

# THE STEVENS INDICATOR

WINTER 2022 ✦ THE MAGAZINE OF THE STEVENS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



## FACES *of* GRATITUDE

Our community unites to unleash  
*The Power of Stevens*

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**AT LEFT:** Fireworks pop over the Hudson River celebrating the inaugural illumination of the Stevens sign atop the new University Center Complex. (Photo: Jeff Vock)

**ON THE COVER:** From left to right:

Jeff Nickerson, Steven Shulman '62 Chair for Business Leadership and Professor of Digital Innovation, Stevens School of Business (Photo: Jeff Vock)

Diana Yuan '21 (Photo: Pete Comparoni)

Tim Paglione '90 (Photo: M. Cooper)

Gina Addeo '86 (Photo: M. Cooper)

Johannes Weickenmeier, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Charles V. Schaefer, Jr. School of Engineering and Science (Photo: M. Cooper)

Laura Dorival Pagilone '90 (Photo: M. Cooper)

Ph.D. student Ahsanul Torza (Photo: M. Cooper)

Haijun Ramoundos '18 (Photo: Maria Grace Photography)

**COVER DESIGN:** Simone Larson Design

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## THANK YOU FOR IGNITING *THE POWER OF STEVENS*

If you look into the night sky along the Hoboken waterfront — or peer from across the river, from New York City — you will see that a new light has joined the Hudson River skyline. A new Stevens sign sits illuminated atop the University Center Complex, the first time in the university's 152-year history that the Stevens name has been lit for millions to see! A grand illumination ceremony held at the start of the fall semester gathered students, faculty, staff, alumni and Hoboken residents to celebrate Stevens' spectacular progress over the past 10 years and its bright future — captured by this brilliant new light in the sky.

That beautiful evening along the Hudson was one of many memorable moments in your alma mater's history, and one that I am particularly proud to share with you as we welcome 2022 with a renewed sense of optimism, purpose and gratitude.

First, gratitude. This issue of *The Indicator* celebrates an historic milestone: the completion of Stevens' most successful fundraising campaign ever, *The Power of Stevens*. Thanks to a revitalized philanthropy and alumni engagement program, the university raised \$200.6 million to support the creation and renovation of new academic, research and student spaces; to hire and support the work of exceptional faculty; and to launch numerous initiatives to nurture student success. The benefactors of these extraordinary donations are real people: the students whose lives will be changed forever by a Stevens education; the professors whose research tackles some of the world's greatest challenges; and the students, professors and researchers who will now have the facilities needed for enhanced learning, teaching, research and community life. In this issue, some of these people — and the generous donors who made all of this possible — discuss the transformative power of these gifts, and say thank you.

*The Power of Stevens* enables the university to fulfill its primary purpose: to educate future generations of highly skilled graduates who will make a positive difference in the world. I feel so optimistic about the future when I meet our students, and this was especially true when I welcomed the Class of 2025 last fall, the most academically accomplished and most diverse incoming class in Stevens' history. I am proud to share some of the stellar numbers of that class:



JOHN O'BOYLE

those first-year students who submitted SAT scores averaged 1440 on the standardized test, a record high. The number of women students and students from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in STEM also reached an all-time high in the incoming class, at 33% and 21%, respectively. Our incoming students represent all regions of the U.S., as well as 15 nations around the globe. Meanwhile, our overall enrollment numbers are at record highs, surpassing 4,000 undergraduates and 4,200 graduate students, totaling approximately 8,300 students — the highest enrollment in our history. With 11,320 undergraduate and nearly 12,000 graduate applications for the fall 2021 semester, the demand for a Stevens

education has never been greater.

Our research enterprise has also reached new heights. External research funding set a new record last year, with research awards totaling \$50.6 million in fiscal year 2021. Substantial awards came from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense, among others.

Meanwhile, research awards for fiscal year 2022 have been off to a strong start. As of fall 2021, Stevens had already earned more than \$35.6 million in external research funding.

As I write to you in early December, anticipating the warmth of the holiday season, I also look forward to spring, with great hope. In May, we anticipate a ceremony on campus to close *The Power of Stevens* campaign — and to thank our community that came together to ensure Stevens' bright future. More details about this exciting event will be shared in the near future. We look forward to that wonderful day — on the cusp of summer — when the Stevens community will finally reunite on Castle Point.

*Per aspera ad astra,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Farvardin". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Nariman Farvardin  
President, Stevens Institute of Technology  
president@stevens.edu  
201-216-5213

**WINTER 2022, VOL. 143, NO. 1****Editor**

Beth Kissinger - Beth.Kissinger@stevens.edu

**Managing Editor**

Erin Lewis - Erin.Lewis@stevens.edu

**Contributors**

Kristin Hanson

Charles O'Brien - Stevens Athletics

Alan Skontra - Stevens Office of  
Development and Alumni Engagement

Tracy Vogel

**Art Direction/Design**

www.DanFlintDesign.com

Simone Larson Design

**Additional Art Direction/Design**Michael Hofmann - Stevens Division  
of University Relations**Development and Alumni Engagement**Megan K. Stevens, Assistant Vice President  
for Annual Giving and Alumni  
Engagement, and Executive Director  
and Executive Secretary, Stevens  
Alumni Association**Published by**The Stevens Division of University Relations  
in cooperation with Stevens Office of  
Development and Alumni Engagement**Indicator Correspondence***The Stevens Indicator*1 Castle Point Terrace  
Hoboken, NJ 07030  
Phone: (201) 216-5161**Letters to the Editor**

editor@alumni.stevens.edu

**Class Log submissions**alumni-log@stevens.edu or  
stevens.edu/alumni/submitnews**General SAA inquiries**Contact the Alumni Office  
Phone: (201) 216-5163  
Fax: (201) 216-8247  
alumni@stevens.edu

**STEVENS**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
PER ASPERA AD ASTRA

**DON'T FORGET FIELD HOCKEY!**

I enjoyed thumbing through your 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition magazine! There was one small piece of historical trivia that was missing from this issue, however. The Stevens Field Hockey Club was founded while I was an undergraduate student there (in fact, my roommate, Raj "Tushar" Moorti '93 M.S. '93 and I were the ones who started it). I believe it became an "official" club in 1991. I am disappointed that this pioneering club — started before there was an AstroTurf field or a field hockey team at Stevens — was not recognized in your historical accounts featured in this issue of *The Indicator*. ❖ — *Chris Bajwa '93*



Members of the inaugural Stevens Field Hockey Club, circa early 1990s.

**KEEPING UP WITH KATE DUNCAN '98 M.ENG. '99**

I really enjoyed the fall 2021 *Indicator* article on Kate Duncan '98 M.Eng. '99. This is especially true since Kate was my freshman advisee and assisted me when I was director of the electrical engineering/computer engineering department. My wife Pat and I met Kate some years ago in West Orange, New Jersey, on the occasion of the dedication of the IEEE Edison Medal. At that time, she told us that she had earned a Ph.D. from New Jersey Institute of Technology. I earned that university's first doctorate in 1966. ❖ — *Emil Neu '55 (Editor's Note: Dr. Neu is professor emeritus of electrical engineering at Stevens.)*

**WE LOVE LETTERS!**

Let us know what you think about what you've seen in *The Indicator*  
at: editor@alumni.stevens.edu.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF CLASS LOGS**

Since graduation from Stevens, I have composed and submitted the Class of 1970 log, missing only one in 50+ years. It is both surprising and sad to see so many class years in *The Indicator* without logs. Maybe social media has something to do with this. We did not have social media when we graduated and some of us still subscribe to dinosaur methods of communication. However, if you believe social media replaces logs, you are very much mistaken. Logs bridge the gap for those who may not have the same "friends" on Facebook. Your logs are also read by members of other classes, who have some sort of relationship or interest in your class. I implore all class secretaries to find a way to compose a class log for each *Indicator* issue. You will be pleasantly surprised by the information you receive from your classmates and those of other classes. ❖ — *Gene Golebiowski '70*

# GRIST FROM THE MILL



## LeadHERship Conference Empowers Women, Gender Minorities in STEM

The Third Biennial LeadHERship conference brought leaders, change-makers and lifelong learners to campus on September 17-18 for inspiring keynote addresses, networking receptions and a series of workshops led by alumni, faculty and special guests. The public was invited to join virtually via Zoom and livestream. The conference kicked off with a keynote conversation on effective science communication between Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, author of *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City*, and Dr. Kevin Ryan Ph.D. '96, Stevens teaching professor. Additional programming included research-based workshops on gender equity and inclusion; skills-based workshops on leadership, inclusion and identity development; and discussion panels with alumni and other professionals. Closing keynote speaker Aprille Joy Ericsson, an aerospace engineer, shared her journey from growing up in public housing, to finding her passion for engineering at MIT, to giving back to the next generation of women of color. ❖

▶ To learn more about the conference, visit [stevens.edu/LeadHERship](https://stevens.edu/LeadHERship)

## AMERICANS AMBIVALENT TOWARD AI ADOPTION

Americans are deeply conflicted about the promise and pitfalls of artificial intelligence (AI). While they have concerns about the harm the technology is doing now and could do in the future, many still believe there is more of an upside than a downside to the growing use of AI. That's according to Stevens' TechPulse Report: A Perspective on Americans' Attitudes Toward Artificial Intelligence, a new national poll of 2,200 adults conducted on behalf of Stevens Institute of Technology by Morning Consult examining Americans' views on a wide range of AI-related issues. Almost half (48%) of Americans feel the positives of greater AI adoption in everyday life outweigh the negatives, while 29% believe the opposite. A majority also believes that in the future, AI should play a greater role in a variety of industries. Despite that enthusiasm, people are far more comfortable with humans, rather than AI, being in charge of performing most jobs and, in general, express a good deal of apprehension and mistrust of the technology. ❖

▶ To read the report, visit [stevens.edu/ai-survey/findings](https://stevens.edu/ai-survey/findings)

## STEVENS' DIVERSITY EFFORTS RECOGNIZED WITH GRANT SUPPORT

Stevens received two significant new awards to foster increased diversity in STEM higher education and career development. The New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) awarded Stevens approximately \$850,000 for pre-college and research programs through the state's Opportunity Meets Innovation Challenge — which works to increase enrollment of underrepresented students in STEM programs at New Jersey-based universities in partnership with the state's high schools. Funding from OSHE will enable Stevens to expand and diversify existing entrepreneurship programs as well as support the creation of a dedicated “startup garage” technology space. A \$1.5 million award from the National Science Foundation will fund a new initiative, led by a team of Stevens faculty and administrators. Among other components, the project will fund up to 50 Stevens scholarships for full-time STEM students in need; and additional programming to recruit, support and retain low-income high school students. ❖

## FARVARDIN, CALHOUN, YANG NAMED TO NJBIZ POWER 50

Stevens President Nariman Farvardin was named to the NJBIZ Education Power 50 in recognition of the incredible growth and upward trajectory the university has experienced under his leadership, which began in 2011. The list profiles leaders of educational institutions who are “responsible for managing organizations, making policies that directly affect the institutions or are themselves directly responsible for imparting knowledge to students, apprentices and the citizenry at large.”

