



August 28, 2018

To the Stevens Community:

On behalf of the Provost and Cabinet, the Deans, and the entire leadership team, I am so pleased to welcome students, faculty and staff back to another academic year filled with promise and potential. I hope each of you has had an enjoyable summer and that you have had the opportunity to spend time with family and friends and recharge your batteries over the summer months.

I know that for many members of our community, the summer has been an incredibly busy one. Many faculty have been hard at work on research and scholarship and leading numerous summer programs, and many of our administrative staff have been extremely productive completing critical summer projects. As we begin the cycle again, I am energized and hopeful about what we will accomplish together in this academic year. In particular, I look forward to **greeting faculty and staff at a dessert reception to celebrate our collective success and the beginning of a new academic year on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, 3-5 pm on the new plaza east of the Babbio Center**. An invitation will be sent soon.

### **Welcoming New Students and Faculty**

Last week, the Class of 2022 officially joined the Stevens community. This is a **record-setting cohort of students** from a variety of perspectives. Including first-time full-time freshmen (1,035) and transfer students (24), **the preliminary total for our incoming new undergraduate class is 1,059**, compared to 807 for Fall 2017, a 31% increase over last year. Amazingly, this increase coincides with improved selectivity (41% acceptance rate, compared to 44% last year) and a **17-point increase in the average SAT score, to 1400**, over last year. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Undergraduate Admissions team, as well as the academic leadership and faculty who collaborated closely to attract and yield this new class, as well as many other units who were involved in marketing and outreach, events planning, and other efforts leading to this incredible accomplishment. This was another shining example of *Through Collaboration, Impact!* As the new class settles in, we will provide additional updates about the percentages of women, underrepresented minorities, out-of-state, international students, and growth by School/discipline.

Likewise, a **new cohort of graduate students** joined us recently. Preliminarily, the total number of new graduate students declined slightly from last year, due, in part to an improved job market and recent changes in the international and political climate. However, we expect an overall fall graduate enrollment of approximately 3,000 and offer sincere appreciation to the Graduate Admissions Office, the faculty, and the Division of Communications and Marketing for broadening outreach and leaving no stone unturned in recruiting an impressive new cohort of graduate students.

Furthermore, I am delighted to welcome **30 new faculty** to the Stevens community, including 22 in the Schaefer School of Engineering and Science, three in the School of Systems and Enterprises

(SSE), and five in the School of Business. Among these faculty are several senior faculty positions including the Dean of SSE and two Department Chairs (in the Departments of Civil, Environmental and Ocean Engineering and in Electrical and Computer Engineering). I had the pleasure of meeting them last week and eagerly anticipate their contributions to our community in the years to come.

### **Year End Highlights**

I am delighted to report **record-breaking years in research awards, fundraising, and Stevens' financial profile:**

The **Office of Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship closed FY18 with a record-setting \$45.3 million** in research awards, an **84% increase over last year, and up 49% since 2011**. Stevens' research centers performed particularly well, contributing more than \$24 million in research awards last year. Kudos to the faculty researchers and to the entire team for this impressive turnaround.

**FY18 gifts and pledges to the university totaled \$47.6 million, an increase of 103% over last year, and up 913% since 2011!** Stevens received two eight-figure gifts last year, (\$17 million from Richard and Carol Harries '58 and \$15 million from the A. James and Alice B. Clark Foundation) putting Stevens over the top of its \$150 million capital campaign goal well-ahead of schedule. Stevens has now **raised \$165 million toward a new campaign goal of \$200 million**. In addition, the alumni participation rate increased to 18% in FY18 (from 16% the prior year).

These strong results, combined with continued fiscal discipline and strong student demand, contributed to an **improving financial profile**. Although the FY18 financial audit has not been completed by our external auditors, we are expecting another strong year of financial performance. This is a critical factor in ensuring that Stevens has the resources to continue to build a world-class university—recruiting and retaining excellent faculty, attracting stellar students, and creating a physical and technological environment in which they will thrive.

### **Summer Programs Enhance Diversity**

In addition, **Pre-College Summer Programs set new records in 2018, with nearly 700 high school students** participating in one of 14 one- and two-week residential STEM, business, and arts/humanities pre-college summer programs. Thanks to funding from the A. James and Alice B. Clark Foundation and from a number of corporate and alumni donors, Stevens was able to provide significant scholarship support to 66 students from underserved communities to attend Stevens Pre-College Summer programs. In total, there was a **60% increase in the number of underrepresented minority students** who attended these programs over last year. This is a significant accomplishment and an important step toward our goal to increase diversity at Stevens and in the STEM pipeline. Thanks are due to the dedicated team in the Division of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs who recruit, award scholarship support, plan, and oversee the pre-college programs such that students have a stimulating and fun experience, and to the faculty who teach and advise in these programs. This program has an impressive track record as a feeder to Stevens and more broadly to undergraduate STEM programs.

