports that he is still riding his bike 25 miles each weekend through the towns surrounding Livingston, New Jersey, and is chair of the Livingston Trails and Greenways Committee. The committee has set up a canoe/kayak launch site on the Passaic

River and is planning on a series of trips this summer. The committee's long-term goal is a connected biking, hiking and walking trail around Livingston. Rich has taken "retired" in a different direction, as he has started his own business. Rich has, indeed, taken his interest and advanced degree in economics and his career's worth of experience in multiple industries and is developing a labor exchange application — Systems for Human Action — you can see it at <https://sfhax.org/>. From his site: "Employers need an educated and trained flexible work force that doesn't create long term liabilities. Employees need control over their schedule and benefits, and a method to determine where to spend their resources acquiring education and training. Both need to find each other quickly and efficiently." Rich has an interesting take on who can utilize this, from a homeowner in need of a gardener, to a group of lawyers. The system is also designed for volunteer workers. Good luck, Rich!

Tony Callendrello reports that he is the proud grandfather of Clara Anne Callendrello, born on Dec. 23, 2019, to his son Casey and his wife Molly, who are currently living in Berlin, Germany.

Jim Wallin gave us a two-year update, and said the following... "In May 2018, my daughter

Jamie married Drew Senko. The wedding was at Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, a lovely country church in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. Jamie looked beautiful and Drew was very handsome. A reception followed at a nearby facility with a dining hall overlooking a lake. The wedding was the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend. The only downside was the heat! It was 80 degrees that day, with no air conditioning. In spite of the heat, it was a wonderful event. It seemed a good time was had by all. The speeches were heartfelt. The groom gave an especially poignant talk about their relationship and his dedication to it. They were then fortunate to honeymoon in Italy for a few weeks. Jamie and Drew started their married life in a rented house in southern New Jersey. Drew works for a large publishing house just outside of Philadelphia. He is a production editor for several medical journals. Jamie switched employers to DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware. She is a corporate internal auditor.

"For their first anniversary, they moved to Durham, North Carolina. They wanted to escape the hectic pace and cost of New Jersey. Durham is in the Research Triangle in the Raleigh area. There are many local universities with music and arts and activities and a lot of New Jersey-

ites. They are satisfied with the local culture so far. Presently, they are looking for a house. I have been working for the Picatinny Arsenal in Rockaway, New Jersey, having started there in 2006. It has been quite an experience to learn about the soldier's world. So far, it has been good to me. The commute is only about 15 minutes on back roads, so you can't beat that. I plan to keep at it for a while longer. My wife, Jude, remains at the local elementary school. She is now in charge of the office. She seems to enjoy the kids and has friends at work, but I don't envy her having to deal with all the parents and the bureaucracy."

On a sadder note, Jim reported that his 98-year-old mother, Rachel, passed away on Jan. 12, 2020. This from Jim, "she led a full and joyous life, made people smile and made you laugh. Her actions taught her sons — and anyone who knew her — how important it was to care for others and to work at making the world a better place." — Anthony Callendrello, [acallendrello@comcast.net](mailto:acallendrello@comcast.net); Francis L. Vastano, [fvastano@comcast.net](mailto:fvastano@comcast.net)

Don't see your class log listed? Send an update to [alumni-log@stevens.edu](mailto:alumni-log@stevens.edu) or call 201-216 5161.

# CREATE YOUR Legacy

"Vivian was a gifted woman with a multitude of engineering and executive accomplishments. She had a pioneering spirit and successfully broke glass ceilings. She would be happy to see that her generosity will support students pursuing higher education in technological fields."

— Pat Schneider, Vivian's longtime friend

Vivian A. Carr, Hon. M.E. '81

After breaking ground for women in radio, the late Vivian Carr left a generous bequest for Stevens Institute of Technology to support today's students. Vivian was a trailblazing philanthropist. She was the first female officer of the Radio Club of America, and a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the New York Engineers Club. Vivian's legacy gift to Stevens will fund scholarships for the next generation of students who, like Vivian, will blaze trails and make the world a better place.

To learn more about Vivian's inspiring life and legacy, visit: ► [power.stevens.edu](http://power.stevens.edu)

For answers to your estate planning questions and information about gift planning for Stevens, contact:

**Michael Governor**  
Director of Planned Giving  
**201.216.8967**  
[Michael.Governor@stevens.edu](mailto:Michael.Governor@stevens.edu)

To join the Stevens Legacy Society, visit: ► [stevens.giftplans.org/Join](http://stevens.giftplans.org/Join)



**'74** February 2020 — The Stevens74 Facebook group is ready. Please send me an email and I will send the link. It will be a closed group, by invitation only for us.

A mini-reunion picture in Philadelphia, to run next time, was sent by **Greg Gemgnani**:

“Two percent of our graduating class: Neil Dorans, Greg Gemgnani, Phil Vitale and Luis Gastaldi, and the ladies in our lives (plus one grandchild), dining at Rione in Philadelphia, *Philadelphia Magazine's* ‘Best Pizza in Philadelphia 2018.’”

Still reminiscing about our 45<sup>th</sup> reunion last year? Still regretting missing it? Take heart, we can get together in Hoboken for our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion this year...the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of our first meeting. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stevens began our time together, and now we can return to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> with all the pomp, circumstance and memories Stevens can muster. And in case our memories are not what they used to be...

In 1970, you know you were a Class of '74 student, if...

- ▶ You remember price shopping for ramen noodles.
- ▶ You lived in a frat house with three couches, none of which matched.
- ▶ You have ever written a check for 50 cents.
- ▶ You began to build a tolerance for a special beverage.
- ▶ You started your fine collection of beer bottles.
- ▶ You averaged less than three hours of sleep a night or ever saw two consecutive sunrises without sleeping.
- ▶ You took the Ho Chi Minh Trail to the S.S. *Stevens*.
- ▶ Your social life consisted of a date with the Williams Library.
- ▶ You could sleep through your roommate's blaring stereo in a dorm room that was smaller than a prison cell.
- ▶ Your most exciting start to the morning was getting back the rejected punch cards from the PDP-11.
- ▶ Fifty years later, there are signs You're No Longer...Longer...Longer...Longer a student...
- ▶ Recent pictures of your college buddies have you saying, “Who the #&%@ is that?”
- ▶ You've added wine, scotch, and martinis to your diet instead of just beer, beer and beer.
- ▶ Naps are an essential part of the day.
- ▶ Your grocery lists include a lot less ramen and a lot more bran.
- ▶ You leave parties because you have a busy day tomorrow, not because the EMS guy has

strapped you down.

▶ Good decisions come from experience, and experience comes from bad decisions. (Brown) That's progress!

