



Remembering the Inauguration, with Deep Thanks
The Stevens Indicator, Fall 2011

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The entire Stevens family participated in a remarkable and historic series of events on campus this fall, when I was inaugurated as the seventh president of Stevens Institute of Technology. The events of October 13, 14 and 15, 2011, will linger in my memory forever, as my family and I experienced some of the most moving and poignant moments of our lives, and as the Stevens family came together to celebrate its collective accomplishments and to prepare for an exciting journey toward its 150th anniversary.

The alumni and friends who visited the campus during that time have told me that they, like I, were extremely moved by the display of spectacular events. I was so grateful for their presence, and for the great efforts of everyone who made these three days of joyful reunions, gala celebrations and brilliant scholarship possible. Indeed, the affection and sense of shared purpose that I experienced over those days may be my most enduring impression.

These inauguration events also created a great sense of pride in the Stevens community and elevated the image of the University outside of its borders. This commemorative issue of *The Stevens Indicator*, which highlights the Presidential Inauguration, covers many of these exceptional events, including the Academic Colloquium, which featured distinguished speakers such as the U.S. Secretary of Energy and Nobel Laureate Dr. Steven Chu and Dr. Jeong Kim, executive vice president of Alcatel-Lucent and president of Bell Labs and Corporate Strategy. The Inauguration ceremony was unforgettable, from the profound thoughts shared by our speakers to the students who lined the procession path with their shining faces and special radiance. And the Presidential Gala offered a lovely and uplifting conclusion to the weekend, as more than 400 strong Stevens supporters gathered for dinner, dancing and much shared camaraderie. We also honored two outstanding alumni that evening for their many professional achievements: John G. Puente, M.S. '60, a pioneer in the satellite communications industry, and J. Scott Swensen '74, who has had a trailblazing career as an investor in Latin America.

During the Gala, we also provided some excellent news. Stevens Vice President of Development Edward Eichhorn '69 announced that Stevens has launched a three-year, \$30 million fundraising effort known as the *President's Initiative for Excellence*, and more than \$12 million has been raised in the first three and a half months of this three-year effort! The Initiative will focus on improving the student experience and will be used to expand scholarship programs, upgrade infrastructure and technical capabilities and boost the University's ability to support outstanding faculty, among other pressing priorities. I am deeply grateful for the strong support that many of you have already shown for the *President's Initiative*, and I ask you all to support this endeavor that will greatly benefit our fine students.

This issue of *The Stevens Indicator* brings other very good news. This fall, Stevens' Solar Decathlon team, in its first appearance in the international Solar Decathlon competition in Washington, D.C., tied for first place for affordability, and first place for hot water for the solar-powered home that they built. Overall, Stevens, who worked with the New School, placed 13th, and we are so proud of their efforts. But what makes us

even prouder is that a family in need from Washington, D.C., will live in this home, thanks to a partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

This fall, we also welcomed the extraordinary Class of 2015. This freshman class is the most competitive in the University's history, with a 40 percent selectivity—a new Stevens record. We expect great things from this class, as many of them bring not only a strong talent in engineering, science and technology, but also a special gift for activities outside of the classroom, from athletics to the arts.

Please enjoy this special inauguration issue. Again, from the bottom of our hearts, my wife Hoveida, daughter Tandice and I thank all who came out this past October to celebrate the University and my journey with Stevens. Mostly, we thank the many alumni and friends who have welcomed us so warmly and who have pledged to join us on our path to further elevate this wonderful University to ever greater heights of distinction and achievement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Farvardin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nariman Farvardin

President, Stevens Institute of Technology