



STEVENS
INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY
THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY

Building a Stronger Stevens, At Home and in the World
The Stevens Indicator, Winter 2013-2014

You may have noticed an uptick in the level of activity at Stevens recently. The entire Stevens community is working hard and making progress on a number of fronts, with the goals of both strengthening Stevens as an institution and increasing the recognition of Stevens and our impact in New Jersey, the nation and the world.

Some recent highlights on campus include:

Stevens took second place in the U.S. and fourth among all international entries in the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon, an international competition to design, build and operate solar-powered houses that are cost-effective, energy-efficient and attractive. The winner of the competition is the team that best blends affordability, consumer appeal, and design excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency. The 60-member team of faculty and students from Stevens worked diligently over two years to prepare for this rigorous and demanding competition, and accumulated 939 points out of a possible 1,000. I am enormously proud of our team, their work ethic, the innovations they designed for the project, and their overall accomplishment. I'm also pleased that this effort generated much positive publicity for Stevens, including in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Earlier this fall, we welcomed New Jersey Governor Chris Christie to Stevens to celebrate the award of \$7.25 million in state bond funds for a major IT infrastructure enhancement. The event, "Enabling Innovation," previewed two major IT projects that will revolutionize our teaching and learning environment through the use of technology. The funds will support two pioneering projects, the Unified Communications and Collaboration Environment (UCCE) and the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which will have a transformative impact on faculty and student capabilities to engage with course content, collaborators, and graphic- and computing-intensive technology applications for learning. These upgrades will position Stevens as a national leader in delivering STEM education using state-of-the-art technology tools. This event also received significant media coverage, including in *The Star-Ledger*.

As many of you recall, about a year ago, Stevens, like many organizations and communities in New Jersey, was recovering from one of the most devastating storms to impact our region in history. On Oct. 29, Stevens commemorated the one-year anniversary of the landfall of Hurricane Sandy in Hoboken. With a technical session featuring our own experts and researchers Dr. Alan Blumberg, George Meade Bond Professor and Director of the Davidson Laboratory, and Dr. Michael Bruno, Dean of the Schaefer School of Engineering and Science, Stevens explored the lessons learned about coastal urban infrastructure and resiliency since Sandy. With panelists from the Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, and other organizations, Stevens led a discussion on the technical, systems-level, and political perspectives related to mitigating the effects of such events in the future. In the evening, a program held in partnership with the Hoboken Historical Museum celebrated the innovation, resiliency, and sense of community that characterized Stevens and our Hoboken neighbors in the aftermath of Sandy.

And, one day later, we welcomed the third speaker in the President's Distinguished Lecture Series (PDLs), Dr. John Deutch, Institute Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in one of the most stimulating talks I have ever experienced. Dr. Deutch discussed the technical, economic, environmental and

geopolitical aspects of unconventional oil and gas production, including hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking.” Dr. Deutch provided an insightful, balanced, informative and extremely entertaining overview of the potential benefits and challenges associated with these technologies. If you weren’t able to participate in the event at Stevens, please visit the PDLs page on my web site, <http://www.stevens.edu/sit/president>, and view it for yourself.

In addition to these externally-focused efforts, Stevens is also making tremendous progress on critically important, but perhaps less visible, initiatives.

For example, I am delighted to report that our freshman retention rate has reached 96 percent—an all-time high at Stevens. In addition, we are becoming a much more selective institution (38 percent of applicants are accepted), and the academic profile of our student body is increasing substantially. For the first time ever, the middle 50 percent range of SAT scores for our newest and largest class in history also reached an all-time high of 1220-1380.

Our finances continue to improve across a variety of metrics, our instructional spaces are getting much-needed upgrades, and our externally-funded research increased to \$31.2 million in the last fiscal year. I also see a very bright future ahead in research under the leadership of Vice Provost for Research Dr. Mo. Deghani, who joined us from the Johns Hopkins University in late summer.

In FY13, our fundraising efforts yielded \$26.3 million, nearly double the amount for the previous year, and we successfully completed a three-year, \$30 million fundraising initiative a full year ahead of schedule.

And finally, we have completed the first year of implementation in our 10-year Strategic Plan, *The Future. Ours to Create.*, tracking progress across more than 40 priorities our community has identified in undergraduate and graduate education, research, culture and governance, and internal and external activities, to strengthen Stevens and achieve our goal of becoming a world-class, studentcentric, technological research university.

Over the next months and years, we will continue to strengthen Stevens—both from the inside and externally—to increase the recognition of Stevens and its impact on the world. We count on your participation, your ideas, and your support to achieve these goals. Please write (president@stevens.edu) with your thoughts and suggestions.

All my best for a wonderful holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Per aspera ad astra,



Nariman Farvardin
President, Stevens Institute of Technology