



Office of the President

1 Castle Point Terrace
Hoboken, NJ 07030
stevens.edu

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To Faculty, Staff and Students:

Today marks the start of a new academic year, one of my favorite times of the year. The campus is buzzing with new students, energized by important research and scholarship and inspired by the collaborations of our caring community. I am delighted to welcome you back for the Fall semester and to see so many new and familiar faces. **Thank you to the colleagues who have worked tirelessly to prepare for a rich and rewarding semester.**

I am also pleased to share a few updates to illustrate that Stevens continues to be a university “on the rise.”

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Enrollment

This week, the Class of 2026 officially joined the Stevens community. The new cohort of undergraduate students sets a number of new records: Applications reached an all-time high of 12,500, a 10% year-over-year (YOY) increase, and the Class of 2026 is the most academically distinguished class in our history, with a combined average SAT score of 1441. In addition, Stevens significantly improved admissions selectivity and controlled the rate of enrollment growth to align with campus physical infrastructure capacity: The number of incoming first-year students was 1,076 in Fall 2022 compared to 1,147 in Fall 2021. In addition, the total number of new and continuing undergraduate students in Fall 2022 is 4,079, consistent with our strategic plan goals. We have also reached a record high in the percentage of women in the first-year cohort, at 37%, which is four-percentage points ahead of last year, while the number of underrepresented minority students in the first-year cohort is 19%, compared to 21% in Fall 2021. I offer my congratulations and heartfelt appreciation to the Offices

of Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid and to the many collaborating offices and faculty who contributed to these results.

Likewise, a new cohort of graduate students joined us recently from among a record number of applicants: 14,873, or a 25% increase over last year. Although we have significantly improved selectivity in graduate admissions, we still have more than 2,000 new graduate students joining Stevens this fall, which constitutes another Stevens record and an increase of 220 students over Fall 2021. The current number of new and continuing graduate students for the Fall 2022 semester is 5,169, representing a significant increase, largely due to the larger number of returning students. The total graduate enrollment includes 813 students in StevensOnline, an uptick of 16% over last year. This number is expected to increase in the coming days. Thanks to the Graduate Admissions Office, the faculty and the Division of University Relations for broadening outreach and doing everything possible to recruit an impressive new cohort of graduate students.

Student Experience

The opening of the state-of-the-art University Center Complex made a transformative impact on the campus community, adding 930 more residential students to campus housing and providing a multitude of new event and social spaces, three new dining venues, a fitness center, study spaces and more. In addition, Living-Learning Communities, which are residential communities that connect students with faculty and staff around a common theme, launched this fall with a focus on Women in STEM and first-generation students, in addition to the established community in the Lore-El Center for Women's Leadership.

Student wellbeing and safety remain a focus at Stevens. We have enhanced our mental health resources for students and staff responders, made on-campus lab testing available in Student Health Services and adopted a new Stevens Guardian safety app that turns any mobile phone into a personalized protection network. In conjunction with the opening of the new Fitness Center in the UCC, fitness courses will be offered in the UCC Movement Studio and the Varsity Weight Room. Renovations to the Schaefer Fitness Center and the Canavan Arena have also significantly improved the student experience.

Leadership and Faculty Appointments

I am so pleased to welcome several new Cabinet members following three rigorous national searches and significant input from the Stevens community. Dr. Sara Klein officially began her tenure as Vice President for Student Affairs on July 25. This past Monday, Dr. Cindy Chin marked her first day as Vice President for Enrollment Management; and on September 6, we welcome Ms. Sheraine Gilliam as Vice President for Human Resources and Chief Human Resources Officer. I encourage you all to get to know these leaders and to offer them your full support to achieve Stevens' ambitious goals.

In addition, I am delighted to warmly receive 35 new faculty members to the Stevens community this academic year, bringing our expected total of full-time faculty to 332, a new high. Of this new cohort of faculty, 16 are women (46%) and 17 are tenured/tenure track faculty, including five full professors, and 18 are non-tenure stream faculty. I had the pleasure of meeting our new faculty members recently and eagerly anticipate the contributions they will make to our community in the years to come.

Research Awards

Stevens has set another new record for research funding. Research awards totaled \$60.4 million in FY22, up from a record of \$50.6 million in FY21. Furthermore, FY23 research awards are off to a very strong start with \$11.3 million in funding received thus far.