NJBIZ also included on the list George Calhoun and Steve Yang, School of Business at Stevens faculty and leaders of the new NSF-funded Center for Research toward Advancing Financial Technologies (CRAFT). ❖

## CRAFT FINTECH RESEARCH CENTER LAUNCHED WITH RPI, NSF

Stevens, in partnership with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, launched the first-ever National Science Foundation (NSF)-backed fintech research center in summer 2021. The interdisciplinary, Stevens-led CRAFT (Center for Research toward Advancing Financial Technologies) will engage leading financial industry, academic and government partners through the NSF's unique Industry-University Cooperative Research Center model. This model supports the research collaboration of industry and academic partners by funding administrative and operational costs while enabling member partners to share any intellectual property developed on a royalty-free basis. CRAFT will operate toward three objectives: financial technology research; workforce development, as students develop projects brought to CRAFT by industry; and broader curriculum development. Specific areas of research include decentralized finance, AI-enabled finance, quantum finance and solutions to climate-related impacts on investment, while also helping secure our financial data, create and test more equitable trading platforms, inform financial regulations, and support improved market simulation and stress-testing tools that ensure financial system stability for all. ❖



 To learn more about CRAFT,  
visit [stevens.edu/craft](https://stevens.edu/craft)

## NEW RECORD FOR RESEARCH FUNDING

Stevens has set a new university high-water mark for research funding. During fiscal year 2021, which concluded on June 30, total research awards to Stevens totaled \$50.6 million — eclipsing the previous year's mark, which had also set a record, by more than \$4 million. Over the past 10 years, research funding to Stevens has increased by a remarkable 97%. Noteworthy awards received during FY21 included more than \$9 million from the Department of Defense for a variety of projects in quantum science, artificial intelligence and other disciplines; a \$3.1 million grant from a private partner to Stevens for work on maritime security systems; more than \$2 million from the National Science Foundation for brain disorder research projects; and more than \$1 million each from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the National Institutes of Health for projects in areas including AI, cancer research and healthcare analytics. ❖



# CALENDAR

**MAR31-APR2**  
**THURSDAY-SATURDAY**

Stevens Dramatic Society presents  
"She Loves Me," DeBaun Auditorium

**APR6-7**  
**WED-THUR**  
Stevens Day Of Giving

**APR22**  
**FRIDAY**

Jazz Band Performance,  
DeBaun Auditorium

**APR23**  
**SATURDAY**  
Choir Performance, DeBaun Auditorium

**APR29**  
**FRIDAY**

Stevens Innovation Expo and Ansary  
Entrepreneurship Competition

**MAY14**  
**SATURDAY**

*The Power of Stevens* campaign  
celebration, Stevens Campus

**JUNE3-4**  
**FRIDAY-SATURDAY**  
Alumni Weekend 2022

 For more events, visit [stevens.edu/events](https://stevens.edu/events)  
For DeBaun Performing Arts Center  
events, visit [stevens.edu/debaunpac](https://stevens.edu/debaunpac)



## GREEKS GATHER, REUNITE TO WARM THE SPIRITS

**1** This past September, 17 Chi Phi fraternity “Old Guard” alumni and 15 spouses met at the Omni Hotel in Richmond, Virginia, for three days of reminiscing, sharing meals, visiting the city sights and just catching up. Brothers from the Classes of 1957 through 1971 attended, along with the fraternity’s alumni association representative (Class of 1980). The Chi Phi Old Guard is open to those who have been brothers for more than 50 years. The next reunion is set for the Houston area in 2023.

**2** Omicron Pi sorority alumnae — from New Jersey, Maryland, Missouri, Florida and as far as The Netherlands — have hosted Zoom calls to celebrate birthdays, to “visit” with each other’s families and to simply stay in touch during the pandemic. Pictured here are Katie (Stoddard) Duty '03, Jennifer (Awad) Solewski '03, Erin (Horner) Isaacs '03, Shanna (Garber) Urgo '02, Suzy (Kelly) Webber '02, Erin (Rowe) Sprick '03 and Sarah (Kelly) Naiva '01.

**3** After a year’s hiatus due to the pandemic, Delta Tau Delta fraternity alumni resumed a beloved holiday tradition in 2021: its annual Delt reunion. Close to 40 Delts gathered on December 10 at the Hilton Newark Airport in Elizabeth, New Jersey, for lunch, with brothers represented from six decades, the 1960s through the 2010s. What started as a gathering among 1970s Delts has grown to an annual event attracting more than 75 brothers pre-COVID. The brothers savored this reunion, catching up, looking back and sharing unforgettable stories of life at the Delt house and Castle Point. See who attended on page 67.

## EDISON PATENT AWARD WINNERS HONORED FOR HEALTHCARE INNOVATION

Chemistry and chemical biology professor Woo Lee, former doctoral student Linh Le and De Kong M.S. '11 have received a 2021 Thomas Edison Patent Award from the Research & Development Council of New Jersey for their U.S. patent, “Graphene-based Films in Sensor Applications.” The patented technology, a novel environmental sensor fabricated from graphene film and based on Stevens-developed research, is already used by Le’s startup venture, Flextrapower, to manufacture wearable systems that monitor foot health for diabetic patients. The company also manufactures graphene-based masks that may be effective in protecting from infectious disease. Kong participated in the research’s early stages. Edison Patent Award winners are selected annually by a panel of R&D Council researchers who evaluate new patents for utility, social value, novelty and commercial impact, among other criteria.



## NEW SAA LEADERSHIP

Megan K. Stevens, a 16-year higher education veteran in alumni relations and development, volunteer management, strategic planning and student affairs, joined Stevens as assistant vice president for annual giving and alumni engagement, and executive director and executive secretary of the Stevens Alumni Association, on January 18, 2022. Meet Megan and learn more about her priorities for our alumni community in the spring/summer 2022 issue.





## NEW SPACE FOR START-UPS IN HOBOKEN

On November 8, President Farvardin helped cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the Innovation and Commercialization Lab, an off-campus work-space located at Mission 50, an 80,000 square-foot boutique office space in Hoboken that has been fostering entrepreneurship and business growth in the Greater New York City marketplace since 2011. The Lab, donated by longtime entrepreneur and businessman Gregory Dell'Aquila, will be the centerpiece of the university-driven entrepreneurial community in northern New Jersey. Four universities, including Stevens, Hudson County Community College, New Jersey City University and Saint Peter's University, will have their own individual workspaces. This dedicated space not only aims to encourage collaboration within and across schools, but also to build New Jersey's business community. ❖

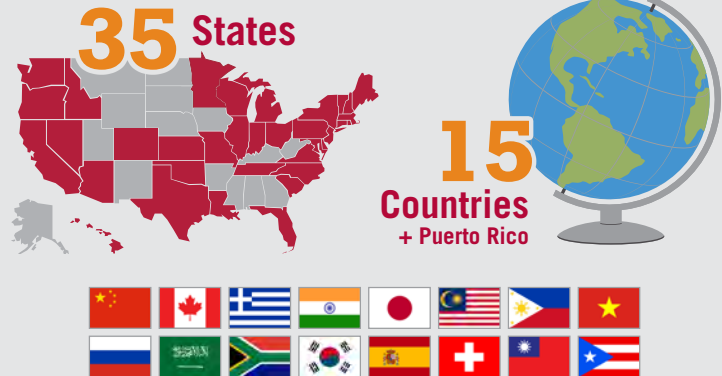
## GET YOUR STEVENS NEWS!

For more university and alumni news, visit [stevens.edu/news](http://stevens.edu/news)

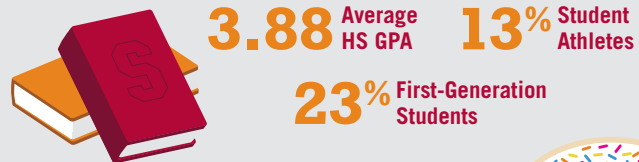
## Meet the Stevens Class of 2025

**1,115** Full-Time Undergraduate Students

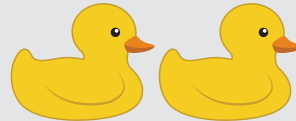
WHERE THEY'RE FROM



WHO THEY ARE



**26**



Have siblings who are a current or former Stevens student



The month with the most student birthdays

MOST POPULAR NAMES



MOST POPULAR MAJOR



**Computer Science**

STUDENTS IN...

**6** iSTEM students  
**10** Clark Scholars  
**48** STEP Students  
**10%** Pinnacle Scholars







# FACES *of* GRATITUDE

Our community unites to unleash  
*The Power of Stevens*

More than 46,000 gifts. A record 14,362 donors. And 158 brand new scholarships, 18 new faculty chairs and fellowships and 100% of campus classrooms renovated. These are just some of the numbers of the historic, smashingly successful campaign, *The Power of Stevens*.

The most successful fundraising campaign in the university's history raised \$200.6 million — more than \$50 million above its original goal. And it has transformed Stevens forever. Walk the campus, and you see more and more stellar students and outstanding faculty in the classrooms, in the labs, all across Castle Point. You see more modern, stunning facilities, helping them to thrive. Stevens has entered a new era, more prepared to tackle the world's most urgent challenges.

**But *The Power of Stevens* was always about people** — the students and professors whose lives would be changed by this campaign, and the greater Stevens community. Generations of donors, many of them alumni, saw the potential of this university, its students and professors, and came together to support them.

*The Stevens Indicator* wanted to connect some of these people behind the numbers: recent graduates with their scholarship supporter and champion; a professor with a philanthropist; students and a professor with a benefactor who invested in top-quality facilities now used by hundreds every day.

In the following pages, these people meet — some for the first time — to talk about the positive difference that one person's generosity is having in their lives and on the Stevens community, and to say thank you.

We also remember people whose legacy of generosity lives on, through their loved ones' support of outstanding Stevens students. And we hear from donors of several generations who are now "paying it forward" to the alma mater that gave them so much. ❖

— Beth Kissinger

**Haijun Ramoundos '18 is using the engineering and time management skills he learned at Stevens to build his career with Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia.**

MARIA GRACE PHOTOGRAPHY



# BE TRUE *to* YOUR SCHOOL

The Kaminski Family Scholarship builds a bridge from Brooklyn to Hoboken for promising young engineers

**E**ach year, one deserving Stevens freshman is awarded a Kaminski Family Scholarship, which will support them throughout their undergraduate years at Castle Point. Many of these scholars cultivated an early interest in science or engineering at Brooklyn Technical High School (also known as “Brooklyn Tech”), just like Joe Kaminski '60.

