



# STEVENS AWARDS GALA

Saturday, October 5, 2024  
Pier Sixty, New York, NY



**STEVENS**  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY®  
1870

# AWARDS PROGRAM



## WELCOME

**Chris Cimino**

*Master of Ceremonies*

*PIX 11 Meteorologist and Lifestyle Reporter*

## PERFORMANCE

**Adriana Aguirre**

Class of 2025

- ◆ DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
**Richard E. Blahut M.S. '64**
- ◆ DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD FOR ENGINEERING  
**Brian Nigito '01**
- ◆ INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
**Dr. Sandra Cadavid '02 M.Eng. '05**

## PERFORMANCE

**The President's Ensemble**

- ◆ CHARLES V. SCHAEFER, JR. ENTREPRENEUR AWARD  
**Tony Massoud '79**
- ◆ LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD  
**John Dalton '60**
- ◆ STEVENS HONOR AWARD  
**Thomas A. Corcoran '67 Hon. D.Eng. '03**

## REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Nariman Farvardin**

## PERFORMANCE

**Ian DiGuilio '18**

## ALMA MATER

**The President's Ensemble**

# HONOREES



## HONOREES



### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## **Dr. Richard E. Blahut M.S. '64**

*Dr. Richard Blahut has led a remarkable 60-year career as a visionary leader in information theory, digital communications and military systems, shaping industries and inspiring future generations of innovators.*

At the University of Illinois from 1994 to 2014, Dr. Blahut led the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering for eight years and served as a professor and research professor in the Coordinated Science Laboratory. Known for his work in information theory, he has been a pioneer in the fields of coding theory and applications, communications, computed imaging systems, optical communications and signal processing.

Dr. Blahut worked in the Federal Systems Division of IBM from 1964 to 1994, where he was responsible for the analysis and design of systems for coherent signal processing, digital communications and statistical information processing. While at IBM, he taught at several universities and institutes including Cornell University, Princeton University, South China University of Technology, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and NATO Advanced Study Institute.

Prior to IBM, Dr. Blahut designed inertial navigations systems for Kearfott in Little Falls, New Jersey, from 1960 to 1964. During this time, he pursued his master's degree in physics part time at Stevens.

A 30-year member of the National Academy of Engineers, Dr. Blahut is an IBM Fellow and an IEEE Fellow. He received the 1998 IEEE Alexander Graham Bell Medal, and the 2005 Shannon Award from the IEEE Information Theory

Society. He was president of the IEEE Information Theory Society in 1982 and served as editor-in-chief of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory (1992-1995).

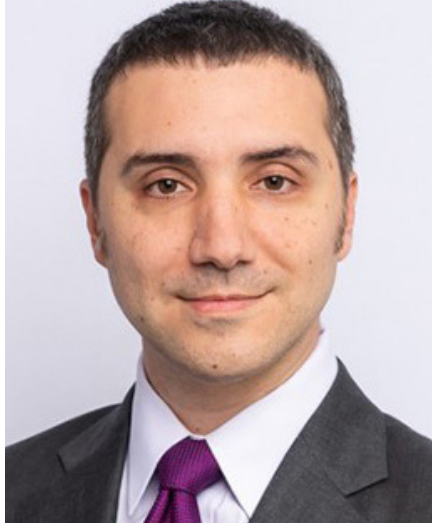
He has authored 10 textbooks on the mathematical aspects of theoretical informatics including information theory, communications theory, surveillance theory, error-control codes and signal processing. He recently completed a book on medical imaging and is currently at work on a book about information theory.

Dr. Blahut recalls attending Stevens at a time when professors taught with chalk on the blackboard. Believing it is the best way to teach, it is a practice he continued throughout all his years of teaching. He credits Stevens for providing him with a strong foundation in physics that later influenced his career.

In addition to his master's degree at Stevens, he earned a B.S. in electrical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Cornell University.

Dr. Blahut owns a bed and breakfast in Beach Haven, New Jersey. He lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania and has 12 great-grandchildren. ♦

## HONOREES



### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD ENGINEERING

## **Brian J. Nigito '01**

*Brian Nigito's 25-year career in the financial services industry has been defined by groundbreaking achievements in trading systems and market innovation.*

Mr. Nigito has served as senior technologist at Jane Street since 2012. In this role, he works on all aspects of trading systems, several technology initiatives and leads a team focused on low latency systems. Previously, he led and managed GETCO's New York operations from 2006 to 2011, where he was instrumental in growing the firm's involvement in U.S. Equities options. He then created and built the trading systems used at Instinet Inc. and Chi-X Europe Ltd.

