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To Members of the Stevens Community,

Last week was a banner week at Stevens! For those who were unable to attend the *Conversation with the President* on Friday, Sept. 14th, I would like to recap some of the highlights that were announced. These developments, which have all occurred within the last few days, demonstrate the stellar trajectory on which our university is heading.

First, in the just-released 2013 edition of "Best Colleges," a guidebook published annually by *U.S. News & World Report*, Stevens Institute of Technology moved up 13 positions, to 75th, in the category of Best National Universities. This ascent is a greater improvement than that of any other university in the top 100. We are thrilled with this momentum, and will aim to do even better in future years! You can read more about this on our [news site](#).

Second, in the September 14th edition of the Wall Street Journal, our 10-year Strategic Plan, which was approved by the Board of Trustees and endorsed by both the Faculty Senate and Executive Council of the Stevens Alumni Association, was highlighted in a story called, [Hoboken School Engineers Expansion](#). The article reviewed our growth plan to expand the size and increase the selectivity of our student body, and our ambitious goals to become a premier student centric-technological research university.

Third, I am pleased to share some additional great news that you will all be hearing more about in the coming weeks. Greg Gianforte '83 and his family have made a \$10 million gift to Stevens toward a state-of-the-art academic building that will support many of the initiatives of our strategic plan. The Gianforte family gift is the largest single gift from a living donor in the Institute's history! Greg earned his B.E. in Electrical Engineering and M.S. in Computer Science from Stevens and has been an entrepreneur and innovator in the computer networking and software industries and customer experience market. Greg and his family will be on campus on October 19th for a ceremony to express our appreciation.

And lastly, as you may know, Stevens welcomed its largest and most academically talented class in our history: 680 new undergraduates, with a record 32% women and a full-time graduate class that is approximately 33% larger than last year. We also celebrate a record 94% first-year retention rate, the highest ever in our history.

All these accomplishments would not have been possible without the help of our globally renowned faculty, our dedicated and hard working staff and our remarkably talented students. And they would not have been possible without the generous support of our friends and alumni.

I thank you for your support and determination as we work to achieve the ambitious goals of our 10-year Strategic Plan entitled, *The Future. Ours to Create*.

The future looks brighter than ever, and we look forward to working together to build on these accomplishments!

Sincerely,

Nariman Farvardin

President, Stevens Institute of Technology