As the first in his family to graduate from college, Kaminski is passionate about supporting gifted first-generation and under-resourced students who are interested in pursuing a future in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. He and his wife, Judith, established the Kaminski Family Scholarship in 2005 to help graduating seniors from Brooklyn Tech access rigorous engineering and scientific training like he did at Stevens.

Even after a 35-year tenure in executive and international leadership positions with Air Products & Chemicals, Kaminski regards the education he received in his high school as one of his most pivotal life experiences. “For many of us who are Brooklyn Tech alumni, it’s the foundation that we have built great careers on,” he explains. “I wanted to figure out a way to build on that and help other people as they go forward.”

Kaminski’s support of his scholars isn’t just financial. He serves as a mentor and champion, offering professional advice and support long after graduation. He and Judith even made the

guest list at the wedding of their first scholarship recipient, Justin Rodriguez '08. “They know that I’m always in the background, looking out to see how they’re doing,” says Kaminski. “It’s been a wonderful experience to meet them and interface with them, to watch them continue to grow. It’s something that has probably given me more than I’ve given them.”

*The Stevens Indicator* listened in as Kaminski connected with two recent scholarship recipients, Diana Yuan '21 and Haijun Ramoundos '18, via Zoom in November.

**JOE KAMINSKI:** Can you tell *Indicator* readers a little bit about your background and what your high school experience was like?

**DIANA YUAN:** My parents, who immigrated from China, were very proud of me when I found out I got into Brooklyn Tech since it is so competitive. My two sisters went to [a rival school], but we won't talk about that! I was able to take a lot of AP (advanced placement) classes, choose a major and take specialized classes. I was also surrounded by many peers who were super intelligent and driven. I think that contributed to me being able to be so motivated in the work that I do.

**HAIJUN RAMOUNDOS:** I was born in China, but at 14 months old I was adopted by my family and grew up in Brooklyn. My dad is Greek, and my mom is Norwegian American. And I have one older sister who is their biological kid. I also attended Brooklyn Tech. Like Diana said, we were surrounded every day with some incredible people. I kind of miss that environment, because it did motivate you to want to be at their level and work hard. I was also part of the athletic program, did photography and was in the choir there.

**JOE:** When you were looking at schools, what prompted you to think about Stevens?

**DIANA:** Before I started looking at schools, I didn't even know what Stevens was! Then, as I started searching for schools that specialized in engineering and STEM, I noticed that Stevens was one of the top-ranked schools. Stevens also has a unique co-op program where you're able to alternate work and classes, depending on your major. My first time visiting, I didn't realize how close it was to the city. The campus has a super great skyline view.

**HAIJUN:** At Brooklyn Tech, we chose majors in junior and senior year. I did the mechanical engineering major which helped steer me to look at Stevens, but the main reason that Stevens was on my radar was because my dad, Avgoustis Ramoundos M.Eng. '72, is an alumnus. I visited a few times and also attended the summer ECOES (Exploring Career Options in Engineering and Science) program during my junior year of high school. The other reason is because I was conflicted between studying mechanical engineering or naval maritime

engineering. Stevens and the University of Michigan were the only two schools that I applied to with a naval program. So that's really what the deciding factor was.

**JOE:** How important was getting a scholarship to Stevens in influencing your decision?

**DIANA:** For me, it was super important. If I didn't receive a scholarship, I probably wouldn't have gone to Stevens because my parents would have had to take out a bunch of loans for me to go to university.

**HAIJUN:** I agree, the scholarship was very helpful in easing the financial burden on my parents. I actually didn't realize I had been offered the scholarship until after I had already accepted admission, so it was a little happy surprise. But it verified my choice of Stevens because it made me feel like Stevens produces great people who are willing to give back to the school and to help the next generation of engineers come through. It made me feel valued that someone took the time

to identify me and see where I came from and what I've done and was willing to help sponsor my education.

**JOE:** What were the most challenging aspects of your experience at Stevens? What were the highlights?

**DIANA:** For me, the most challenging part was adjusting to a new environment. It was my first time living on my own and having so much freedom. I had to deal with time management, balancing my classes, homework and trying to figure out which clubs I wanted to join and which events I wanted to participate in. My highlights were participating in the co-op program and being able to study abroad in Shanghai, China. That made me want to travel more in the future.

**HAIJUN:** It's challenging to navigate an engineering curriculum that's as rigorous as Stevens' is without having your parents over your shoulder,

A portrait of Diana Yuan '21, a young woman with long dark hair, smiling slightly. She is wearing a dark top and a necklace with a circular pendant. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery.

*Diana Yuan '21  
studied abroad  
while at Stevens,  
sparking her  
interest in travel  
and international  
work.*

PETE COMPARONI



JEFF VOCK

**Joe Kaminski '60 (right) with Kaminski Family Scholarship recipient Nazrin Akther '20 M.S. '21 at the 2019 Scholarship Luncheon.**

saying, 'Alright, it's time to study.' It's on you now, being alone to focus and set aside time to complete all your tasks. Now, other people say I have some really exceptional time management skills — that's all Stevens! I think the highlights for me were the co-op program and definitely the senior design project. I was part of the Baja SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) car. It was really cool to be on a team of people who were enthusiastic about cars like I am. Also, the lunchroom has the best view in the country.

company headquartered in France. Software is what I specialize in right now. I'm trying to learn as much as I can and be exposed to different industries and functions. I really like to travel and I'm hoping that one day I might be able to work internationally.

**JOE:** Haijun, how is your career developing since leaving Stevens?

**HAIJUN:** I graduated from Stevens in 2018. Currently I'm in Virginia Beach and working

I spent a lot of time studying there.

**JOE:** Now that you have your degrees, tell us a little bit about what you're doing since graduating from Stevens.

**DIANA:** I graduated Stevens a little over a year ago. This is my first job out of university and currently I'm working remotely as an implementation consultant at Keyrus, an IT consulting

at Newport News Shipbuilding. We build the carriers and submarines for the U.S. Navy. I've been working there for just about three and a half years and have had three different positions in design, manufacturing and now, quality. I'm getting a broad perspective of different areas of operations, and the company is also helping to sponsor my MBA program at the College of William and Mary.

**JOE:** If you were speaking to someone who was on the fence about making a gift, what would you say to motivate them to step up to the plate and support scholarships at Stevens?

**DIANA:** I would say if someone's even considering it, they should just do it. Any contribution makes an impact on students.

**HAIJUN:** I think the biggest thing is, it helps diversify the student body at Stevens. I was just thinking about Brooklyn Tech. We grew up in a diverse environment and a lot of the kids were financially constrained. When we talked about where we applied to college, a lot of [my classmates'] choices were in-state or in-city schools, and they were ten times better than I ever was. I feel like if they had known about scholarship offerings, they would have definitely considered Stevens. ❖ — *As told to Erin Lewis*

LOYAL DONORS

## Marissa Moses Brock '99

Marissa Moses Brock '99 can immediately name the two Stevens groups that have had the deepest, most enduring impact on her life: the women's basketball team and the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program (STEP). Brock played on Stevens' first women's varsity basketball team and cherishes long friendships with her former teammates.

STEP, simply, was "home."

"My STEP family guided me professionally and personally through a close, tight-knit community ... I consistently give to Stevens and specifically to STEP because of the special impact it had on me as well as countless others."

Brock draws inspiration from her father, the late Timothy Moses. He was a "huge champion of education" — not only of his daughter's but also of other children in the community. Every year at their church, he would give high school graduates a small gift to help cover books or a meal. Brock never knew how much was in those envelopes, but it didn't matter. "Giving even a little makes a difference," she says. "I continue to give 'scholarships' to graduates at my childhood church in my father's memory, as well as continue to give to Stevens." — *Beth Kissinger*



# THE PROFESSOR *and* *the* PHILANTHROPIST

Elevating Innovation, and a New Faculty Chair

“**I**nnovation is an art,” says Steve Shulman ’62 M.S. ’63 Hon. D.Eng. ’02. “We see a lot of it at Stevens.”

JEFF VOCK

Shulman has studied innovation throughout his six-decade career in investment banking and private equity. He paired this interest with a devotion to his alma mater by endowing a faculty chair. Chairs are among the most prestigious honors faculty can receive in their careers, providing professors with additional resources for their teaching and research.

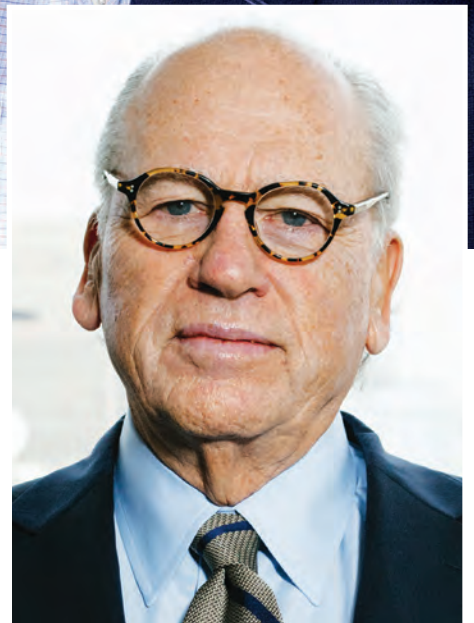
In 2020, Jeff Nickerson became the inaugural Steven Shulman ’62 Chair for Business Leadership and Professor of Digital Innovation. Nickerson has taught at Stevens since 2001, currently within the School of Business. He designed some of the first program trading systems on Wall Street, and he is now principal investigator in a project funded by the National Science Foundation that seeks to understand how AI affects work. The team is seeking to understand how machine learning technologies are affecting the journalism profession.

“Jeff exemplifies innovation,” Shulman says. “He’s been on Wall Street, he’s been active in cutting-edge research. He exemplifies a lot of what I see happening at Stevens and in society.”

*Shulman has studied innovation throughout his six-decade career in investment banking and private equity. He paired this interest with a devotion to his alma mater by endowing a faculty chair.*



Stevens School of Business professor Jeff Nickerson (top) and Steve Shulman ’62 M.S. ’63 Hon. D.Eng. ’02.





JEFF VOCK

**Professor Jeff Nickerson, the Steven Shulman '62 Chair for Business Leadership and Professor of Digital Innovation, meets with Ph.D. student and fellow researcher Shiyang Zhang.**

### Importance of Innovation

The professor and the philanthropist agree on the importance of innovation, the power of faculty chairs and their potential at Stevens.

Nickerson is interested in how arti-

invested in medical devices, auto parts, restaurants and other industries. “Wall Street moves quickly. In a marketplace where trades move at milliseconds, you must have the latest in technology. Take

with developing autonomous vehicles,” he says. “A chair sends a signal that can summon some interesting work.”

Nickerson also got invited to a discussion group with industry practitioners.