Hope to see you at Alumni Weekend, date to be announced. — **Gary A. Jung, Classof1974@alumni.stevens.edu**

### Alumni Weekend Reunion 2020

*Editor's Note: Due to COVID-19, Alumni Weekend 2020 has been postponed to a future date. Please stay tuned for more details.*

**'75** February 2020 — Dear Class, in this *Indicator* we are very happy to receive news from **Jim Tosone** and **Dr. Jerry Granato** along with an update on reunion day/Alumni Weekend, and the status on our class endowment. We hope you are all well as we enter the new decade, and we hope to see as many of you as possible for our 45<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2020. In the meantime, we'd love to hear any news from you to share with our class in the next edition of *The Indicator*.

Planning for our 45<sup>th</sup> reunion has kicked off! Already, a number of our classmates have responded and are looking forward to joining the celebrations on the Stevens campus. Please watch for future announcements, as our reunion will be rescheduled soon.

Let us know which events you plan to attend to reserve space for you. Watch for more details soon. We look forward to seeing you on campus in the near future!

In July 2020, Jim Tosone will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishing Tosone Associates LLC and creating the Improv Means Business program. Jim's workshops help organizations enhance their innovation, collaboration, communication and agility capabilities using the principles and techniques of applied improvisation. Last year, Jim became active in the New Jersey Chapter of the American Foundation

for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). The grassroots work of the AFSP focuses on eliminating the loss of life from suicide by delivering innovative prevention programs, educating the public about risk factors and warning signs, raising funds for suicide research and programs, and reaching out to those individuals who have lost someone to suicide. Jim was part of the planning committee that organized the 2019 Bergen County Walk Out of the Darkness. More than 1,100 walkers and volunteers came out for the event, which raised over \$150,000.

Dr. Jerome Granato, Jerry as we know him, has decided to retire from CommonSpirit Health, Cardiovascular Service Line. Jerry has been a practicing physician, academician, consultant and senior executive. He began his career as an interventional cardiologist in Pittsburgh and was consistently recognized as one of the best cardiologists in the country. Jerry has always been passionate about improving quality of care and increasing efficiency and spearheaded efforts to reduce harm and establish and adhere to evidence-based practices. He is frequently approached within the industry for his expertise, advising on product development and marketing. The recent and most impressive highlight of his legacy is the creation and maturation of the national Cardiovascular Service Line (CVSL) at Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) and now CommonSpirit Health. He joined CHI in 2013 and as a system vice president. He designed, established and led the CVSL that oversaw the delivery of 9,000 open-heart surgical procedures, 16,000 coronary interventions and 5,000 rhythm management device implantations. Under his leadership, the CVSL has a long list of major accomplishments: improvement of clinical outcomes, reduction of complications, introduction of new technologies and reduction of supply and pharmaceutical costs.

Perhaps his greatest and enduring contribution is bringing together and creating a sense of community among diverse cardiovascular



Stevens men's fencing alumni gathered for a Christmas party last year attended by, among others, Robert Wu '76, standing, far left; Peter LaChance '81, standing, second from right, and Robert's son Jameson, seated far left. **At right:** James on Wu with Lou Esposito '77.





providers. His advocacy for clinicians, inclusive organizational structure and cultivation of leaders are the foundation of the success of the CVSL and sets the standard for CommonSpirit Health.

Regarding our Class of 1975 Scholarship Funds, Stevens has released the annual financial report for FY2019 (7/01/2018 through 6/30/2019) and it follows:

**Class of 1975 Endowment Account:**

Cumulative Gift Total on 6/30/2018: ..... \$49,730  
 Balance as of 7/01/2018:..... \$55,207  
 FY2019 New Gifts Received: .....\$8,135  
 FY2019 Return on Investment: .....\$5,426  
 FY2019 Funds Distributed: .....\$0  
 Balance as of 6/30/2019: .....\$68,768.

**And for the Class of 1975 Term Account:**

Balance as of 7/01/2018:.....\$375  
 FY2019 New Gifts Received: .....\$175  
 FY2019 Other Income Received: .....\$0  
 FY2019 Funds Distributed: .....(\$0)  
 Balance as of 6/30/2019: ..... \$550.

With cumulative gifts totaling over \$57,865, we continue closing in on the \$75,000 goal needed to start disbursing our class' endowed funds as scholarship gifts. Once this level is achieved, we can enjoy reading about the worthy student recipients in future class logs. When you make your donations to Stevens, please consider the Class of 1975 Endowed Scholarship Fund. The \$550 balance in the term account is available for distribution in 2019-2020. — **Harold J. MacArthur, Jr.**, [harrymac@comcast.net](mailto:harrymac@comcast.net); **Joseph A. Krieger**, [joe.krieger.75@gmail.com](mailto:joe.krieger.75@gmail.com)

**'76** February 2020 — My threat of sharing my family Christmas photo and news of myself unless I received some log submissions worked. Here are three from never-before submitters... based on my faulty memory, at least.

**Dave Osage**, our class VP, reported he is living in Shaker Heights, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, for the last 30 years. "President/CEO of The Equity Engineering Group, formed in 2002. I changed the company to 100% employee-owned ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) in 2012. Growth has been rapid and enjoying work, no plans for retirement right now. Along with management, I still do technical work and training. I have done a lot of work with ASME in developing codes and standards for pressure vessels and



Tom Cellucci '76, second from right, and his family at tend the wedding of his daughter. Hear more from Tom in the '76 log.

was honored to be named an ASME Fellow. Before I retire, I want to leave the company in a strong position. Even after retirement, suspect I will work a few days a week because I enjoy the technical work and training."

Dave continues, "I have four horses and started to learn to ride about seven years ago and really enjoy it, both riding and caring for the horses. Have a 26-year-old dressage trainer who really pushes me, I think she wants me to compete in dressage, but cannot see me in an English riding outfit. My vacation home is on the horse farm, so I spend a lot of time there. Claudia and I are like the old sitcom *Green Acres*; she enjoys the city, does a lot of volunteer work and is a docent for the Cleveland Art Museum. Claudia developed an acclaimed program at the museum, "Art in The Afternoon," for Alzheimer's patients. I prefer the country life with the horses. We commute between our two homes, about 40 miles apart."

**David E. Geiger** also checked in. "I am retired but busy. Worked for Con Ed in part for 20 years as an electrical engineer and project manager, where we won some awards. Working on developing my artistic skills now. Married — third time. (Third time is the charm.) Three adult children. Author of the book: *In the Matter of Edwin Potter: Mental Illness and Criminal Justice Reform*, which was released in November 2016. It is available on Amazon or through my website at [www.davidegeiger.com](http://www.davidegeiger.com). Contributor of ideas to the Prisoner Re-entry Institute, a research arm of John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City regarding criminal justice reform. Asked by the Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America to be a panelist regarding reclassification of schizophrenia. Symposium was set for late March in Hollywood, Florida. SARDAA CEO is nice enough to fly me down there and pay for a place to sleep. They work with the CDC, NIMH, SAMHSA and the like and asked me to write a

blog for them that I have been doing for the past year. There is more, but I will not go into it here." David finishes up with him having joined Mensa in September 1989.