Prior to that, Mr. Nigito served as director of high frequency trading at Citadel Investment Group. Nigito was also chief software architect at the Island ECN and chief technology officer at Inet ATS, Inc. Inet was acquired by NASDAQ in 2005 and became NASDAQ's foundational technology. He began his career at Mail.com.

Mr. Nigito is a board member of Member's Exchange (MEMX). He has served on NASDAQ's Quality of Markets Committee and NYSE's Electronic Traders Advisory Committee and CBOE's Equity Advisory Committee.

He also frequently gives tech talks on YouTube and podcasts. A deep curiosity about technology and its specific domains and challenges, as well as fostering personal connections, are qualities that guided his success.

Mr. Nigito serves as a member of the President's Leadership Council at Stevens and the Hanlon Advisory Board. He has generously supported the Stevens Pre-College Program to make it more accessible to prospective students. His philanthropy was inspired by his own experience in the pre-college program, which helped to shape his college trajectory.

He earned his bachelor's degree in computer science at Stevens. He has fond memories of his senior project, building autonomous submarines in the AUVSI (Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International) Competition sponsored by the Office of Naval Research. Nigito remains grateful for the co-op program at Stevens, the inspiring professors who challenged him and the technical background that was instrumental to his career. He formed a strong network of peers from Stevens, many of whom he continues to work with today.

In his spare time, Nigito builds everything from furniture and guitars to small-scale electronics and robotics. He lives in Montclair, New Jersey with his wife Stephanie and daughter Ella. His son Sean is a first-year student at Stevens studying computer engineering. ♦

## HONOREES



### INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## **Dr. Sandra Cadavid '02 M.Eng. '05**

*Dr. Sandra Cadavid has led a distinguished career that spans critical roles in international security and defense.*

Dr. Cadavid serves as the communications and information system advisor for the U.S. Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels and the U.S. permanent representative to the NATO Digital Policy Committee, providing expertise on digital, cyber and security policy.

Prior to the U.S. Mission, Dr. Cadavid served as a project engineer for the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey. She supported the Office of the Project Manager for Combat Ammunition Systems, facilitating security assistance efforts and international armaments cooperation. She previously served as the technical director of U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering Command International Technology Center (RDECOM) - Southern Europe at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, promoting, facilitating and implementing international cooperation between the U.S., allies and partners.

Dr. Cadavid has also worked at the U.S. Army RDECOM Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, where she was a project officer in the Acoustic and Networked Sensor Division. She served as a project manager for the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Family of Sniper Detection Systems (FSDS) and as a subject matter expert for Gunfire Detection System (GDS) technology. She also served as the technical lead for Maritime GDS and Helicopter GDS efforts in support of the Program Executive

Office for Special Operation Forces Warrior and Project Manager Aircraft Survivability Equipment.

She received Congressional recognition for exemplary service and was the recipient of the National Latina Style Leadership Distinguished Military Award (2009) in recognition of her outstanding leadership and service to the Armed Forces. She also received the Superior Civilian Service Medal, Commander's Award for Civilian Service, and Civilian Service Achievement Medals from the U.S. Army.

Dr. Cadavid cites the opportunity to represent the United States abroad, both at the U.S. Embassy in Paris and currently at the U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels, as milestone achievements in her career.

At Stevens, one of her most memorable experiences was joining STEP, the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program, which positively impacted her throughout her education. She was also a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Latin American Association and Delta Phi Epsilon. She stays connected with lifelong friends she made in these organizations.

In addition to her undergraduate and graduate degrees in electrical engineering from Stevens, Dr. Cadavid earned a doctorate in communications and electronics from the Institute Polytechnique de Paris. She enjoys traveling to new places, learning new languages and being exposed to different cultures and ways of living. ♦

## HONOREES



CHARLES V. SCHAEFER, JR.  
ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

### **Tony Massoud '79**

*An accomplished entrepreneur, Tony Massoud cares deeply about making a positive difference in the world and the lives of others.*

Mr. Massoud is the founder and CEO of Soltex Inc., a specialty chemical manufacturer and distributor based in Houston, Texas. Since launching in 1990, he has led Soltex through superior service and continued innovation to meet market needs, guiding the company to become a major supplier of specialty chemical products and services to the worldwide industrial chemical marketplace.

Mr. Massoud launched Soltex with a vision to create a successful and profitable company with an inclusive company culture. It is a vision he has achieved. Mr. Massoud began Soltex without significant financing, and it now has multiple locations with main sites in Houston and Ontario, Canada. The company has grown from four employees to more than 80. He takes great pride in Soltex's culture, where teamwork, respect and mutual admiration empower the team to achieve results.