***“Right after the chair was announced, I got invited by the Society of Automotive Engineers to look at problems with developing autonomous vehicles. A chair sends a signal that can summon some interesting work.” — JEFF NICKERSON***

cial intelligence and machine learning are changing workplaces, especially coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Companies are looking for particular skills as people come back to work, and they’re not finding those skills,” Nickerson says. “Companies have pushed forward their automation plans out of necessity. Now they’re looking for people to help them design the next stage of automation.”

“You don’t have to look very far to see innovation,” says Shulman, who has

the example of electric vehicles and how major automobile manufacturers are moving in that direction. Look at the COVID-19 vaccines, developed in less than a year. Scientists are saving lives and moving society out of its complete funk into where it can flourish again.”

Nickerson says the Shulman Chair has provided immediate benefits for teaching and research. “Right after the chair was announced, I got invited by the Society of Automotive Engineers to look at problems

“We meet every week and talk to someone who’s using artificial intelligence and machine learning to design products,” he says. “Chairs are effective at building bridges to industry and drawing insights into what’s happening in the economy and job market.”

A third benefit brings resources, such as to purchase advanced data sets. “One of my Ph.D. students presented a paper at a conference on the future of work,” Nickerson says. “A colleague from MIT told the student about a new data set she should examine. This presented a challenge because the set is expensive. I gnawed on this over the last year and a half, and when the chair came around, I realized we had a solution. We now have access that allows us to play in the same league as the best business schools.”



Shulman is happy to help. “Stevens has always prepared students to go into the world, now really dominated by technology, and find their place and emerge as leaders in various industries. Our graduates have excelled at moving beyond a narrow world.”

### The Power of Chairs

Nickerson believes campaign gifts like the Shulman Chair will position the School of Business for growth. “Chairs are important for a school like ours that has been rising rapidly,” he says. “We’ve been hiring lots of faculty who can compete with the best schools. One small difference is resources. We can use as many chairs as we can get because we have many rising faculty who are ready.”

Nickerson intends to apply the Shulman Chair toward two additional initiatives. “Undergraduate research is important,” he says. “These students add vibrancy to the whole research effort. I want to use the chair to create a research scholarship for undergrads who are interested in the topics of the chair and give them research experience for their resumes.”

His second plan involves mini-residencies for campus visitors. “Valuable connections happen when someone comes for a couple of days and meets faculty and students at all levels,” Nickerson says. “I want to bring in scholars and people with business experience. I want Steve Shulman to be one of the early invitees, and he’s agreed.”

“I think Jeff and the people he’s going to assemble, and the kind of students we’re going to attract, will be consistent with what I would like to see Stevens graduates look like,” Shulman says. “They’re going to continue to be leaders in a rapidly changing world driven by innovation.”

“If you look around campus right now,” Nickerson says, “You’ll see students designing robots, algorithms, portfolios and policies across all four schools. The common theme is that students at Stevens design things that are going to be in great demand. I think we can feel good about our role in fostering the growth we all seek.” ❖

— Alan Skontra

LOYAL DONORS

## Victor Skowronski '71 M.Eng. '72

The generosity of alumni and friends — and some much-needed extra care from Stevens — made all the difference for Victor Skowronski '71 M.Eng.'72. As an undergraduate, he won a partial scholarship from Stevens, and between that and his work-study job, graduated debt-free.

Stevens was there again for him at graduation. As the Vietnam War raged, he drew a very low draft number and enlisted in the Army Reserves. Employers wouldn't hire him until his draft status was resolved. But Stevens awarded him a fellowship, which gave him a job and enabled him to complete his master's degree with no additional expense. His professors allowed him to take finals early, because he had to leave for basic training, and clerical staffers even helped him type his master's thesis.

He never forgot this helping hand at an uncertain time in his life. Since then, Skowronski has been a loyal donor to the Stevens Fund and to the Class of 1971 scholarship fund.

“I feel that giving back to Stevens to help others — like Stevens helped me — is a worthy cause,” he says.



## Mark Meisels '83 M.S. '89



The kindness of a Stevens classmate first inspired Mark Meisels '83 M.S. '89 to support his alma mater. His father was in a nursing home, and Virginia Ruesterholz '83 Hon. D.Eng. '08, then a top executive at Verizon, quickly helped to resolve issues he had been having with his telephone service.

She later invited her former classmate to the Stevens Awards Gala, and her generosity inspired him to give back to Stevens.

Meisels has since supported the Stevens Fund and the President's Distinguished Lecture Series, which has attracted speakers from former CIA and NSA Director General Michael V. Hayden to AI expert Peter Norvig, former director of research at Google. He has attended most of the lectures since the series' founding in 2012. “I love the President's Distinguished Lecture Series because it brings eminent people who have done amazing work in their field to interact with people at Stevens,” he says.

Stevens President Nariman Farvardin's leadership has also inspired him to give to his alma mater. “I'm a big fan of Dr. Farvardin, who has put Stevens on this amazing upward trajectory in less than a decade with his leadership, vision, commitment to student success, energy and optimism,” Meisels says.

How does he feel about Stevens' future? “Boundlessly optimistic.” — Beth Kissinger

# MAY THEIR MEMORY *be* *a* CONTINUED BLESSING

Donors honor family members, faculty and alumni through scholarships

**H**undreds of people helped to create 158 new scholarships during *The Power of Stevens* campaign because they believe strongly in the promise of a Stevens education. For some of these people, though, there are other, more personal reasons to give. These donors give in memory of their loved ones, ensuring that this part of their legacy keeps the doors of Stevens open to deserving students for years to come. Read on to learn about the special meaning behind three new memorial scholarships and how they've shaped the Stevens experience for three current students.

## Remembering a life transformed

Financial challenges made higher education a dream rather than a reality in the Jedziniak family of Bayonne, New Jersey. But relatives and neighbors knew Ed Jedziniak '41 had a natural talent for engineering and

encouraged him to enroll at Stevens, where he became the first in his family to earn a college degree.

"Education, and Stevens, changed his life," says Jedziniak's daughter, Maryann Roper, kicking off a career that would take

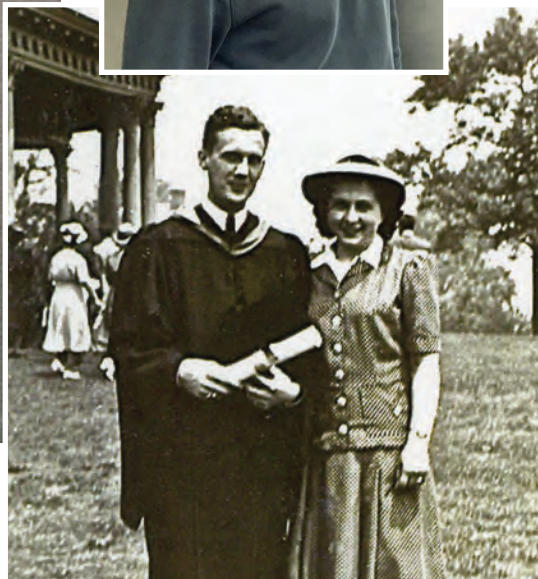
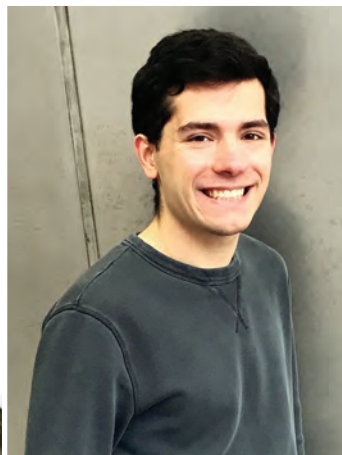
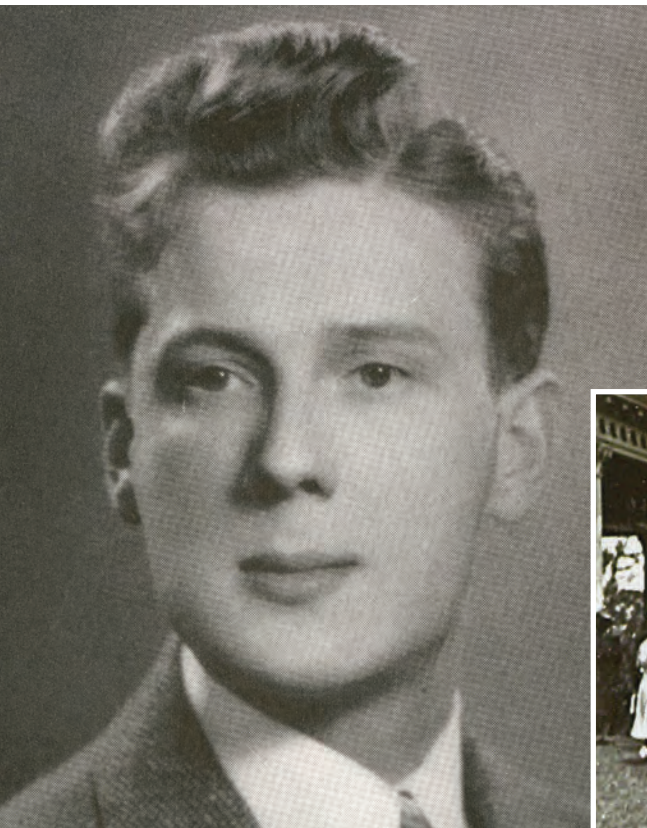
him all over the world. In his first post-graduate job, Jedziniak was sent to Hawaii to help determine which ships could be salvaged after the attacks on Pearl Harbor. Later, he traveled frequently to Europe and Asia helping to build commercial chemical plants and refineries.

When Jedziniak died in 2015 at age 96, Roper and her family established the Edward Jedziniak '41 Pinnacle Scholarship Fund at Stevens, an institution that meant so much to him.

"I was interested in something that would reward students for doing their best," Roper says. "My Dad would say, 'Even if it takes three times to get something right instead of the first time, you always do your best.'"

Current Jedziniak Pinnacle Scholar Jordan Fernandes '23, of Annandale, New Jersey, can relate to the "not on the first try" experience. He originally planned to pursue a degree in chemical engineering but quickly realized it wasn't a good fit. Around the same time, he had a conversation with Gregg Vesonder, head of Stevens' software engineering program, that

***Ed Jedziniak '41, pictured at left in The Link yearbook and on his graduation day from Stevens, with his future wife, Helen. Inset: Jordan Fernandes '23.***





**Al Sisto '71, with his son Jonathan Dean Sisto and Al's partner, Lois Henderson, at Jonathan's graduation. Inset: Anton Danylenko '23.**



rekindled an interest in programming he had developed in high school. This cemented his decision to change majors.

Support from the Jedziniak Scholarship has allowed Fernandes to take advantage of seminal Stevens experiences, including summer research. Being a Pinnacle Scholar has also given him access to unique opportunities like seminars with university leaders — including one with Stevens President Nariman Farvardin about emerging ideas in engineering.

“There’s a component [with memorial scholarships] that you don’t get with other financial aid, and that’s the fact that you’re carrying on the legacy of a person in a way,” Fernandes says. “Having that gives you a motivation to keep growing and achieving.”