**Tom Cellucci** also provided an update, with words of encouragement to the rest of you for future issues. "I definitely scan *The Indicator's* 1976 log, every publication, to see where we have all ended up. Currently, I reside in upstate New York, with my lovely wife Katherine and stepson Aden, with four cats, two dogs and other random animals. My daughter was recently married and is carrying on the family tradition of systems engineering, working for the company I retired from, Perspecta (formerly Vencore/SI Org/Lockheed Martin). I'm currently retired and loving every second of it, having plenty to do up here way out in the country. Hope all is well with the rest of my PSK fraternity brothers and classmates."

**Robert Wu** also sent an update...he was busy. "I attended the 43<sup>rd</sup> Stevens fencing alumni meet on Dec. 7, 2019, as I am the alumni varsity fencing captain '76 and men's varsity coach 1990 - 1994. Also attended the alumni Christmas after-party at Arthur's with **George Bonicci '59**, **Lou Esposito '77**, **Peter LaChance '81** and **Jameson Wu '29!** I also attended Oliver Liu's (first grandson of **Paul Liu**) 100<sup>th</sup> day celebration on Jan. 11, 2020. Also in attendance was **Jack Gong '77**. Paul's son, **Peter**, is currently at Stevens Class of '22.

**Tom Errington**, our class president, and **Ed Gallagher** also weighed in but since we were already running over on allowable word count, you will have to wait until next issue for their updates (and pictures). The suspense builds!!!!

Let me (Frank) close with thanks and appreciation to the submitters, and a request for a few more next issue, please. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alumni Weekend will be rescheduled soon but we look forward to **Alumni Weekend 2021**, which

will be our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Please seriously consider attending. It would be great to see as many of you as possible. We will remind you as it gets closer. —**Frank Roberto**, [frankroberto76@gmail.com](mailto:frankroberto76@gmail.com); **Thomas F. Errington**, [classof1976news@live.com](mailto:classof1976news@live.com), <http://www.tech76.org>

**'78** February 2020 — I have been in touch with **Emilio Docimo** via LinkedIn for the past several years. He recently sent me a brief update on what he has been up to since graduation:

"After college I started working in northern New Jersey for Singer Kearfott (now Kearfott Guidance and Navigation), but I only stayed for nine months. After that I moved to Connecticut and worked for Avco Lycoming (later to become Textron Lycoming) for about five and a half years. I worked as a project engineer on the AGT1500 turbine engine for Abrams Tank. (About ten years after I left Textron Lycoming, it became Allied Signal in Arizona and then Honeywell.)

"In late 1986, I started working for Pratt & Whitney Commercial Engines in East Hartford, Connecticut, as a product engineer. Pratt & Whitney makes turbine engines for commercial airliners.

"I have been in that same department for more than 34 years but doing very different jobs. I even tried being a supervisor for several years. Now I'm back to being responsible for engine

parts. My department is on call 24 hours a day, every day, to handle tough problems. It's a very interesting job, and I am planning to keep going until I decide to retire. I have been married to a very sweet woman named Kathy for over 30 years and life is good."

Great to hear from you, Emilio, and thanks for the update.

In early October, I had the opportunity to get together with former Stevens baseball coach Wally Whittaker and current baseball coach Kristaps Aldins. Coach Whittaker and his wife, Peg, have lived in Arizona for many years. Coach Aldins was in town to attend the Arizona Senior Fall Classic, a showcase for high school senior baseball players. The Classic is attended by representatives of almost 300 colleges and universities, as well as all of the Major League Baseball teams. It's a chance for the various schools to meet and speak with student-athletes and tell them about the merits of their school and athletic programs. We had lunch together, and Coach Whittaker and Coach Aldins shared notes on sports at Stevens. While a lot has clearly changed, it sounded like a lot has stayed the same. After lunch, we went across the street to watch a few innings of an Arizona Fall Ball baseball game. It was a great afternoon, and I am grateful to Coach Aldins for taking the time to get together with us. He is clearly a passionate, dedicated advocate for Stevens!

I'm always looking for news from any of our classmates, especially as we are approaching (or passing) retirement. Please send me anything you're comfortable sharing.

One of the best parts about being class secretary is opening my email box in the morning and finding a message from one of our classmates. In November, I received this from **Harold Havlik**:

"Aracaju, Sergipe, Brasil, 5<sup>th</sup> of November of 2019.

"Nice reading about the Class of 1978 in *The Stevens Indicator*... wow, Class of 1978, A lot of time under that bridge.

"Since then, I got married, I got a couple of stepsons, we had a son, I widowed. I/We have gone to South America, North America, Europe, Africa and Asia; perhaps I will not see Australia and Antarctica.

"Since then, I/We have lived in the south, north and northeast of Brasil, in the east and center of France, and in the south and northeast of the United States, too.

"All three sons are grown, no grandchildren yet, if ever in this troubled world. I have worked for 20-odd years for Rhodia/Rhone Poulenc/Aventis, in Brasil and France, going from junior engineer, to startup, process, production and plant manager. I have also tried my luck also as an entrepreneur in the Gulf Coast. Since Stevens, I got an MBA in leadership and Six Sigma from Grand Canyon University in 2006, a certified accounting degree in Aracaju in 2016, and I am currently at veterinary school at the State University in Aracaju (going on the third year).

"During all this time, I have encountered only **Miguel Cervoni** in Salvador, Bahia, Brasil in the early 1980s and **Steven Zell** in Lyon, France, in the late 1980s. Perhaps I have crossed some alumni in all these years, since I travel a little bit and lately to the USA and France at least once a year.

"Jan (born in 1989) is a lawyer here in Aracaju, Damian (born in 1977) is a dentist in the Reunion and Mauritius islands, and Gabriel (born in 1975) has a degree in hotel and restaurant management, earned in France, and lives in Salvador, Bahia, Brasil.

"Ok, I got to go, I have to study, vet school is really hard ... Best Regards, Harold Jacques Havlik; 55 79 9 9879 2300." — **John T. Jarboe**, [jjarboe1@comcast.net](mailto:jjarboe1@comcast.net)

**'79** Guest Log from **Evelyn Skienzziel** February 10, 2020 — It is hard to believe that it has been

at least 40 years since both **Vic '80** and I have graduated from Stevens. Where did the time go? Although we were at Stevens at the same time, it wasn't until we both were working at the former ITT in Clifton, New Jersey (now L3Harris) that we met. We will be celebrating our ten-year wedding anniversary this coming May.

Vic was working as a senior staff engineer and I was a senior software quality assurance engineer. Three years ago, we were both lucky enough to be able to take early retirement and have not looked back.

Shortly after retiring, we took a cross-country road trip to visit our niece and her two little boys in Colorado. On our return trip, we met up with Vic's former roommate, **Tom Novak '80**. We spent a lovely couple of days in Tennessee with Tom and his wife, Kathy.



John Jarboe '78, right, met up with former Stevens baseball coach Wally Whittaker, center, and current baseball coach Kristaps "Taps" Aldins this past winter in Arizona. The trio took in a few innings of an Arizona Fall Ball baseball game.

Recently, after some detective work, Vic's classmate **John De la Rosa '80** tracked him down and we had a nice lunch with John and his wife, Angela. It was fun reminiscing and catching up with an old friend.

