



**President Nariman Farvardin  
150th Commencement Address  
Undergraduate and Graduate Ceremonies  
May 25-26, 2022**

Class of 2022: This is a day for celebration and pride in the struggle, the persistence, and the achievements that brought you to this moment.

You are graduating at—let’s face it—a scary time. Your college career has been deeply impacted by a global pandemic that has affected the way you interact with friends, teachers and family. Study abroad, internships and even spring and winter breaks have been changed because of COVID-19. More recently, the war in Ukraine has given rise to new concerns—nuclear threats, cyber crime, supply chain impacts on products on which we depend, and the welfare of friends and family in Europe. And, economic uncertainties—rising interest rates and the threats of recession—loom.

I also graduated from college at a time of turmoil and upheaval. I came to the U.S. when my country was literally on fire. I was born in Iran and came to the U.S. in 1979.

I benefited from America’s hospitality and the U.S. system of higher education, and, as you have, earned a degree that was in great demand.

Like you, I worked hard.

A Stevens degree is a badge of honor. It is a passport to success. It is a pathway to a career and a lifetime of personal and professional achievement.

Your Stevens degree, and the network you have created during your time at Stevens—with friends, faculty and staff and alumni—will serve you well in the years ahead.

I am not smart enough to predict the future—except to say that it is unpredictable. But I can say that the foundation you have put in place during your time at Stevens—the courses you have aced (or struggled through), the professors that have guided you, the friendships you have made—are the stones upon which you will build your future. They will lift you in your times of happiness and support you through your challenges. Know that Stevens and the Stevens community is your home base, and we are all here for you.

Last, I want to thank the families of our graduates. These have been most unusual times. Mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, grandparents, and extended families have all been deeply affected by the pandemic and by the circumstances we have been presented in the last few years.

Thank you for supporting these graduates, for your stamina and strength and for being integral members of the Stevens community.

Class of 2022, you are our pride and our joy. Go make your mark upon our world, and come back to tell us of your successes. You will always have a home at Stevens.

I wish you strength and the very best that you can imagine in the years ahead.

Congratulations!