**‘It brings back a lot of thoughts of my son’**

For Al Sisto '71, creating a scholarship at Stevens is a way of “paying it forward.” The Newark, New Jersey, native relied on scholarships to make his goals of a Stevens degree a reality.

But the scholarship is also a way for Sisto to look back. The Jonathan Dean Sisto Scholarship, established in 2015, honors his son. The younger Sisto died in an accident in 2005, just before the start of his freshman year at George Washington University, where the community-minded teen intended to study political science.

“It brings back a lot of thoughts of my son, and what he wanted for a career and his life,” Al Sisto says of the scholarship. “It’s a great way to share stories and offer help and mentoring to the people who have received the scholarship.”

One of those people is Anton Danylenko '23, a computer science major and mathematics minor from Brooklyn, New York. Although he hasn’t met Sisto in person yet, the two connected by phone last year. Danylenko shared with Sisto how his scholarship helped him carve out the time to serve as the tech lead for Stevens’ Google Developers Club, which earned an honorable mention in the global 2020 Google Developers Solution Challenge.

“I would not have the head start I need for my career if not for this scholarship,” Danylenko says.

By coincidence, Danylenko is also a member of Sisto’s fraternity, Phi Sigma Kappa, and serves as its treasurer. The fraternity was a foundational force in Sisto’s Stevens experience. When he learned in recent years that some of his fraternity brothers had also lost children, Sisto asked Stevens to revise his scholarship’s description to honor those children, too.

“I felt their loss should be recognized as well,” Sisto says.



**Stevens professor Harry Heffes (left) with his son, Brett Heffes. Inset: Nicholas Lenge '22.**

to meet Harry Heffes, he's well aware of his accomplishments — including his work with Bell Labs to develop technology for NASA's Apollo program. Heffes was also a lifetime fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Thanks to support from the Heffes Scholarship, Lenge has had the opportunity to balance a rigorous academic course load with involvement in Stevens' IEEE student branch. Through various leadership roles — including president — Lenge has gained important skills and made valuable connections to advance his academic and professional careers.



"I'm honored and so grateful to receive this scholarship in Professor Heffes' name," Lenge says. "He made a huge impact on the lives and education of so many Stevens students. To have my name even remotely associated with him and what he accomplished is really an honor." ❖ —*Kristin Hanson*

### Sustaining an outstanding teacher's legacy

When it comes to legendary Stevens faculty, there aren't many more beloved than Harry Heffes. His son, Brett Heffes, experienced this firsthand many years ago when his father, a faculty member in the Department of Electrical Engineering for three decades, won one of his two Outstanding Teacher Awards from the Stevens Alumni Association.

"It was homecoming, and a bunch of his students came to the luncheon. To see the look in their eyes as they were talking to my

dad — he clearly had an impact on those kids," Brett Heffes recalls.

Following Harry Heffes' death in 2016, his family decided to endow a scholarship in his name, continuing his legacy of support for Stevens students in perpetuity. Nicholas Lenge '22, an electrical engineering major from New Milford, New Jersey, is the scholarship's first recipient.

Although Lenge didn't have the chance

LOYAL DONORS

## Laura Dorival Paglione '90 and Tim Paglione '90

Laura Dorival Paglione '90 and Tim Paglione '90 met — and fell in love — in the theater. Their favorite moment: Dancing together in the Stevens Dramatic Society production of "The Mystery of Edwin Droid" before a packed Stevens audience.

"'Droid' was a great cast of all our close and talented friends, and just tons of happy memories," Tim says.

The couple started giving to Stevens right after graduation, supporting the Dramatic Society, of course, and other groups where they have strong personal ties. They donate to Tim's fraternity Alpha Sigma Phi, to the women's fencing team (Laura fenced foil) and the Stevens Fund. What drives them is giving so that deserving students can attend Stevens, through scholarships like the one Laura received, which made her time at Castle Point possible.

"We feel strongly that college should be financially attainable for all who are interested and able to attend," they say.

"We're also very fond of the organizations that were a big part of our lives as students, where we met each other and some of our lifelong friends." — *Beth Kissinger*





M. COOPER

Gathering outside the Gateway Academic Center, from left, are Stevens computer science professor Samuel Kim Ph.D. '05, Ph.D. student Jacob Erickson, Gina Addeo '86 and Elizabeth Chu '22.

# THE POWER *of* PLACE

Dispatches from the Gateway Academic Center

**W**ith *The Power of Stevens* campaign has come the much-needed addition of modern buildings, laboratories and renovated classrooms — elevating teaching, learning, research and campus life for Stevens students and faculty. One shining example at 6<sup>th</sup> and Hudson streets — the Gateway Academic Center. The \$68 million, 89,500-square-foot teaching and research facility opened in 2019, with a variety of new smart classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices and numerous study spaces and nooks behind its handsome brick facade. It serves many purposes, from being the new home of the Department of Computer Science and its laboratories to housing innovative healthcare and mechanical engineering labs to providing classroom, office and meeting spaces for students, professors and the Stevens community.

More than 20 donors — many of them alumni — supported this structure with the distinctive two-story skybridge that blends gracefully along Hudson Street and is always bustling with activity. One major donor is Gina Addeo '86, chairman of ADCO Electrical Corp., president and owner of GMA Electrical Corporation and a longtime benefactor of Stevens. The Addeo Lecture Hall, a high-tech lecture hall on Gateway's second floor, was named in her honor.

Addeo visited campus this fall to speak with just some of the many professors and students who teach, research, study and meet friends inside Gateway — to talk about their experiences with this building that has built a new sense of community. Joining her for the conversation (edited for length) were Samuel (Sam) Kim Ph.D. '05, teaching professor and associate chair for undergraduate studies in the Department of Computer Science; Jacob Erickson, a data science Ph.D. student and aspiring data scientist for the technology industry; and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Chu '22, an undergraduate chemical biology major and Phi Sigma Sigma sorority president (also Gina's sorority) who plans to apply to medical school this spring.



M. COOPER

*Gina Addeo '86 is a major donor to the Gateway Academic Center. The Addeo Lecture Hall, on the building's second floor, is named in her honor.*

**STEVENS INDICATOR:** Let's talk about the campus before Gateway. Has this new building changed the way you teach, study and socialize?

**PROFESSOR SAM KIM:** The whole Gateway building — it's something we've never had in the past. We in computer science had this unique building (the Lieb Building). I was telling Jacob — it was an old building. Professors had their own space, but they were all on their own. Gateway brings a sense of community with the students and professors. So, we have our own office spaces, but we're surrounded by students. We recently had a bunch of professors talking in my office about the new schedule, and we wanted to get student feedback. So, we just walked outside my office where there's a student study area, and we said to some students: 'Hey, can we bother you?' Just the sense of community is one of the most striking features.

**JACOB ERICKSON:** I think one of the things that I really like about this building is that there are a lot of great spaces to kind of sit and talk to other people, to be able to talk through issues, talk through problems. And you see a lot of that around here.

**GINA ADDEO:** I think, in general, modern, updated design and the new technology in the building — it just adds to the experience, to the feeling "Oh, I'm in a good engineering school! We have a nice building." And that's good.

**LIZZIE CHU:** So, while I was a freshman and a sophomore, Gateway was still in the process of being built. I would usually go to the library or my dorm to study. Sometimes those environments aren't necessarily conducive. Gateway has the best of both worlds, where you can find space to be alone, but also have these collaborative and teamwork moments. Utilizing those classrooms after class for our own benefit has been really

beneficial, like creating study groups and using those projectors and the whiteboards and really writing it all out. For all of us together, it helps a lot.

**SAM:** Like I said, collaboration. We are within their (students') reach, and they're within our reach, and it makes a huge difference. ... I think there's initially a barrier for students to climb over, but once they get to know us, they feel comfortable knocking on our door, asking for help and things like that. That just never before existed.

**GINA:** That's huge — really? Wonderful to hear. Yes, I don't think we knew our professors — not like that. Well, they had their space and did their thing, and we did ours.

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**S/:** Professor Kim teaches database management undergraduate classes inside the Addeo Lecture Hall. Can you talk about the experience?

**SAM:** I think that the classroom is designed in such a way that I don't have to do a lot of movement to get students' attention, and it's almost a theater-type of seating. As a lecturer, you want to be able to point out slides and be able to write. So, a lot of times, I just project it on the whiteboard and then write on top of what's being projected in the lecture. In the Addeo Lecture Hall, we have two really nice projectors on both sides. And we have enough white spaces along the wall. It's a huge advantage for me. I really enjoy it.

It's one of those things when you have something really useful and easy to use. Everything is so connected. I think it speaks volumes of the technology that's built into this. But as an instructor who's been here quite some time, it makes a huge difference.

**GINA:** I have a question. Where do most computer science students go after graduation? What industries do they end up in?

**SAM:** Obviously, there's Wall Street and its banking systems. There are a lot of software industries around here as well. And quite a few students move on to graduate school.



M. COOPER

**Professor Sam Kim teaches an undergraduate database management class inside the Addeo Lecture Hall this past fall.**

And then, some of the large tech companies with their locations in New York like Amazon and Facebook. And they command really good salaries, too. So, I think, on average, Stevens is doing far better than others. A lot of this has to do with how the school is managing the whole career services process.

**SI: Can we talk about some of the research areas of the building?**

**JACOB:** This year, it's been really nice to have lab space in Gateway. We have four students in our lab, plus our adviser. And we all have a desk and equipment. It's been a great space. It's nice to have a space where we can meet, and actually discuss things, and it's a lot more natural than just talking over Zoom. We're actually there as a group collaborating.

**SI: Gina, what inspired you to make this gift, which made the Gateway Academic Center possible?**

**GINA:** When you see alumni names on places around campus, it inspires you to say: 'I can be one of those people.' And that's how it started. My family was always a generous family. So, when I left school and I had a job, I would send \$100 a year to Stevens,

and then it became \$500, and it just kept increasing as my career got better... And [my giving] was also based on my experience here.

**LIZZIE:** Seeing Gina's name up on that lecture hall, that's so inspiring for all of us to see what we can do as women in STEM, women in business, especially at Stevens, where the population of women is still less than men and sometimes it's hard to get

some footing in the school and community. But Stevens and organizations like Phi Sigma Sigma sorority inspire us and help us succeed in our goals.

**SI: Do you have a favorite spot inside Gateway?**

**LIZZIE:** Definitely the back of the first floor [atrium], of Gateway South. I just love the lighting there. You have these higher tables, and I always eat breakfast there. I'll sit there with friends and do group work. So, it's a great space.

**JACOB:** There are a lot of great spots. Do you know the spots where you have windows and there's a seating area, in the hallways of the second and third floors [overlooking Hudson Street]? It's a nice spot to kind of just have more casual conversations.