I am still involved with Babe Ruth Baseball (a program for kids 8-18) as an assistant regional commissioner. Vic accompanies me to meetings and tournaments. Last April, I was lucky enough to be inducted into their hall of fame. The ceremony was held in the plaque rotunda at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Retirement is great and while we miss our coworkers, we don't miss the daily stress of meeting deadlines. We enjoy travelling when we can, taking long walks, and visiting with family and friends. Here's wishing health and happiness to our former classmates. — **Pres. Dolores M. La Marca Wagoner**, [Dolores.wagoner@pfizer.com](mailto:Dolores.wagoner@pfizer.com); **V.P. Mary M. Lemanowicz Palilonis**, [mpalilonis@peddie.org](mailto:mpalilonis@peddie.org)

#### Alumni Weekend Reunion 2020

*Editor's Note: Due to COVID-19, Alumni Weekend 2020 has been postponed to a future date. Please stay tuned for more details.*

**'80** February 2020 — Thanks to some of the women in our class (come on, guys — you totally outnumbered us!), I do have some class news and updates to share...

It was so nice to hear from **Janise Baldo** after all of these years! Janise writes, "I moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1989 with my ex-husband. I have been with my fiancé, Alan, for about 15 months (wedding if and when conditions are right, so nothing in the near future). In October 2018, I retired from Sandia National Laboratories, where I was an environment, safety and health professional. I was awarded the certified safety professional credential in 2012.

"I became an Albuquerque area master gardener last year (Alan is a professional horticulturist and completed the program 20-something years ago). We just got back from a great trip to Hawaii, where we enjoyed fresh seafood, the ocean and amazing tropical plants. We visited the Hawaii Tropical Botanic Garden near Hilo, Hawaii. We also attended the Rolling Stones concert in Glendale, Arizona, last August." Janise sent me a great photo of her and her fiancé on

their last visit to New Jersey last August, but I'm not sure that the photo is high enough resolution to be used in *The Indicator*.

Thanks to Katy, I also am able to share the following from **Susan Geraldi Francomano** with you... "I can't believe our 40<sup>th</sup> is 'around the corner.' Wow! Seems like yesterday we were freshmen. Here is a short summary of what the Francomanos have been up to the last few years. This past summer, Joe and I moved into the house where I grew up in Palisades, New York. We are enjoying being 'empty nesters' with both our children living on their own. Our daughter Kristen married Ruben Bustillos on September 2, 2017 in a beautiful setting along the Hudson River in Piermont, New York. After their honeymoon in Italy, they began their 'journey' living in Barcelona, Spain. They are now living in Berlin, Germany, working for an online banking company. Our son Joey, who has special needs, just moved into a group residence nearby us in New City, New York. He lives with seven other young men and is having a great time. He attends a daytime program and works in a paint store. He spends his free time seeing movies, eating out, playing basketball, baseball, soccer and bowling. I have a great job teaching adults all high school subjects so they can prepare for their GED exam. It is very rewarding work. Joe is working at Columbia University Medical Center in New York. He works in the facilities department in capital projects management. He is looking to retire in three years. Since Kristen's wedding, we have enjoyed traveling to Barcelona, Spain, Milan, Venice, Florence, Pisa, Sienna, San Gimignano, and of course Rome, Italy, and a tour of the beautiful island of Ireland."

I also heard from my very first Stevens roommate, **Helaine Horowitz Cuddy**, who sent in a lovely photo of her and **Kathie Holt Blyskal** from Helaine's daughter's wedding. Again, I'm hoping that the photo is high enough resolution to be included as part of this article.

Thank you, Janise, Susan, and Helaine for your input!

It's really hard to believe that 40 years ago, we were all making graduation plans and accepting job offers... it certainly doesn't seem like that long ago! Please come and celebrate with classmates and others on Alumni Weekend, with a new date to be announced. We've been working hard to truly make this the best reunion yet. We hope to have private events for our class, as well as the special events for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary



Joe and Susan Geraldi Francomano '80 celebrate the wedding of their daughter Kristen to Ruben Bustillos in Piermont, New York.

of Stevens. Please join our "Stevens Institute of Technology Class of '80" Facebook page, where the most current reunion details will be shared. Also, if you have any ideas or suggestions for the weekend, please get in touch with Katy at [ktnjx@aol.com](mailto:ktnjx@aol.com). We really do hope to see the majority of you at some point during the weekend! Please also remember to make a contribution toward our class scholarship; every contribution no matter how large or small makes a big difference!

Take care and keep in touch! I look forward to seeing you at the reunion! — **Kathy M. Burkholder McCarthy**, [kathybmccarthy@hotmail.com](mailto:kathybmccarthy@hotmail.com)

**'81** March 6, 2020 — As we roll into spring and summer with this publication, we hope that this finds you safe and well. With all of the political, economic, health and severe weather challenges we've experienced nationally and globally these past few months, we certainly could use a break on at least one or two of these "fronts"!

As you read *The Indicator* articles, we hope you take note of the 150<sup>th</sup> Stevens anniversary stories and events taking place. If you get a chance, visit the website, [stevens150.com](http://stevens150.com), and browse the various areas of interest. One old tradition that caught my eye was the calculus cremation ceremony created by the Class of 1890. But beyond the hazing and the hijinks, there are some very interesting stories shared from the archives as well as those of living alumni. They are well worth a few minutes of your time, and, who knows, might even inspire you to share a story or two yourselves.

By now you've probably already been notified

of the class officer elections which take place every five years, thanks to the revitalized bylaws and SAA governance. **Tony Bazzini** and I agreed to serve in class president and vice president roles, respectively — that is, if you'll allow us — and **Gloria Ron-Fornes** agreed to be placed on the ballot for class secretary. Together, we hope to serve you for the next few years, but we could always use help! And although I probably won't be able to make it to Hoboken for the Alumni Weekend bash this year, I am tentatively planning on attending our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend in June of 2021. We hope we see many of you there as Stevens completes its sesquicentennial party!

If you do happen to make it to campus this year, make sure Gloria, Tony, or yours truly get the pictures and stories, so we can post them in these columns to share. Have a great summer!

Gloria Ron-Fornes (hopefully our next class secretary!) also just sent me a picture showing what fun she and her husband Hugo had at the 150<sup>th</sup> kickoff celebration on campus; it will appear in a future issue. — **David L. Ritter**, [texritter58@gmail.com](mailto:texritter58@gmail.com)

**'84** February 2020 — Hi Class-mates, **Ken Venner** sent in an update from California. "Graduated from Stevens, then went to Carnegie Mellon University for grad school, AT&T Bell Labs/Lucent Tech for my first real job. Met and married my beautiful wife Debbie in New Hampshire, then moved to New Jersey for AT&T. Moved to Chicago, Illinois for my first CIO position within the Rockwell family. Moved to California in 2000 to join Broadcom. Was blessed to be able to create my passion business, Attune Wines, in 2010. Joined SpaceX in 2012. Expanded the winery business, merging with Auteur Wines in 2018. Joined Peak6 in 2018. We have no kids, I love to work and we love to travel. We get to see Dad (**Ed Venner '56**) in Costa Rica at least once per year. Truly enjoying the California lifestyle."

