



**STEVENS**  
INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY  
THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY

**A Home-Court Advantage**  
***The Stevens Indicator, Winter 2017***

I am so pleased that this issue of *The Indicator* focuses on Stevens athletics. Our athletics programs have given Stevens—our extended community of students, parents, faculty, staff, and alumni—much to celebrate over the years.

Many outside the Stevens community may not naturally associate an exceptionally successful collegiate athletics program with the rigors of a premier technological education and its demanding academic course requirements. But, with numerous conference titles and championship wins across a wide variety of men's and women's sports, the Stevens Athletics program and our scholar-athletes throughout the years epitomize exactly this combination. In fact, the habits that lead to success in both of these domains—academic and athletic—are closely linked to many of the habits and qualities that make Stevens graduates so successful in their careers.

Whether on the court, on the field, or in the classroom, our scholar-athletes exemplify the strategic priority articulated in our strategic plan: *Through Collaboration, Impact*. For example, in the 2015-16 academic year, Stevens Institute of Technology won the Collegiate Athletic Administrators of New Jersey (CAANJ) Cup for the sixth consecutive year, a recognition of the top performing National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III university in the state. In the nation, Stevens placed 13<sup>th</sup> for the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Learfield Directors' Cup among 450 NCAA Division III member institutions. Of course, our teams have also won numerous other titles including the 2015 NCAA DIII Men's Volleyball Championship, the first team championship in Stevens' history, and the 2013 and 2008 Eastern College Athletic Conference Jostens Institution of the Year awards, joining Princeton University and Williams College as the only other institutions to receive this accolade more than once. Our scholar-athletes shine on the national stage as well, ensuring that the Stevens name—and the standards of excellence it symbolizes in athletics as well as academics—is known well beyond the confines of our Castle Point campus.

As many alumni tell me, their participation in athletics has also helped them to cultivate the skills they have drawn upon in their careers and in their personal lives. In addition to maintaining high academic standards (the average GPA among all 26 varsity teams for 2015-2016 was over 3.4), Stevens' scholar-athletes hone their time-management skills, practice perseverance and teamwork, and develop a strong work ethic by juggling team practices, strength training, traveling, and competitions. They also learn sportsmanship, tenacity, tolerance, and resilience, all important life skills.

Finally, Stevens Athletics gives us yet another exciting reason to take pride in Stevens. Beyond the significant recent accomplishments of our university—in academics, research, alumni success, achieving first place in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon last year, and many others—our athletics teams provide an opportunity to enthusiastically express our school spirit.

I'm immensely proud of our athletics programs and our scholar-athletes—not only for their consistent adherence to the highest standards of excellence in their sports and in the classroom, but for representing Stevens so well both at home and away. In addition to their often-grueling schedules, our scholar-athletes lead a variety of service activities including the Duckling Program, in which scholar-athletes teach interactive engineering lessons at local middle schools; collecting goods and making food for Hoboken

Homeless Shelter; and promoting national awareness initiatives in collaboration with organizations like WomenRising, Inc., to end domestic violence.

The Stevens Ducks have taken flight, and are soaring like never before. Stevens Athletics programs are a shining example of the rapid progress and growing success Stevens has experienced over the last few years. As you will read in the pages of this issue of *The Indicator*, this is the effect of a rich academic and athletic environment that provides scholar-athletes with a set of distinctive Stevens experiences that yield a competitive advantage for their futures.

Go Ducks!

Per aspera ad astra,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Farvardin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a stylized "F".

Nariman Farvardin

President, Stevens Institute of Technology