As an entrepreneur, Mr. Massoud values close relationships with business partners and firmly believes in assembling a strong team, giving them the tools they need to succeed and letting them go to work in meeting the needs of the marketplace. He believes that a strategic vision and a willingness to take risks are essential for entrepreneurs. He cares deeply about making a positive difference in the world and the lives of others.

Mr. Massoud was honored with the 2015 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award for his leadership in environmental technology innovation and contributions in shaping a more sustainable future.

As a generous benefactor of Stevens, Mr. Massoud is inspired by the university's strong commitment to students and their undergraduate experiences. He established the Soltex Pinnacle Scholarship, and he is especially proud of the Soltex scholars, whom he personally mentors.

He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Stevens in 1979. His interest in science and math led to his decision to attend Stevens, and he credits the university for providing him with a strong foundation in critical thinking, teamwork and organizational skills. He has fond memories of the Freshman Games, when first-year and sophomore students would arrive a week before the semester began and challenge one another in a series of competitions.

Mr. Massoud enjoys golfing, boating, watching sports and spending time with his grandchildren. He and his wife Lynn live in Houston, Texas. They have seven children and 13 grandchildren. ♦

## HONOREES



### LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

## John J. Dalton '60

*John Dalton is a loyal Stevens champion who consistently supports his alma mater and fellow alumni with wholehearted dedication.*

Mr. Dalton has served as a Director-at-Large of the Stevens Alumni Association (SAA), a former SAA officer and a member of several committees including the Class Leadership Committee. He has been the Class of 1960 president since 2010 and leads engagement and fundraising efforts for his class and the Delta Tau Delta alumni community.

A member of Stevens' Historical Preservation Committee, Mr. Dalton wrote and produced two historical documentaries, "Stevens & Sons: America's First Family of Engineers" and "Tales from Castle Stevens." He also helped establish the Rho Delt Wall of Achievement to recognize distinguished Delta Tau Delta alumni for their commitment to their disciplines and contributions to society.

Mr. Dalton has more than 50 years of healthcare operations and finance experience, including executive roles with BESLER and Deloitte. He is a former trustee and vice chair of St. Joseph's Health and former chair and honorary trustee of Children's Specialized Hospital. The New Jersey Hospital Association named him its 2017 Hospital Trustee of the Year. He received the Healthcare Financial Management Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001. Mr. Dalton currently serves as the editor of the "Three Minute Read," the newsletter of the Healing American Healthcare Coalition.

Mr. Dalton and his twin brother Ed received General Motors scholarships to study at Stevens and were the first in their mother's family to attend college. He remains grateful for the scholarship support and believes in paying it forward. He is a generous supporter of Stevens and has served as a volunteer fundraiser over the past 55 years.

Mr. Dalton received the Harold R. Fee Alumni Achievement Award in 1980 and the Stevens Alumni Award in 2013. He earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Stevens in 1960 and an MBA in finance from the Stuart School of Management at Illinois Institute of Technology in 1969.

As an undergraduate, Mr. Dalton held several leadership positions, including managing editor of The Stute, chair of the 1960 Link editorial board and president of the Newman Club. He was also a member of Gear & Triangle and Pi Delta Epsilon. He has fond memories of working on all the editorial desks at The Stute throughout his four years at Stevens, noting that the experience was the best preparation for his professional career.

Mr. Dalton pinned his future wife Ann at the cannon on Stevens campus. They have been married for 63 years and live in Manasquan, New Jersey. ♦



## HONOREES



### STEVENS HONOR AWARD

## **Thomas A. Corcoran '67 Hon. D.Eng. '03**

*As a distinguished Stevens trustee, Dr. Thomas A. (Tom) Corcoran has been a guiding force in advancing the university's mission, fostering growth and championing innovation.*

Dr. Corcoran has been a Stevens trustee for 30 years and has served as vice chairman of the board and chairman of several committees. He began his career in 1967 at General Electric Company, rapidly progressing to executive positions and rising to COO of GE Aerospace Operations. After its sale to Lockheed Martin, he became president and COO of LM Electronics and Space business segments. He retired after 36 years of combined service to pursue other initiatives.

Subsequently, Dr. Corcoran became chairman, CEO and president of Allegheny Teledyne Inc. He then joined the Carlyle Group, serving as chairman, CEO and president of Gemini Air Cargo, where he successfully led a business restructuring. He was also a senior advisor for the Carlyle Group for 15 years.

Serving on numerous public and private company boards, Dr. Corcoran most recently was chairman of Aerojet Rocketdyne, a member of the L3Harris board and previously served on the Aer Lingus board. He served as chairman of the board of Lockheed Martin UK and on the boards of various Carlyle companies. He is a trustee emeritus at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Corcoran was also director of the American Ireland Fund for 25 years and has been named multiple times by Irish America magazine in its Top Business 100.