**Mike Mullins** sent in the correct answer to the trivia question about which New York Met won the most victories as a left hander: hall of famer Warren Spahn. Mike won a week-long trip to Ireland for him and his family as he is a purebred Irish American. **Frank Petrucci** was a close second again and won two tickets to a Mets game.

Mike wrote in with an update too: "I grew up a huge New York Rangers fan, followed by Yankees and Giants in priority. I was at the NY Rangers

parade in Manhattan on June 17, 1994 after they won the Stanley Cup. I was also at the legendary Yankee game against the Red Sox when Derek Jeter dove into the stands to catch a foul ball and came out bruised and bleeding.

"In high school wrestling, one of my opponents was **TJ Hargrave**, who also went to Stevens in our Class of 1984. We became fast friends because we knew each other and both joined Chi Phi. TJ left Stevens after our freshman year and went on to a great career in the financial world. He worked his way up to vice president at Cantor Fitzgerald and was tragically killed on 9/11 in the World Trade Center terrorist attack. Chi Phi dedicated a memorial plaque to him at 801 Hudson Street shortly afterwards. TJ was a very special guy, and most of our Stevens classmates probably have no idea that he was a child actor, appearing on *Guiding Light*, a soap opera in the 70s, and also in a 70s era children's movie called *The Prince of Central Park*. It featured Ruth Gordon, and Brooke Shields was also in the film with TJ. Google him. TJ was also in many TV commercials.

"Since graduation I have been working diligently as a mechanical engineer in northern New Jersey and wanted to shout out to my former roommate and frat bro Ken Venner and congratulate him on a very successful career as, amongst other things, CIO of SpaceX! I have also enjoyed coaching ice hockey and roller hockey for my son's teams for many years in our town's recreational and county leagues."

Some have complained about the trivia questions being hard so here is an easy one.

Which sports figure's nickname is Tom Terrific?

- A) Tom Brady - Quarterback of the New England Patriots, winner of six Super Bowls
- B) Tom Hanks - American actor and filmmaker who won two best actor awards for *Forrest Gump* and *Philadelphia*.

C) Tom Petty - American singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, record producer, actor and member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

D) George Seaver - A Californian winemaker who produces about 500 Cabernet Sauvignon cases per year. — **Robert P. Confrancisco**, [rconfrancisco@gmail.com](mailto:rconfrancisco@gmail.com); **Carol A. Donohue**, [carol.donohue@alumni.stevens.edu](mailto:carol.donohue@alumni.stevens.edu)

### Alumni Weekend Reunion 2020

*Editor's Note: Due to COVID-19, Alumni Weekend 2020 has been postponed to a future date. Please stay tuned for more details.*

**'85** February 2020 — Big reunion year! If you plan on attending the reunion or just want to be added to the email list, please send me your email!

An update from **Liz (Lam) Urbano**: "Our older son, Michael, is currently a sophomore at Fairfield University School of Nursing & Health Studies in Fairfield, Connecticut. He is a nursing major. In October 2019, Michael participated in the school's white coat ceremony. This is when the sophomore nursing students (Class of 2022) officially marked their entrance into clinical practice.

"Our younger son, Matthew, is a junior in high school. In May 2019, he received the sacrament of Confirmation at our church, and in June 2019 he passed his road test and got his driver's license. He is thinking of majoring in engineering but is currently undecided as to his specific major.

"My husband, John, continues to work at MIT Lincoln Laboratory. I am still a stay-at-home mom. We are still living in Stow, Massachusetts."

Here's news from **Phyllis Doig**: "I decided that this would be the year to travel and visit friends, and I ended up having the adventure of a lifetime! Most were people I hosted as part of the Hubert

Gathering for a reception following a holiday concert by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra on campus last December, from left, are **Bill McGrath '83**, **Marilyn Hayden** and her husband **John Tracy M.M.S. '65**.



**1** Liz (Lam) Urbano '85 gathers with her family last summer, from left: her son Michael, Liz, husband John and son Matthew. **2** Phyllis Doig '85, third from left, traveled the world last year to visit friends, with a stop in Fiji and Bau Island. Read more about her adventures in the '85 log.



Humphrey Fellowship; others were a former colleague at EMC, a pen pal from my junior high school days, a college friend (Karen Leigh Skelton, some of you may remember as the Dundee exchange student at Stevens), and a Scottish rock band called Runrig who retired last year.

"I started and ended the trip with archipelagos: Fiji in the South Pacific and then Uist in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. In between were Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, France, Belgium, England, and Scotland. You can read my travel journal and see more photos on [www.phyllisworldtraveler.com](http://www.phyllisworldtraveler.com)."

And to describe her picture with this log: "My Humphreys Fellow Isikelly and his family in Fiji gave me a tour of Bau Island, which has a tremendous amount of history and only certain families can live there. Queen Elizabeth toured in 1982, and I signed the same guestbook at a church on that island. It is traditional on special occasions for a family to wear clothing made from the same fabric called tapa (tree bark); the dress I'm wearing was handmade for me by someone who never met me in person — yet it fit perfectly! This same family also took me on a road trip circling the entire main island called Viti Levu. Fun fact: between California, Fiji and Republic of Korea, I was on two flight segments that took me over water for 22 hours!" — [Ellen Cronan, ecronana@yahoo.com](mailto:ecronana@yahoo.com)

**'86** February 2020 — Hello '86ers — Here's a sunny letter from Hoi Young:

"Aloha! Thanks so much for reaching out to me! It's been a long time! I don't think I've ever provided an update to *The Stevens Indicator*, especially since we have moved so many times across the country! Therefore, here's a perfect time to provide an update! Hopefully, this is still in time to meet your deadline!

"My wife and I now live in Honolulu, Hawaii! We've been here since October 2017 and are still loving it! We simply had had enough of Silicon

Valley/Bay Area and the timing was right. We purchased a condo in the heart of Honolulu (just on the outskirts of Waikiki) in 2018 so, hopefully, we should be here for a while (barring any unforeseen events)! I can only describe living here as having a big city vibe but with a small-town feel. It really is true that everyone knows everyone!

"While it can get overwhelmingly crowded in downtown Waikiki during the peak season, most times it's reasonable and it's fun to go there! However, we stay mostly out of the tourist areas. We're really trying to get local! I'm currently semi-retired so I'm enjoying my free time! However, I'm planning on supporting the upcoming 2020 Census project for Hawaii which should be a lot of fun! If you visit the islands in the future, please look me up! Aloha! Hoi."

Congrats to Denise Uminski — "I officially retire from Prudential in just two weeks! (2/20/20) I've worked for Prudential in the information technology areas for 34 years. I am very excited to begin a new phase of life with early retirement! I hope all is going well for you. I plan to be at the Stevens reunion this year."

