



Office of the President

To: Stevens Students, Faculty and Staff

From: Nariman Farvardin, President

Date: November 7, 2024

Subject: November Update: Distinguished Lectures, Research Excellence and Global Recognition

The fall semester brings notable achievements that highlight Stevens' leadership in technology, innovation and research.

The excellence of our alumni and students shines brightly this fall. A team of 2024 Biomedical Engineering alumni — Brandon Sems, Margaret Gibson, Jalen Bailey and Grace Fukazawa — achieved remarkable success with their knee therapy device, **Knee-sy Does It**. After winning the \$10,000 first prize in Stevens' Ansary Entrepreneurship Competition this past spring, the team secured the prestigious \$15,000 Venture Prize in the 2024 DEBUT Challenge by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering.

Yesterday's inaugural Stevens Symposium for Undergraduate Research showcased the breadth and depth of student innovation across all disciplines. Throughout the day, more than 100 students presented their research through poster sessions and talks in the University Center Complex demonstrating the vital role our undergraduates play in advancing Stevens' research mission.

We also recently welcomed alumnus Dr. Darío Gil '98, IBM Senior Vice President and Director of Research, for the **President's Distinguished Lecture Series**. Dr. Gil's fascinating presentation on AI and quantum technologies captivated a packed Tech Flex Auditorium, offering valuable insights into the future of computing and its implications for science, business and society.

The celebration of Stevens' talent reached new heights at the **2024 Stevens Awards Gala**. On October 5 at Pier Sixty in New York City, with a magnificent view of our illuminated campus, we honored six extraordinary alumni whose work in technology, engineering, entrepreneurship and service advances our global reputation.

Our research enterprise also strengthens Stevens' reputation. SIAI Director and Professor Brendan Englot secured a **\$1.9 million grant** from the U.S. Office of Naval Research to enhance autonomous

surface vehicle capabilities, while Professor Yuping Huang, director of the Center for Quantum Science and Engineering, and Research Assistant Professor Yong Meng Sua have developed an **innovative method combining AI and quantum science** to measure surface textures at microscopic levels, as reported in *Applied Optics*. Adding to Stevens' research impact, Assistant Professor Haoying Xu's research in the *Journal of Applied Psychology* reveals important **insights about workplace leadership**.

Stevens faculty are increasingly recognized as thought leaders in national media. Associate Professor Jose Ramirez-Marquez's **published research** on social media communication during natural disasters has garnered significant attention in major outlets including *The New York Times*. Associate Professor Marouane Temimi shared his expertise on infrastructure resilience in *The New York Times*, while Associate Professor Lindsey Cormack's perspectives on civic education were featured in *The Hechinger Report*.

Our institutional impact continues to grow through new initiatives and recognition. Stevens has secured a competitive grant from the American Talent Initiative to launch our **Transfer Student Success Initiative**, expanding STEM opportunities for talented low-income students through enhanced community college partnerships. Our leadership in sustainability earned another **Gold STARS** rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education — one of only three New Jersey universities to achieve this distinction.

To learn more about these achievements and other Stevens breakthroughs, I encourage you to read our newest issue of the IMPACT research newsletter **online** and follow Stevens' growing presence in national media through our **News webpage** and our **social media channels**.

The strength of our community extends beyond academic achievements. Next week, Stevens will participate in World Kindness Week, November 11–15, featuring **opportunities to volunteer** at the Hoboken Public Library and the Community Kitchen, along with special on-campus activities.

Your dedication and innovative spirit continue to drive Stevens forward as a premier technology-focused university. Thank you for your ongoing contributions to our shared success.

Per aspera ad astra.