**SAM:** That big, wooden stairwell where you can sit around [the Rosa and John H. Hovey '57 Staircase]. That's really neat ... that's my favorite spot. ❖

— As told to Beth Kissinger

**LOYAL DONORS**

**Lauren Mayer '12**

She has many favorite Stevens moments, but what stands out for Lauren Mayer '12 is performing in the annual Unity Showcase. The school's ethnic and multicultural organizations gather to celebrate the rich diversity of Stevens, with music, dance, spoken word and theater performances from around the world.

"I loved seeing the whole school get together to celebrate each other's cultures," she says. "Although the practices were intense, it's a great way to bond with other Stevens students."

Her vision of a more diverse Stevens is reflected in her support of the Lore-EI Center for Women in Leadership, her sorority Delta Phi Epsilon and the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program (STEP).

"The Lore-EI Center and Delta Phi Epsilon have done great work to increase the number of females on campus and retaining them," Mayer says. "I also support STEP because of the great work that they do for the Stevens community and how the program prepares students for success both in their studies and after graduation."

— Beth Kissinger



# HEARTS *of* GOLD

**M**ore students are pursuing Stevens degrees than ever before. As a result, the university's young alumni population is expanding rapidly, with GOLD (graduates of the last decade) making up nearly a third of Stevens' undergraduate alumni community. Many of these young alumni are busy building foundations for their lives — pursuing graduate degrees, climbing the career ladder, establishing homes and starting families. Despite these demands on their time and treasure, many GOLD alumni make it a point to give back to Stevens. With 5,286 gifts to *The Power of Stevens* campaign coming from these individuals, it's clear that their contributions were key to reaching the university's \$200 million goal.

*The Indicator* asked several young alumni why they continue to stay involved with and support their alma mater. Though their answers vary, there is one constant sentiment: gratitude — for the people, programs, organizations and support of all kinds they found at Stevens.

## GRATEFUL FOR PEOPLE

*“It takes a village. While I was a student at Stevens, I had a village supporting me. From Dean Deborah Berkley and Dean Ken Nilsen, to Professor Leslie Brunell and Professor K. Yusuf Billah, I felt that everyone in the Stevens community wanted to see me succeed. Upon graduating, I wanted to give back and to help those students who, like me, rely on that village.”* — SYLVANA

**“The mentors and friends I met at Stevens along with the scholarship opportunities provided to underrepresented students continue to inspire me to make gifts every year.”** — JOSE

*“When I was at Stevens, people invested in me. Faculty, staff and administration all took the time to make me better. David Zimmerman '90 and Bethany Reeves supported my jazz quartet by booking us around campus. Professors Gary Lynn and Peter Koen inspired me to start a company. And Dean Ken Nilsen always had an open-door policy when I wanted to talk about some crazy project. I give because I want to pay it forward, and I want other students to have the same opportunities that I did.”* — GREG

## GRATEFUL FOR PROGRAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS

**“Through my fraternity, Kappa Sigma, I met my best friends. It's largely because of them that I remain involved with Stevens to this day.”** — GREG

*“All the clubs and organizations I was a member of, along with the time I spent on the executive boards, made my time at Stevens special — Gear & Triangle, Alpha Phi Omega and Order of Omega, just to name a few.”* — NINA

*“Being engaged on campus with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and my fraternity, La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. (LUL), allowed me to be part of something bigger and make an impact.”* — JOSE

*“Entering Stevens, I lacked appreciation for the value of others' unique and diverse perspectives, especially those outside of my own culture and lived experience. I also did not appreciate my own ignorance when it came to the subject of being a human being made in the image of God. My College of Arts and Letters (CAL) coursework nurtured in me these appreciations, and for that I'm grateful to the faculty and department.”*

— MATTHEW



## GRATEFUL FOR SUPPORT

*“I sponsor a student ticket to the Awards Gala each year. I had the opportunity to go as an undergrad, and it blew my mind how many successful alumni attended Stevens. One notable was meeting Ken Venner '84, the former CIO of SpaceX.” — GREG*

**“When I give to Stevens, I like to support the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program (STEP) and the LUL Term Scholarship. The generosity of LUL and STEP alumni provided me and other under-represented students with the financial resources we needed to complete our education. I would like to pay that generosity forward for future students.” — JOSE**

**“I choose to contribute to my sorority, Theta Phi Alpha's, scholarship fund. I love seeing how the organization has grown since I graduated and has continued to support students for the past 10 years.” — NINA**

*“The STEP program made all of the difference for me as a first-generation (college) student joining Stevens. The summer before freshman year was absolutely unforgettable and made all of the difference in creating a foundation for success.” — SYLVANA*

*“The courses were great. The professors were great. The educational environment was great. Stevens was a safe place to make mistakes in and out of class, and I learned from these mistakes to become a better engineer and a better man.” — MATTHEW*

*“Stevens is a close-knit community where I felt comfortable exploring many different interests and activities. That gave me the opportunity to grow academically, but also as a person and as a leader.”*

— ALLYSON

## GOLD ALUMNI WHO GIVE BACK



GREG MCNEIL '18,  
M.ENG. '19

Mechanical Engineering, Systems Engineering

North America Quality Focal, Lenovo  
Raleigh, North Carolina



NINA ZALAH  
SANCHEZ '11, M.S. '11

Computer Science, Engineering Management

Data Science and Engineering Senior Manager, The Walt Disney Company  
Orlando, Florida



JOSE ANGELES '19

Electrical Engineering  
Senior Technology Consultant, Ernst & Young  
Dover, New Jersey



SYLVANA AZANA '14,  
M.ENG. '14

Civil Engineering  
Acquisitions, Trades, & Sales Commercial Advisor, ExxonMobil  
Houston, Texas



MATTHEW DUFFY '19

Computer Engineering  
Application Support Specialist, Munich Re Insurance  
Manalapan, New Jersey



ALLYSON PARKS '12,  
M.ENG. '12

Chemical Engineering, Engineering Management  
Attorney, Quinn Emmanuel  
New York, New York

TO GIVE TO STEVENS MEANS BELIEVING IN ITS FUTURE. FINISH THIS SENTENCE: IN THE YEARS TO COME, I HOPE STEVENS ...

*“ ... continues to provide its top-notch engineering and STEM education and to share the success and opportunity that comes from a Stevens education with students from all different backgrounds.”* — ALLYSON

*“ ... continues to be the high-caliber engineering school it is and strives to be a diverse school that welcomes students from all backgrounds.”* — SYLVANA

*“ ... allocates more funding directly to students' tuition and housing costs — the more we support them in school, the more it helps them after graduation.”* — NINA

*“ ... maintains the momentum generated over the last decade and continues to become increasingly diverse with a vibrant campus filled with the latest facilities and the future leaders of innovation.”* — JOSE

*“ ... continues to put students at the center of all decisions and programs through their promise of student centrality.”* — GREG ❖

— As told to Erin Lewis

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LOYAL DONORS

## Lillian Chu Zawislak '04 and Josh Zawislak '06

Lillian Chu Zawislak '04 and husband Josh Zawislak '06 have their own theater seats — their names enshrined on the arm rests — inside DeBaun Auditorium. It is a testament to their abiding love and support for the performing and liberal arts at Stevens. And it recalls many hours — years — spent inside this beloved theater.

The couple met there and probably served in every backstage role — occasionally showing up on stage — in numerous Stevens Dramatic Society and Theater Company at DeBaun Auditorium productions, as students and later as alumni. Putting on a live theater show taught Chu Zawislak (a chemical engineering and literature major) more about project management than any class could, she says. She mostly cherishes lasting friendships made behind the curtain.

“SDS was a family of sorts, and the bonds forged through surviving a theater production is unlike any other camaraderie I have experienced,” she says.

They want other students to experience this, so they have supported the Stevens Dramatic Society Scholarship, the DeBaun Auditorium Fund and the Theta Alpha Phi Award, bestowed by the theater honor society. The creative outlet provided by the performing



arts and the liberal arts at Stevens was vital for them — and they want this for other Stevens students.

“We also believe that the arts are crucial to a well-rounded education,” Chu Zawislak says. — Beth Kissinger

JEFF VOCK

Nicole Mussenden '88 leads PowerPlay NYC, a nonprofit that advances the lives of New York City girls through sports. She visited one of PowerPlay NYC's afterschool programs at P.S. 111 in Manhattan this past fall.

# Building Strong Girls Through Sports

**LIFELONG SERVICE TO OTHERS INSPIRES ALUMNA IN NEW NONPROFIT CAREER**

**S**erving others has been the fabric woven throughout the life of Nicole Mussenden '88, starting back in the apartment she shared with her mother and sister in Harlem, New York. There, at age 7, she founded a bookstore.

Mussenden recognized early that she was fortunate — that her mother advocated to have her attend Hunter College Elementary School on Manhattan's Upper East Side, where she flourished with a top-quality education and access to pretty much any book she could have wanted. She wanted to share the opportunities she had with other kids in her public housing complex. So, Mussenden began gathering books and created her own bookstore.

"I always thought that someone should have what you have, whether it's books or anything else," she says. She remembers combing through her closet for extra clothes, to share with her mother's students who, her mother told her, needed them more.

Her mother saw opportunity through education, seizing a chance to attend Queens College for free and later earning two master's degrees. An art teacher for 30 years in the New York City public schools, she served as a model for how her daughter would live her life.

"She saw it as service," Mussenden says of her mother's career. "She saw it as building up her students and serving them. And

I grew up thinking the same way.

"So, I've always volunteered my time for afterschool programs or tutoring programs on Saturdays and created a tutoring program [for high school students] when I was at Stevens."

After a highly successful career in sports marketing and sales, where she held top positions with Fox Networks and ESPN, Mussenden's work has now shifted fully to service, specifically to girls and young women from low-income communities in New York City.

In June 2021, Mussenden became president and CEO of PowerPlay NYC, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the lives of girls through sports.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

Serving girls ages 8-18, the Manhattan-based organization offers sports-based afterschool programs for elementary and middle school girls and a leadership program for high school girls featuring monthly sports-based and leadership workshops, a mentoring program, a peer coaching program, college and career-readiness activities and college tours.

Currently, PowerPlay NYC has programs in all five boroughs of New York City, at some 20 school sites. At full strength, without the effects of COVID-19, PowerPlay NYC serves more than 1,800 girls annually. The vast majority of participants are from low-income communities, and about 90% are Black or Latina.

“They really focus on movement, physical fitness, mental health, emotional health — we try to take care of the whole girl because we know that sports offer so many things in life that can help you, such as confidence and team building, and resilience, fortitude and goal setting,” Mussenden says.

### POWERPLAY IN ACTION

A large number of women in leadership roles in corporate America played sports,

Mussenden says; she herself played multiple sports growing up and was on the women’s tennis and volleyball teams at Stevens. PowerPlay NYC doesn’t care if you’re a superstar player. It’s all about getting out there and building confidence that is lifelong, she says.