Joan Lerner Wendland is also semi-retired. Here's a creative update: "Debi, good to hear from you! Your note is timely because I've just had a major life change. Three weeks ago I retired from engineering to dedicate my time to running my game business (Blood & Cardstock Games) and write novels. I have two ebooks up on Amazon right now, with a third off at the copy editor. So that third book should be available for download next month. I've written over 22 thousand words in the last three weeks, so I'm expecting to put a second book out this year. So far retirement is really agreeing with me!"

And here's an update from Armando Martinez: "I retired fairly recently (Oct. 2019) and, honestly, this has been the first opportunity to sit down leisurely and write you a few lines.

"With the exception of brief stints with the State of New Jersey and Stone & Webster, I spent most of my career with the Port Authority

of New York and New Jersey supervising their major capital construction projects. More off the beaten path, some 14 years ago, I bought the John Dickinson House (c. 1754), a national landmark, in Salem County, New Jersey, and have been living there full-time for about five years. It is the most ornate 18<sup>th</sup> century patterned brick house in the United States. And yes, the trips up to the New York City metro area were exhausting. For a number of years now, I have been working with museums, architects and foundations in promoting the area's wonderful 18<sup>th</sup> century houses as well as other historic sites. You can check out my Instagram and Facebook pages: @thedickinsonhouse. Please feel free to share my contact info with others!

"My wife is also retired, she was a school teacher, and now we are planning on 'settling down' in Miami Beach (must be on the beach!) where we can dance the nights away, cook, exercise and ride my Harley up and down A1A! Three kids are all grown. My oldest son (32) runs marathons semi-professionally throughout the country. Somehow this ties in with his journalism degree. Haha! My daughter had a mid-life crisis at 26 and quit her teaching job in Virginia and convinced Texas A&M to pay for her master's in industrial engineering. Go figure! She's out and will be working with Capital One in Virginia. And my youngest son (25) studied sports medicine and is now the trainer for Florida International University's baseball team. He seems to be the most stable one!

"While I have no intention of working as an engineer again, I will continue renewing my New Jersey PE license and seek licensure in Florida for the sake of being a troublemaker! Summing up what I learned at Stevens and what I most stress with my kids and young professionals: the wise person doesn't know all the answers but knows how to get them. That is my own quote! LOL! I stay in touch with Mauricio del Prado via Facebook. He promised to reach out next time he's in south Florida. And then there's Mike Rodriguez

# Vitals

## Obituaries

A.P. Gertz '38 11/13/19  
M.W. Kornylak '40 12/3/19  
P. Savage '46 2/9/20  
R.F. Styer '46 10/9/19  
J.M. Peebles '47 1/22/20  
R.D. Perry '47 2/14/20  
C.R. Wilbur '47 12/28/19  
J.L. Dixon '48 2/28/20  
A.W. Brower '50 1/12/20  
J.D. Ranlett '51 2/18/20  
W.R. Baarck '52 4/2019  
J.A. Lacz '53 2/5/20  
F. Menton '53 2/26/20  
H.R. Ricci '54 1/21/20  
C.H. Spring '56 12/17/19  
E.A. Mayer '57 12/31/19  
R.F. Reeves '60 3/25/20  
T.J. Davies '61 12/6/19  
A.K. Davenport '62 11/30/19  
J.C. Wirth '64 3/9/20  
L. de Larrauri '65 3/28/20  
W.B. Maxwell '65 2/25/20  
S. Stockinger '65 11/7/19  
G.R. White '65 9/10/19  
G. Garance '68 2/6/20  
A.S. Lewis '72 9/16/19  
P.R. Duhamel '88 1/11/20

## Graduate School

P.H. Garver M.S. '52 2/18/20  
R.M. Kane M.S. '52 2/10/20  
C.H. Engler M.S. '57 2/6/20  
D.C. Lyman M.S. '59 11/20/19  
N. Osifchin M.S. '59 2/12/20  
J.C. Foster M.S. '69 11/9/19  
J. Manicka Ph.D. '75 10/18/19  
M.E. Dikovics M.S. '86 11/9/19

## Faculty/Staff

D. Savitsky M.S. '52 3/23/20  
E.R. Malinowski M.S. '56 2/1/20

'88, a troublemaker like me; we've stayed close since graduation. Plus, I am the proud godfather of his wonderful daughter, **Marina Rodriguez '16**.

"What about you?? Whatcha been up to?? Stay in touch!! Best regards, Armando."

Thanks to everyone. I hope to see you in Hoboken on Alumni Weekend (date to be announced) to celebrate 150 years for Stevens, 49 years that women have been admitted to Stevens and 34 years since our graduation.

— **Debi Motler; Dmot419@gmail.com**

**'87** February 2020 — "Hi Debi, thanks for filling in as Class of 1987's secretary. It's great to hear from other classmates and that's the first section I turn to when we get our *Stevens Indicator*.

"As for an update, I have recently reconnected with my Stevens roommate, **Caroline Pawlowski-Tischbein**. Caroline lives in Etna, New Hampshire, and the distance caused us to drift over the years. When she called, we made plans to get together, so I went to visit her in early February. She was proudly wearing a Stevens sweatshirt (see photo) and greeted me with the warm smile only a friend of 30+ years can give. I found out all about her husband Mike and their three amazing children: Carl, who is studying to be an anesthesiologist at Drexel and will soon start a residency at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C.; Erika, who joined the Navy to become a pilot and is currently training down in Florida for her pilot's license; and Kirsten who will be graduating this May and will begin a job in accounting at Price Waterhouse this fall. Caroline and I spent the afternoon looking on Facebook for old Stevens classmates and reached out to **Deborah Smith-Neilan** who we found out is a recent grandmother! That made us all feel old! Caroline and I discussed our love of the Lord and our common interest in crafting. Caroline showed me the blankets that she has already made for her future grandchildren, even though none of her kids are even close to that stage in their lives, Caroline is prepared! She also sparked an interest in me to learn how to felt. If only we lived closer, we could have started a Stevens crafting club! We committed to stay in touch and plan weekly phone calls so that we don't let the distance keep us apart and we text back and forth often. Caroline is also planning a visit to New Jersey this summer, so I'll try and reach out to some of our Stevens friends for a mini-reunion.

"As for me, I'm still living in Cranford, New Jersey for almost 30 years now with my husband, **Ed Sitler**. Ed works at AECOM and has been there since we graduated in 1987 (although his company was bought out several times over the years). I have been working in construction management at Rutgers University for the past 14 years. We have two awesome children who both graduated from Stevens as well; **Julianne** received her bachelor's and master's in biomedical engineering in 2018 and **Justin** graduated in 2019 with his bachelor's and master's in mechanical engineering. Justin is continuing at Stevens in pursuit of a

Ph.D., focusing his research in robotics. Thanks again for reaching out. All the best, **Joan Pignataro-Sitler**." — **Debi Motler, Dmot419@gmail.com**

**'89** February 24, 2020 — Happy Birthday, Stevens! 150 years old and you still look great! Be sure to join the celebrations this year to commemorate this historical occasion.

