



Office of the President

Professor George Korfiatis

From: Nariman Farvardin, President

To: Faculty, Staff and Students

Date: October 12, 2026

It is with profound sadness that I inform you of the passing of Dr. George P. Korfiatis, a highly respected and dedicated colleague who served Stevens for 42 years as professor, dean, provost and interim president, on October 11, 2026.

Professor Korfiatis earned all of his degrees at Rutgers University – New Brunswick, receiving a bachelor's degree (1978) and master's degree (1980) in civil engineering, followed by an M. Phil. (1982) and Ph.D. (1984) in environmental engineering and water resources.

Professor Korfiatis's distinguished career at Stevens Institute of Technology spanned more than 42 years. He joined Stevens in 1983 as an assistant professor of civil, environmental and ocean engineering, rising to associate professor in 1986 and full professor in 1990. In 1999, he was named the McLean Chair Professor of Environmental Engineering, a distinction he held until his retirement in 2025, when he was named professor emeritus.

A renowned academic leader, Professor Korfiatis served as Dean of the Charles V. Schaefer, Jr. School of Engineering from 2002 to 2006 before being appointed provost of Stevens Institute of Technology, a role he held from 2006 to 2016. He also served as interim president from 2010 to 2011. As a member of the university's senior leadership team, he played a key role in developing the Stevens Strategic Plan 2012-2022 and guiding the implementation of its initial phase.

Professor Korfiatis was a prolific researcher and innovator who led or co-led more than 80 externally funded research projects supported by agencies including the National Science Foundation (NSF), NASA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, as well as numerous industry partners. Collectively, these projects secured more than \$38 million in research funding and resulted in more than 140 scholarly publications, along with books and edited volumes of national and international conference proceedings.

Professor Korfiatis founded the Center for Environmental Engineering in 1989 and was instrumental in establishing it as one of New Jersey's leading centers for environmental research and innovation. He is the co-inventor of nine U.S. Patents and co-founded two Stevens affiliated start-up technology companies: *PlasmaSol* corporation in 1999, established to commercialize a groundbreaking plasma-generation technology developed at Stevens known as Capillary Discharge Non-Thermal Plasma; and *HydroGlobe* corporation in 2001, founded to advance a research discovery demonstrating that nanocrystalline titanium dioxide could remove heavy metals, including lead and arsenic, from water with exceptional efficiency.

After four years of development, *HydroGlobe* was acquired by Graver Technologies, LLC, a global supplier of filtration, separation and purification products and a member of the Marmon Companies' Water Group. Today, nanocrystalline titanium dioxide is incorporated into many commercially available water filtration systems.

In recognition of his accomplishments as an inventor, Professor Korfiatis received the Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award from the Research & Development Council of New Jersey in 2006 and was inducted into the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame in 2009. In 2013, he was elected fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

For his many scholarly accomplishments, Stevens recognized Dr. Korfiatis with the degree of Master of Engineering (Honoris Causa) in 1995 and the Doctor of Engineering (Honoris Causa) in 2011. His academic recognitions also include the award of Honorary Doctorate in Civil Engineering by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece in 2011 and the Honorary Doctorate in Entrepreneurship and Innovation by UKM-The National University of Malaysia in 2012.

Throughout his career, Professor Korfiatis was known for his dedication to teaching and mentorship, inspiring and guiding generations of Stevens students. His impact in the classroom was recognized early in his tenure when he received the Educator of the Year Award from the Stevens chapter of Chi Epsilon in 1984.

Over more than four decades as a faculty member and administrator, Professor Korfiatis made a lasting impact on Stevens. We are deeply grateful for his leadership, service and many contributions to the university and all those whose lives he touched.

Professor Korfiatis' family will hold a viewing on Saturday, October 17 from 3–5 p.m. at the Bergen Funeral Service, 232 Kipp Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604. The funeral service will be private.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Professor Korfiatis' family and all who knew him and were touched by his life and work.