The girls of P.S. 111 in midtown Manhattan learn this immediately when Mussenden visits their school one afternoon this fall.

About 25 girls gather in the school’s cafeteria for the afterschool program, and Mussenden — elegant, with a great warmth — arrives pulling a cart. It is loaded with gifts — stylish white and purple PowerPlay NYC T-shirts for the girls and smart leggings for the two coaches who lead this group of lively elementary school girls.

Mussenden instantly develops a rapport with the students and PowerPlay coaches, praising the coaches for their work and talking with the girls about sports and school. She shares a little bit of her own story. But mostly, she listens. The coaches are as lively as their students, as they discuss their favorite healthy snacks — carrot sticks, broccoli — and their occasional splurges.

Then, the girls split into pairs and are

asked to describe one thing they admire about their partners, and themselves. They are given a mirror. Responses range from predictable — “I like your shirt. I like my hair.” — to heart-warming: “You have a great smile.”

When it’s time for basketball, the girls hustle around the cafeteria dribbling balls, passing, and Mussenden is right there with them. She demonstrates a nifty talent for twirling a basketball on the very tip of her finger.

She is incredibly busy leading a non-profit that is trying to regain ground — and a greater reach across New York City — in the midst of a pandemic that has lasted for two years. With an office staff of six, she wears many hats and finds herself working well into the night, on weekends and in the early morning hours. Her devotion is full and apparent.

During a later Zoom call with *The Indicator*, she shares PowerPlay NYC’s email for “Giving Tuesday” — among the many national fundraising campaigns held on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. The email includes a photo of a line of young fencers, all Black girls, in their uniform whites, swords raised in victory.

“Look at how strong they look,” she says. “There’s something so powerful about this image ... so to me, this is it. This is what keeps me going.”

### SERVICE, STEVENS AND A CAREER CHANGE

Volunteerism has always been a part of her life, and Mussenden has served as a math tutor with Harlem Village Academies’ Saturday program; as a career coach for women who are victims of domestic violence; as a youth leader at her church; and as a guest speaker at local high schools and colleges.

At Stevens, despite a busy schedule as a civil engineering major and member of the women’s tennis and volleyball teams, she threw herself into service activities. An alumna of the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program (STEP), she mentored and



Mussenden visits a PowerPlay NYC afterschool program at P.S. 111. The organization offers a variety of programs for elementary, middle school and high school girls.

JEFF VOCK

tutored incoming STEP freshmen and established a tutoring program, through her involvement with the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), for high school students.

She remembers upperclassmen from Stevens' Black Student Union guiding younger students like herself, offering valuable time management and leadership workshops. She herself was a natural leader, as president of Stevens' NSBE chapter and serving on the NSBE's regional board of directors as a student.

"I think that the best experience of my life was at Stevens," Mussenden says. "Because it gave me a chance to grow and to develop into the person I am today. I can't stress enough those extracurricular activities that helped shape me ... and allowed me to develop leadership skills and become a well-rounded person."

Her volunteerism would continue as she built a highly successful career. Starting out with National Grid in New York City,

**"They really focus on movement, physical fitness, mental health, emotional health — we try to take care of the whole girl because we know that sports offer so many things in life that can help you, such as confidence and team building, and resilience, fortitude and goal setting."**

the utilities company where she supervised construction crews, she went on to earn an MBA from Northwestern University and embarked on a sales career based on her love of sports.

She climbed the corporate sports ladder. Between her position at ESPN, where she was director of special markets, and later at Fox Networks, where she was director of affiliate sales and marketing, she negotiated more than 250 sports, entertainment and broadcast agreements and was responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars in annual revenue.

The work was stressful and difficult, and she recalls flying six times during one week and questioning her choices.

"I felt like I wasn't really being fulfilled,"



Mussenden had a long career in sports sales and marketing before leading PowerPlay NYC.

JEFF VOICK

she says. "I felt as if I wasn't necessarily giving back."

One common thread through her corporate career was her mentoring of younger employees and her continued community work. This re-examination led to a new

a library, a space to practice interviewing skills, a comfortable refuge where the high school girls would meet with their mentors and do homework. Fundraising — financial sponsors have included the NFL, Wells Fargo and the New York City Department of Education — is a top priority, of course. Her ultimate goal is to create a type of franchise model that could be adapted across the country.

As she has devoted herself to this organization, Mussenden has also confronted heartbreaking loss. Her mother Joy, a 22-year cancer survivor, died during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Mussenden fights tears — then steadies herself — as she shares more memories of this remarkable woman.

After her successful career in education, her mother retired with great financial stability. But she still felt the need to give, whether it was to homeless people she met or the young girl in her church for whom a monthly MetroCard made all the difference, as she completed her college education.

"When I talk about service, it's about being a good citizen, because that's what it boils down to," Mussenden says. "You want to help the world, you want to help your community, right? It all started with my mother." ❖ — Beth Kissinger

career as an adjunct professor with St. John's University and LIM College in New York, where her love for working with young people was further ignited.

Her close friend Perry LeBlanc, whom she met through Stevens' STEP Program and who went on to graduate from Princeton University, then told her about the job at PowerPlay NYC.

## FINDING HER INSPIRATION

Her plans for PowerPlay NYC are many. She is trying to expand the program's reach in schools across New York City. She hopes to build a learning and resource room at the organization's Manhattan headquarters: a multi-faceted destination that would include computers and other technology,



**Downs** on the site of Northwest Resiliency Park in Hoboken. When construction is complete, the park will be not only a recreational space for area residents, but also a method of flood mitigation for the Mile Square City. Infrastructure put in place by Creamer will drain storm water from the area and prevent runoff from entering the sewer system.

# LEADER IN A HARD HAT

**Martin Downs '04 M.S. '05 built the foundation for his career as an intern at J. Fletcher Creamer & Son. Twenty years later, he serves as the company's president.**

**M**artin Downs '04 M.S. '05 first saw J. Fletcher Creamer & Son's distinctive brown trucks on Castle Point, just a short walk from his room at the Delta Tau Delta fraternity house. Crews were blasting rock on the cliff above Sinatra Drive, preparing the site for the construction of the Lawrence T. Babbio, Jr. Center for Business and Technology Management. Then in his junior year, Downs couldn't have imagined that one day he would be overseeing projects like these as president of the company.

For the Rockland County, New York, native, building things was always a part of life. "I'm from a blue-collar family, my father is a mechanic, and we were always working on some sort of construction project in the house or on cars," says Downs. Athletics were also a priority — he played both football and lacrosse in high school. When it came time to consider colleges, Downs knew he wanted to study engineering but was torn between Stevens and another school. "I made the wrong decision at first," he says. After two trimesters at a university in Boston, large class sizes made Downs rethink his choice. Then, a serendipitous call changed everything.

## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS AT STEVENS

"The Stevens lacrosse coach called me to follow up and caught me at the right time," says Downs. He transferred to the university the following fall. "The intimacy of Stevens allowed me to perform a lot better and held me more accountable — in a class of 10 or 15 people there's no hiding," he laughs. Downs jumped right into opportunities at Stevens, joining the civil engineering program, the lacrosse team and Delta Tau Delta. He studied abroad in Sydney, Australia, for a semester as well.

Looking back, he is particularly thankful to his professors for easing his transition to a new school and setting him up for his future career. "I can still name them all — [Leslie] Brunell, [Khondokar] Billah, [Hank] Dobbelaar — these are all teachers who really took an interest in you as a person and made sure you were successful afterwards," says Downs. "Professor Dobbelaar was really instrumental in getting me where I am today ... he recommended me

for the CIAP [Construction Industry Advancement Program] scholarship, which was a five or \$10,000 award, and got me some notoriety with local contractors." Among those companies was J. Fletcher Creamer & Son (known colloquially as "Creamer"), an infrastructure company based in Hackensack, New Jersey, that hired Downs for a summer internship program in his junior year. His hard work — and Creamer's emphasis on leadership development — have kept him with the company for more than 20 years, rising through the ranks from intern all the way to president.

After graduation from Stevens, Downs began his first fulltime position with Creamer as a project engineer, working in the heavy highway sector. He and his team worked on numerous high-profile infrastructure projects in Northern New Jersey during that time, including the construction of a segment of Exit 15X on the New Jersey Turnpike and various roads and bridges around MetLife Stadium.

Among his favorite projects was the construction of a complicated underground electric transmission network through the cities of Bayonne and Elizabeth, New Jersey. "A particularly challenging aspect of the build was making the connection between Bayonne and Elizabeth under Newark Bay," recalls Downs. "It necessitated twin horizontal direction drills each over a mile in length and exceeding 160 feet in depth from grade. We reamed 48" diameter holes through the three different formations of rock that converge under the bay," he says. Anticipation mounted until the drills intersected, allowing crews to pull steel casings housing electrical conduits through the underwater tunnels.

## TAKING ON THE TOP JOB

After about a dozen years in the field, Downs became an area manager, and then vice president. In 2020, he ascended to the role of president. "Being in my current position has as much to do with hard work and perseverance as being in the right place, at the right time with the right organization. Having the right people around you

to make you successful is key.” As president, he plans to carry on that legacy of support.

“I spend a lot of my time focused on one of our most important assets, our people,” says Downs.

With about 1,000 employees spread among six offices across three states, four sectors (utility, heavy and highway, traffic safety, and emergency response) and numerous projects up and down the East Coast, he has plenty to keep him busy.

In addition to planning for the future of his company, Downs is considering the future of the construction industry as a whole. The recent passage of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides funding for much-needed improvements to our country’s aging infrastructure — projects that require planning and execution by companies like Creamer. “What a lot of people don’t realize is the tremendous amount of design engineering and permitting that now has to occur before this funding can translate into boots on the ground and construction underway,” explains Downs. “So that can’t happen fast enough, but it’s certainly a giant leap forward from where we were.”

He’s also excited by the opportunities presented by New Jersey’s Energy Master Plan, a set of key strategies that the state will implement to achieve its target of 100% clean energy by 2050. “New Jersey is one of the states leading the pack here, not just in terms of the economic opportunity it creates for this area, but also the opportunity it affords our state in battling climate change,” says Downs.

With the belief that Creamer should lead by example in sustainability, Downs is helping to guide the company toward electronic

records, the use of solar power in offices and a transition over time to hybrid and electric vehicles. Though he admits that these changes aren’t easy to implement in an industry that can be slow to adopt new technologies, He is pleased to see incremental progress.

**RECRUITING THE NEXT GENERATION**

As a proud alumnus with first-hand knowledge of Stevens’ rigorous curriculum, Downs is eager to hire promising young engineers who earn degrees from his alma mater. “Being in the construction industry for over 20 years now, you see that students coming out of Stevens are held in high regard. Stevens puts them in a really good position to be employed, especially in the tri-state area,” he says. Of the engineering positions at Creamer, about 10% are held by Stevens alumni.