**Regina Ferraro Papini** was so kind to send me an update even without me badgering her. "It was good seeing everyone at our 30<sup>th</sup> reunion — can't believe it has been that long.

"As for the last 30 years I have been working as a process engineer for various companies in New Jersey. The last four years I have been with Thermo Fisher Scientific/Patheon in Princeton. We are a small contact manufacturing facility. Basically, I make sure the upstream equipment runs as expected.

"On the side I teach swim lessons (all levels and ages) as well as help coach the swim team for our local YMCA in Hunterdon County. This is my 'fun' job and helps keep me young.

"I have been married to Joe Papini, whom I met while still at Stevens, for the last 26 years. Joe works for Merck in West Point and travels quite a bit. We have two children — Christina, 23, is a doctoral student at Yale studying pharmacology and Joseph, 19, is a sophomore at RPI studying aerospace engineering." Great to see you at the reunion, Regina, and thank you!

I attended the D.C. holiday party in December and had the pleasure of sitting with **Andrew Sachs** and his wife. He updates, "30 years since graduating is, literally, a lifetime for many. The Sachs family has had its third-generation Stevens grad this year with my middle child, **Lauren, BSCS '19**. I sold my company to Verizon four years ago, gave up technology and started an online global STEM and teamwork program (nobeexplorers.com) to prepare our youth for an ever-changing future. These two facts were entangled in ways I didn't know at the time.

"Some four years ago, Lauren decided to pursue a degree in computer science from Stevens. Her evidence-based decision involved an analysis comparing the NPV of her education at Stevens and other schools! I couldn't be prouder of her and her many accomplishments.

"One day I picked her up from high school and

Don't see your class log listed? Send an update to [alumni-log@stevens.edu](mailto:alumni-log@stevens.edu) or call 201-216 5161.

she was speaking rather sharply to someone on the phone. Surprised by her tone, after she hung up, I asked her what was wrong. She explained how she was working on a group project, some team members had messed up certain parts and she was going to have to stay up late redoing it to make sure they got the top grade. We had a good dialogue about teamwork, the most important skill to have in any profession.

"I woke the next day and realized that Lauren wasn't learning teamwork; she was learning 'un-teamwork.' She was learning to tell everybody what to do or to do everything herself — neither of which makes a group project fun. As a matter of fact, the more talented someone is academically, the more 'un-teamwork' they learn. It struck me that our intensely grade-focused education system was setting her back in learning the most important skill she needed in work and life.

"After selling my company, my teacher wife, Karen, told me I wouldn't cut it as a classroom educator, so I started Nobel Explorers with the mission of giving our kids the skills they need to succeed in school, work and life. It's an international learning community where youth ages 8+ collaborate on global project teams and progress

**1** Andrew Sachs '89 and his family can claim three generations of Stevens graduates, with his dad Nev Sachs '63 and now his daughter Lauren '19, seen at Commencement time last year at Castle Point. **2** Hoi Young '86 and his wife make their home in paradise — Honolulu, Hawaii. **3** Joe and Regina Ferraro Papini '89, with their daughter Christina and their son Joseph. **4** Stevens roommates Caroline Pawlowski Tischbein '87, left, and Joan Pignataro Sitler '87 recently reconnected. Catch up with them in the '87 log.



from being learners to leaders. Additionally, we cultivate global cultural awareness, connection and empathy to improve outcomes for all. If you know of any teachers who might be passionate about helping kids thrive but are perhaps a little (or a lot) burned out by the system, please have them check out [nobelexplorers.com](http://nobelexplorers.com) and send them our way.

"This year, my wife Karen stopped teaching middle school math and science and now works

for the Archdiocese of Washington. Teaching runs in her family but as many experienced teachers today know, the past eight years wore her down with no hint of upcoming improvement. She worked in the 'best middle school in Maryland' when she and 25% of her colleagues quit. Yeah... you read that right. Teachers are the most amazing individuals, empathetic, caring and building our future, but we're robbing them of the very emotional energy they need to succeed with

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1 Enjoying the Founders Day Soiree in February at Stevens, from left, are ShaQuill Thomas '15, Michael Cahill '15 and another guest. 2 Rocco Landi '00, left, with his husband Noah and their dog Conan. Read more from Rocco in the 2000 log. 3 Stevens As sociate Provost Cindy Chin '05, M.S. '05, husband Joshua Levine '05 M.S. '05 and daughter Charlotte at the Founders Day Soiree. 4 Liz Zmijewski Young '10 shared this photo of her children in action.

our kids. We've got a crisis going on in American education and my advice to parents is to take matters into your own hands.

"Ending on a high note, as proven in innovative countries and some select locations in the U.S., the effects of improving education are amazing and real. We can prepare our kids to thrive in this world of accelerating change with AI, globalization, IT and robotics. Hopefully, they'll decide to take care of the rest of us."

I'm counting on that, Andrew. Or at least an AI robot to keep me company in my later years. Happy Spring! — Dawn M. Madak, dawnmadak@me.com

### Alumni Weekend Reunion 2020

*Editor's Note: Due to COVID-19, Alumni Weekend 2020 has been postponed to a future date. Please stay tuned for more details.*

'00 February 2020 — By the time you are reading this, you should already be planning to join us for the Class of 2000 20<sup>th</sup> year reunion party! Please help us spread the word about this party for the Classes of 1996-2004. This marks our class' 20<sup>th</sup> year reunion, as well as the 100<sup>th</sup> Alumni Weekend and 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Stevens! #The-YearToComeBack, watch for a new date.

The festivities will occur on and around the Stevens campus. We hope you can all make it!

We would love to hear from each of you so we can all begin to catch up on the last 20 years!

Here are some quick updates for you...

After graduating from Stevens, Rocco Landi worked as a software developer in the financial and manufacturing sector. He then firmed up his Jersey roots by attending UMDNJ for medical school. He completed his surgical internship at New York Medical College and then his residency in anesthesia at Tufts Medical School. He finally reached the end of his training with a fellowship in pediatric anesthesia at Harvard Medical School. He was delighted to be promoted to staff at Boston Children's Hospital and currently enjoys a balance of clinical, technological, and administrative duties in the department. In fact, he regularly pulls from his Stevens training in service of those roles!

While Rocco finished his training, he met his partner, Noah. He is a practicing clinical psychologist and professor of psychology at a local liberal arts college. In 2015, they married

and currently reside in the Boston area. Although it was a circuitous route to get here, he loves his time in the Northeast. Rocco and Noah don't have children (yet), but they did adopt a wonderful, albeit neurotic, greyhound named Conan. Rocco is very excited to rekindle past friendships and reconnect at the reunion!