Dr. Corcoran is a generous supporter of Stevens, through both his philanthropy and time, believing that giving back is important as a philosophy of life. He has supported several university initiatives, including the University Center Complex and Gateway Academic Center, both of which include spaces bearing the Corcoran name. He contributes his knowledge and expertise as a university trustee.

As a student at Stevens, he managed his studies while working several jobs to pay for his education, including as a caddie and waiter and working summers for the Long Island Lighting Company. He joined Beta Theta Pi, wrote headlines for The Stute and served as business manager for the Link yearbook.

His time at Stevens influenced his career and life, instilling in him confidence, adaptability and the belief that learning is a lifelong initiative. His graduation from Stevens remains a proud day and gave him a strong sense of accomplishment.

Dr. Corcoran earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from Stevens in 1967 and an honorary doctorate in 2003. He is also a graduate of the GE Manufacturing Management Program (MBA equivalent).

In addition to his business and community interests, Corcoran enjoys spending time with his family, reading history books and biographies and staying physically fit. For most of his life, he has been an avid golfer. He and his wife Claudia have been married for 55 years. They live in Florida and have two children and two grandchildren. ♦

# AWARDS COMMITTEE



Stevens Institute of Technology expresses its gratitude to the members of the Stevens Awards Committee for their time and dedication in selecting the honorees of the 2024 Stevens Awards Gala.

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Cindy Chin '05 M.S. '05

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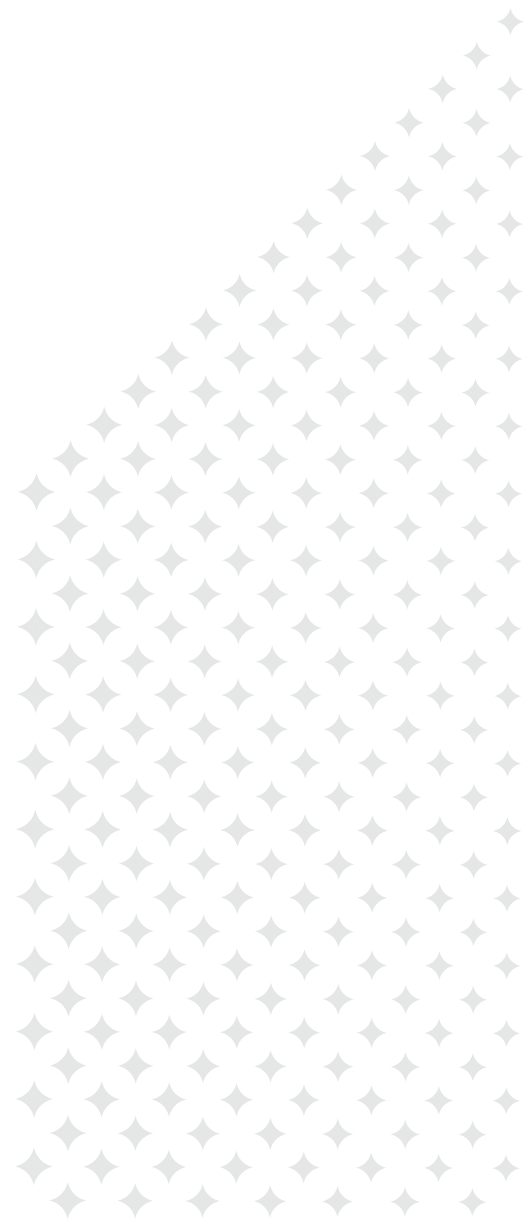
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# ALMA MATER



*Where flows the Hudson River,  
Out to the mighty sea,  
On Castle Point so proudly,  
Stands there in majesty.*

*Stevens, our Alma Mater,  
Homage to thee we pay.  
With loyal hearts and voices,  
True to the Red and Gray!*

*There's a college of engineering  
That is known as the Old Stone Mill.  
Every part of it is dear to a Stevens engineer,  
From the shop to the castle on the hill.*

*And where her sons and daughters gather,  
You can bet your life they'll say,  
"The engineers! The engineers!  
Are in the lead, again, today!"*

*Stevens we're true to you,  
To the old Red and Gray.  
Stevens, we're going to raise  
Your colors high today!*

*"I'm a rambling wreck from Stevens Tech,  
A mechanical engineer!"  
We can hear that old song still,  
And it means we're going to fight, fight, fight  
For the Old Stone Mill!*

*Where flows the Hudson River,  
Out to the mighty sea,  
On Castle Point so proudly,  
Stands there in majesty.*

*Stevens, our Alma Mater,  
Homage to thee we pay.  
With loyal hearts and voices,  
True to the Red and Gray!*



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