## **Facilities Challenges, Accomplishments and Future Projects**

Also, during the summer, a whole host of campus renovation and modernization projects were completed. Among the most significant was Phase 1 of a two-phase project to **renovate Davis Hall, a dormitory originally built in 1961** housing 220 students. The objective of this summer's work was to renovate and modernize the hall bathrooms on all five floors before freshmen returned. Unfortunately, soon after beginning the work, **major structural problems were identified, and the scope of work expanded quite significantly**, although the time-frame available to complete it—before freshmen move-in day—did not. The Stevens team met this challenge head-on, however, and the Division of Facilities and Campus Operations and its contractors worked round-the-clock shifts for many weeks, expediting shipping of materials, coordinating with the City of Hoboken Building Department on inspections, and many other intricate aspects of the job, to complete the work just in time. On behalf of all the students and families who were relieved to move into their assigned dorm on campus on time, I offer my sincere gratitude. In addition to the Division of Facilities and Campus Operations, recognition goes to the Division of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, who managed the uncertainty on behalf of incoming students, created contingency plans, and communicated strategically with students and parents until the situation was resolved.

Other important infrastructure upgrades completed or underway over the summer include:

- Renovation of the Kidde 228 lecture hall, which marks the **completion of renovation and AV upgrade to every classroom on campus**
- Renovation of McLean 421- 428, a large teaching/research lab
- Renovation of the McLean South elevator, continuing the campus-wide elevator modernization program
- Completion of a three-year, campus-wide ADA accessibility project
- Installation of an emergency generator for the Howe Center, enabling continuation of dining services and heating in the event of a “shelter in place” situation for resident students
- Completion of the Hudson Street Rain Garden, a further step in our commitment to green infrastructure and sustainability programs
- Continued construction of the Gianforte Family Academic Center
- Beginning of construction of the Campus Wellness Center in Pond House and the temporary Student Center in Alexander House
- And, by mid-October, Stevens will have completed a substantial campus-wide heating remediation and domestic hot water heater replacement program in two residence halls, an ongoing effort to fully prepare for harsh winter weather

Furthermore, and as a result of the recent **Hoboken City Council approval of a new University District zoning ordinance**, we have begun the regulatory process to build a **state-of-the-art university center and major new dormitory, housing approximately 1,000 students, and scheduled to open in the fall of 2021**. This project will enable Stevens to accommodate undergraduate students on-campus, rather than in leased housing in Hoboken, and to dramatically reduce the shuttle program servicing those buildings throughout Hoboken.

## Athletics Successes

I am also delighted to report on the incredible progress of our Athletics programs. Highlights for the Ducks from the last year include:

- Placed 17<sup>th</sup> in the Learfield Directors' Cup out of approximately 450 Division III schools for overall athletic excellence
- The average varsity team GPA after the Spring 2018 semester was approximately 3.45
- First-ever Empire 8 Conference Commissioner's Cup for top program in the conference
- Won the Collegiate Athletic Administrators of New Jersey Cup for the top overall NCAA Division III athletic program in New Jersey for the seventh time in eight years

In addition, **Stevens joined the Middle Atlantic Conference (Freedom Conference)** effective in July, 2019 for 23 of 26 varsity sports offered at Stevens. This more competitive conference also has the benefit of increased geographic proximity to opponents, thereby reducing travel time and time away from classes for our athletes.

## Activities and Accomplishments from Across the University

There have been a whole host of other highlights from the late spring, including **re-accreditation of Stevens by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education**; completion of the first year of **the Accessing Careers in Engineering and Science (ACES) program**, providing support to increase the participation and persistence of underrepresented minority students at Stevens in pre-college and undergraduate programs; the American Council on Education's ***Institutional Transformation Award*** to Stevens; continued **progress on Workday Student**, a state-of-the-art new student information system slated to go live in late September 2018 and to be fully implemented in September 2020; creation of a new **"Corporate-Friendly" committee** to strengthen the university's collaborations with industry; creation of a **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Implementation Committee** to oversee the execution of our sesquicentennial celebration in 2020; and the transition and remodeling of our new **campus bookstore under the management of Barnes & Noble**.

I look forward to seeing you on campus this semester, and to celebrating our shared success!

*Per aspera ad astra,*



Nariman Farvardin  
President