Rankings and Recognition

Two new reports from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce (CEW) highlight Stevens' value and ROI: "Ranking 4,500 Colleges by ROI (2022)," places Stevens at No. 19 in the nation for return on investment 40 years after enrollment, while the CEW report, "The Most Popular Degree Pays Off: Ranking the Economic Value of 5,500 Business Programs at More Than 1,700 Colleges," ranked Stevens' business program No. 12 in the nation.

In addition, Stevens has once again been named one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduates in The Princeton Review's annual college guide, *The Best 388 Colleges: 2023 Edition*. Only about 14% of America's 2,700 four-year colleges are included in the listing.

Fundraising

Our community celebrated the success of *The Power of Stevens*, the university's largest fundraising campaign, on Saturday, May 14, 2022. The festivities included a dedication of the new University Center Complex, faculty and student showcases highlighting the impact of the campaign, entertainment and a display of fireworks over the Hudson River. At the close of FY22, gifts and pledges to Stevens totaled \$18.2 million, exceeding our annual goal of \$17 million. In addition, alumni leaders and campus partners created a strategic plan for alumni engagement to advance the alumni goals of the university's new strategic plan, *Stevens 2032: Inspired by Humanity, Powered by Technology™*.

Athletics Success

The Stevens Ducks are coming off their most successful year in Stevens Athletics history, earning 10th place in the NCAA Learfield Director's Cup of all 437 Division III institutions. We believe Stevens' finish is the best by a Middle Atlantic Conference school since 1996 and the best by any school from the state of New Jersey (across all NCAA divisions) since 2011. Highlights from the last year include:

- 13 team conference championships
- 13 NCAA appearances (team)
- 11 All-Americans (not counting honorable mentions)
- 1 national champion
- 2 national top-five team finishes (men's volleyball and wrestling)
- Three NCAA events hosted in Hoboken (selected as hosts by the NCAA)

We all look forward to cheering on the Ducks' success this fall!

Campus Operations

In addition to the opening of the UCC, there have been numerous infrastructure improvements that have enhanced the campus experience for our students, faculty and staff over the last year, including: 10 new classrooms to respond to our growth; upgrades to 21 classrooms in 10 buildings to support new AV infrastructure and enhanced teaching and learning; and numerous renovations, sustainability and landscaping upgrades including renovations of the Canavan arena, STEP and University Events offices, the Campus Post Office, waterproofing projects throughout campus, pavers on campus pathways and many more. Thank you to the Division of Facilities and Campus Operations for the intensive efforts over the summer months that have contributed to a more beautiful, more sustainable and more efficient campus infrastructure.

In addition, the Division of IT has worked over the summer to launch digital toolkits for faculty, staff and students; to strengthen Stevens' identity and access management services; to expand and upgrade WiFi on campus; and to implement a new laptop purchase program. These infrastructure and service enhancements will create a more seamless digital experience for the Stevens community.

The Next 10-Year Strategic Plan, Our New Look and Fall Festival

At the end of June, the Stevens Board of Trustees approved the university's 10-year strategic plan, *Stevens 2032: Inspired by Humanity, Powered by Technology™*, which you can read [here](#). Capitalizing on the remarkable momentum of the last 10 years, Stevens will continue its ascent to become a national and global leader in technology-centric education and research. With a continued focus on enhancing our students' experience and success, amplifying our impact through research and innovation, elevating our academic reputation, and strengthening and connecting our community, Stevens is on a course to — quite literally — change the world.

To further our continuous improvement, our returning community members will notice Stevens' new branding and visual identity featured throughout campus and in Hoboken. It is exciting to see this strong, new brand come to life both on and off campus. I extend my gratitude to the Division of University Relations who worked with many campus partners to spearhead and support this extraordinary effort.

Lastly, I wish to take this opportunity to encourage you to attend [Stevens' inaugural Fall Festival](#) on September 23-24. This is a multi-day community celebration of Homecoming, Family Weekend, the Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony, a carnival and community barbecue and so much more. The weekend culminates on Saturday evening with a very special lighting of the Empire State Building in Stevens red – a view you will not want to miss!

As we begin the new academic year, I am grateful for your contributions to Stevens' upward trajectory. I am energized and hopeful about what we will accomplish together in the future, and I look forward to seeing you on campus soon. I wish you a wonderful fall semester.

Per aspera ad astra,



Nariman Farvardin
President