Brent Flaherty has been enjoying the sunny California lifestyle now as the vice president of supply chain operations for Mezzetta Foods in the Napa Valley. Since graduating, Brent and his wife Melissa, son Liam, and daughter Mackenzie have chartered a westward path across the United States with General Mills for 15 years before finding new vineyards to harvest in 2017 and landing in California. Life is pretty busy with two teenagers as Liam is very active in sports while Mackenzie is refining her artistic style, and thankfully both excel in math and science. — Marybeth Lynch, Marybeth.lynych1@gmail.com; Aimee Alonso, aimeealonso@optonline.net

### Alumni Weekend Reunion 2020

*Editor's Note: Due to COVID-19, Alumni Weekend 2020 has been postponed to a future date. Please stay tuned for more details.*

'10 March 6, 2020 — Liz Young (formally Zmijewski) wanted to share a picture of her children enjoying the warm winter days outside in Collingswood, New Jersey. Starting her kids' STEM journey young! See her photo near this class log.

Do you have any updates for the class log? Please reach out to Kara Borzillo at Kara.Borzillo@gmail.com. Thanks! — Kara Borzillo, Kara.Borzillo@gmail.com

'18 January 21, 2020 — Here's a note from Owen Jappen.

"Gregory T. Coll announces candidacy for U.S. Congress, Maryland District 8, Republican Primary. Coll seeks to apply his science background and systematic thinking to take a laser focus on the issues mattering to Americans and Marylanders." — Kellie Vertetis, kvertetis21@gmail.com

**Don't see your class log listed? Send an update to [alumni-log@stevens.edu](mailto:alumni-log@stevens.edu) or call 201 216 5161.**



# Clubs



**HOUSTON CLUB**  
The Houston Alumni Club at the Sam Houston Hotel in Houston, Texas, on December 5

**WISCONSIN CLUB** The Wisconsin Alumni Club at Schwarz's Supper Club in New Holstein, Wisconsin, on December 7



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CLUB** The Northern California Alumni Club at LUMINA in San Francisco on December 14



**STEVENS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** The SAA Holiday Party was held on campus on December 7.



**WASHINGTON, D.C. CLUB** The Washington, D.C. Alumni Club at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland, on December 2



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLUB**  
The Southern California Alumni Club at Fig & Olive in West Hollywood, California, on December 8



**WCPR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** The WCPR Alumni Association (WAA) joined current WCPR students for a movie night on January 25.



**STEVENS METROPOLITAN CLUB** Meeting in early 2020, from left: club president John Stevens '72, treasurer Joe Schneider '46 and Stevens President Nariman Farvardin

## A Final Thought



# Mother Nature on the Run

**Class of '70 recalls the first Earth Day**

Stevens students carry the Hudson River in its funeral procession to the Hoboken waterfront on the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970.

PHOTO: STUDENT ACTIVITIES COLLECTION, SAMUEL C. WILLIAMS LIBRARY, STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

**T**he Class of 1970 was in the middle of turmoil, in troubled times. During our four years at Castle Point, we lived through cataclysmic events, including the escalation of the Vietnam War and the first military draft in many years; race riots across the United States; the assassinations of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy.

We also experienced an era of growing environmental concern and awareness. The Union of Concerned Scientists was formed in 1969 and focused primarily on the threat of nuclear war and on climate change, and reflected growing concern, especially among scientists and engineers, about the health of our planet. Tons of pollutants were being spewed daily into our air and water and few, if any, people had even heard of the word “recycle.” Even fewer had heard the terms “climate change” or “global warming.”

As college seniors earning degrees and beginning careers or graduate programs that might help to extend the life of our planet, we saw Earth Day — which marks its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, along with our Stevens class — as a way to direct national attention to serious environmental issues.

Earth Day was planned to be a nation-wide call for laws and policies aimed at protecting our biosphere and ecosystems. Colleges and universities were at the forefront, and Stevens participated fully.

A committee of Stevens students and faculty planned a ceremony that involved “burying” the Hudson River, followed by discussion groups and forums.

Given the socio-political climate at the time, the Stevens administration was concerned about Earth Day being more of an anti-Vietnam War demonstration than a “save the planet” forum. Those concerns were unfounded.

Earth Day 1970 happened to fall on April 22, a Wednesday. Stevens held only a half-day of classes on Wednesdays so that students could participate in activities, such as student government, affinity groups, clubs, honor societies and *The Stute*.

On Earth Day afternoon, a large group of students, faculty and local officials accompanied student “pall bearers” who carried the “the Hudson River” in a coffin (see photo above). The parade began at the Stevens Center (now the Howe Center) and proceeded down to the waterfront. Print and radio media helped spread the message. It actually worked.

Earth Day in the United States created the momentum to change both law and policy — all before the end of 1970. The National Environmental Policy Act was enacted. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was established. The Clean Air Act was enacted.

New Jersey established its own Department of Environmental Protection on that first Earth Day in 1970 with Richard J. Sullivan '49 as its first commissioner. We planned. We executed. We were heard. ♦ — *Class of '70: Jeff Katz, Howie Brecher, Gene Golebiowski, Tony Barrese, Frank Malvezzi, Don Soldivierro*



To read more about Stevens' 1970 Earth Day, see [stevens.edu/earthday1970](https://stevens.edu/earthday1970)



# Legacy. Lifetime. Leadership. Loyalty.

At Stevens Institute of Technology, a thriving culture of philanthropy is built on the pillars of legacy, lifetime commitment, leadership and loyalty - The Four 'L's. Each of these has an official society to recognize members for their impact on Stevens. Whatever your philanthropic calling may be, consider joining a society to share your passion for Stevens with other generous friends.

## Stevens Legacy Society

Just like Edwin's founding bequest, members of the Stevens Legacy Society have planned gifts for the university in their financial or estate plans, ensuring their legacy will have an impact far into the future.



## Lifetime Giving Societies

The six Lifetime Giving Societies (LGS) honor generous alumni and friends whose total lifetime giving to Stevens tops \$100,000. LGS members reach new levels as they increase their giving during their lifetime.



## Edwin A. Stevens Society

Named for the university's founder, the Edwin A. Stevens Society is the annual gift club for alumni and friends who provide leadership-level support starting at \$1,000.



## Gear Society

The Gear Society celebrates alumni who make an annual gift year after year. Through their loyalty, Gear Society members are to Stevens what gears are to machines: they generate power.



"When I was growing up in the 1970s, it was almost unheard of for women to study engineering. Stevens was the only school I applied to. I vividly remember that first campus visit, walking onto campus with my mother. This is where she saw me. In giving back, I hope current and future students take advantage of the same opportunities I had. It's a hard journey to get to Stevens, it's a hard journey through Stevens, but it truly is rewarding."

— Mary Anne Cannon '86, Member: Gear Society, Edwin A. Stevens Society, Lifetime Giving Societies, Stevens Legacy Society and the President's Leadership Council

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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 '20**

Katie Van Orden '20 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 students with travel, study and research opportunities — Katie Van Orden spent her first Stevens summer in Professor Ramana Vinjamuri's lab, prototyping a human-hand exoskeleton with 3D printers. She later participated in several cooperative education experiences with firms in the biomedical industry before graduating this spring. Scholarships help us recruit exceptional students like Katie and enable them to grow both personally and intellectually.

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