One major differentiator he sees between Stevens graduates and others is Stevens’ encouragement of its students to complete the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE), an exam that must be passed to achieve professional licensure. “This test is extremely challenging,” says Downs, “I don’t think I would have found time to complete it post-graduation, and I see a lot of young engineers struggling with that.

“It was one of my proudest moments to earn the designation of Professional Engineer ... when you’re sitting across the table from a client with the P.E. initials after your name, it brings you to a higher caliber, a higher level of respect in the conversation.”

While Downs still visits the Delt house with pizza and soda to talk about opportunities at Creamer, the company has also built a strong employment pipeline through Stevens’ co-op program. “Our interns *work*,” stresses Downs, “they’re not just in the office making copies.” The real-world experience offered through co-op sometimes turns into a fulltime job offer.

“It’s my responsibility to bring in the best people,” says Downs. “It’s been a real difference-maker for us having these young engineers get to know us as interns and then be ready to come on board as full-time employees right after graduation.” ❖ — Erin Lewis



Downs (second from left) with Carlos Pereira (left), the project’s senior superintendent, Alex Terenik ’18 (second from right), a project engineer, and Michael Pivrotto ’09 M.S. ’13 (right), general superintendent. Terenik and Pivrotto both joined Creamer full time following internships with the company.



# Reconnecting and Honoring Excellence at Alumni Weekend 2021

Last June, Stevens held its first-ever virtual Alumni Weekend. More than 400 members of the Stevens community registered to attend a variety of events spanning three days, including President Nariman Farvardin's annual State of Stevens address, beer tastings, a mixology course (on how to make several signature cocktails) and a campus history walking tour and trivia contest. Many of the classes ending in "0," "1," "5" or "6" virtually celebrated their milestone reunions with fellow classmates, in anticipation of in-person celebrations back on campus later this spring. Please watch for future updates on Alumni Weekend June 3-4, 2022!

As part of Alumni Weekend 2021's festivities, the Stevens Alumni Association (SAA) held its annual meeting, sharing updates from around the alumni community and recognizing the outstanding recipients of the SAA Alumni Awards, for 2020 and 2021.

**Stevens Alumni Award** (for outstanding loyalty and devotion to Stevens)

**2020** – Presidents of the SAA (from 1876 to today!)

**2021** – Frank Roberto '76

**Outstanding Teacher Award** (for excellence in teaching, voted upon by alumni of the five most recent graduating classes.)

**2020** – Brian S. Borowski M.S. '04 Ph.D. '11, Department of Computer Science

**2021** – Leslie Brunell '86 M.Eng. '90 Ph.D. '96, Department of Civil, Environmental and Ocean Engineering

**Harold R. Fee 1920 Alumni Achievement Award** (for outstanding effort on behalf of the SAA and Stevens by alumni who are marking their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> reunions)

## 2020

Michael F. Cahill '15 M.Eng. '15  
Roman Malantchouk '10 M.Eng. '11  
James T. Western '05  
Zeferino Ferreira '00  
Julio A. Diaz, Jr. '95

## 2021

Jayson Yano '16  
Felipe McAlister '11  
Brad Miller '06  
Mark R. Biamonte '01  
Anthony Kowalski '96

To view highlights from Alumni Weekend 2021, please visit the library of past webinars at [stevens.edu/alumni-webinars](https://stevens.edu/alumni-webinars).



From the top: Stevens Alumni Association (SAA) President Victoria Velasco '04; Professor Leslie Brunell '86 M.Eng. '90 Ph.D. '96, 2021 SAA Outstanding Teacher Award recipient; Stevens President Nariman Farvardin; Professor Brian S. Borowski M.S. '04 Ph.D. '11, 2020 SAA Outstanding Teacher Award recipient; Frank Roberto '76, 2021 Stevens Alumni Award winner.



Professor Johannes Weickenmeier, right, and Ph.D. student Ahsanul Torza prepare a calf brain sample for mechanical testing as part of their neurodegenerative disease research at Stevens' Center for Neuromechanics.

## Can Computer Models Help Diagnose Alzheimer's Disease Earlier?

Professor, Team Aid In Fight Against Neurodegenerative Diseases

Alzheimer's disease can be diagnosed with complete certainty only after a patient dies. Then it becomes possible to examine the brain itself for the telltale plaques and neurofibrillary tangles without causing more harm. But a new application of an old science may provide a window into the sealed system of the brain.

Reading over material from a talk he'd attended, Stevens mechanical engineering professor Johannes Weickenmeier was struck by images in two different papers. One, a side view of the brain, showed how the toxic proteins associated with Alzheimer's disease were distributed at different stages of the disease's progression. The other quantified how much toxic protein was in the brain at any given time.

"I can reproduce that result with a computer model," Weickenmeier thought.

A mechanical engineer, Weickenmeier had been modeling muscle and skin to simulate facial expressions at the time as a post-doc at Stanford University.

But the principles he worked with as an engineer would also apply to the brain and allow him to reproduce how toxic proteins spread through the pathways available for them to travel.

"Mechanics influences biology and biology influences mechanics, if you think of any living material," he says.

The idea sparked by those images forms the core of Weickenmeier's current work, exploring the mechanical principles of the central nervous system. A member of the Center for Neuromechanics at Stevens, Weickenmeier has been awarded a grant from the National Institutes of Health and a Frank Semcer, Sr. '65 Fellowship, which provides resources to employ doctoral student assistants. His Weickenmeier Lab at Stevens is devoted to developing experimental and computational tools to study biological systems like the brain.

The brain has been studied primarily from a neuroscience perspective — for instance, how memory works and how consciousness forms. Biochemistry, or how the brain regulates itself via chemicals, is another broad

field of study. “The thing that has been under-studied is the role of mechanics in the brain,” Weickenmeier says. “A lot of neurodegenerative processes that are biochemical in nature ultimately manifest as organ-level shape changes.”

An aging brain will shrink even in a healthy adult. As a person grows older, brain tissue volume decreases and is replaced by fluid, the cortex thins, the connections between neurons begin to break down and the spaces between the folds of the brain increase.

Neurodegenerative diseases speed up these changes, but each disease also follows a unique pattern both in the time it progresses and the physical changes it causes. A brain affected by Alzheimer’s disease will look different than a

brain affected by Parkinson’s disease, and that will look different than a brain affected by amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Weickenmeier and his team are developing computer models that match the progression of those diseases and others to study how the brain’s shape changes and deforms.

The models would be helpful in multiple ways. They could help diagnose neurodegenerative diseases earlier and identify exactly what type of dementia a person is experiencing, so the most effective therapies could be applied.

Knowing whether a disease will progress quickly or slowly and how it will progress would help a patient plan their resources and time, whether it’s arranging to live closer to family, obtaining equipment for future motor issues or taking a much-desired trip.

On the research side, the models would provide tools to measure the impact of treatment and efficacy of drugs. “If you give someone a medication, you want to quantify whether you’re actually changing the disease progression,” Weickenmeier says.

A model that captures changes in the brain could let researchers add in a drug to confirm that the medication slows down the deterioration, and that’s the next big step, Weickenmeier says. “Diagnosis was what I was hoping for earlier, but in the long run we want to be able to monitor disease-changing treatments.”

Even more speculatively, if effective models can show a disease progressing, they could also be used to trace that progression in reverse, potentially showing when a brain tips from healthy to diseased — a key piece of information when so many neurodegenerative diseases progress without physical warning signs over many years.

“You have processes that happen at the smallest scales and over time they manifest as an entire brain shrinking, and the orders of magnitude that are between these processes are what I find fascinating,” Weickenmeier said. “Can we explain, can we close that humongous gap between those two scales with clever modeling? That’s the potential of our approach.”

For now, the models are in their early stages but progressing. After initially showing that a computer model could reproduce the patterns of an ailing Alzheimer’s disease-affected brain, Weickenmeier’s team is narrowing the models down to smaller and more specific problems, like differentiating between a naturally aging brain and one affected by disease.

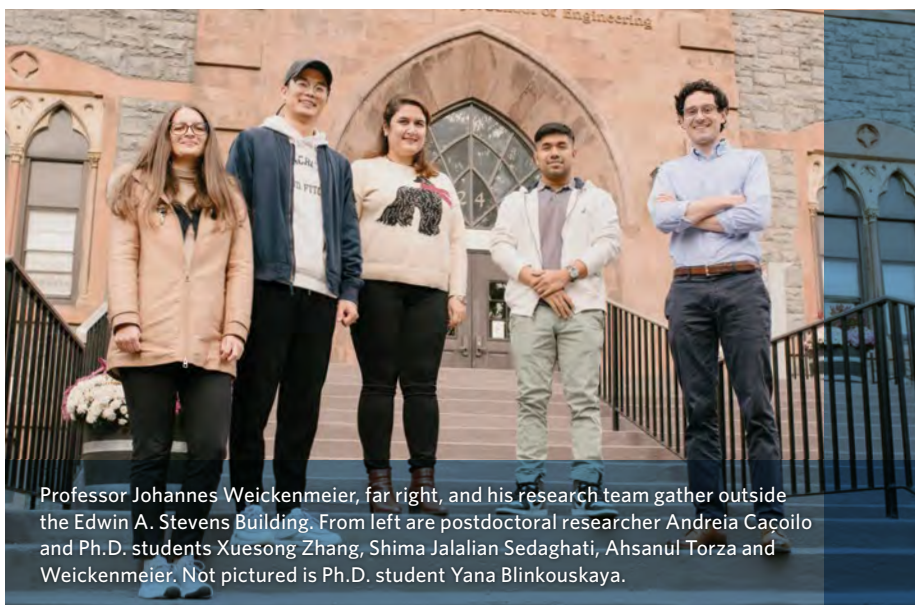
The team is working on understanding the relationship between the brain’s structure and classic engineering properties like stiffness and viscosity, and how they’re affected by anatomy and the microscopic structures of the brain. Finally, the team is looking at the two proteins, amyloid beta and tau, that are mostly associated with

## Weickenmeier is excited about the ways in which computer modeling could supplement existing imaging and diagnostic techniques for identifying and treating neurodegenerative diseases.

Alzheimer’s and other neurodegenerative diseases, and how they interact with each other.

Weickenmeier is excited about the ways in which computer modeling could supplement existing imaging and diagnostic techniques for identifying and treating neurodegenerative diseases.

“There is a growing community of people who are recognizing the value of mechanical engineering as one of the puzzle pieces in understanding degenerative disease,” he says. “We’re providing a new way to analyze existing data that shines additional light on the disease progression, on things that are changing, and that will also change how we think about diseases and how to diagnose them and monitor their progression.” ❖ — *Tracy Vogel*



Professor Johannes Weickenmeier, far right, and his research team gather outside the Edwin A. Stevens Building. From left are postdoctoral researcher Andreia Caçõlo and Ph.D. students Xuesong Zhang, Shima Jalalian Sedaghati, Ahsanul Torza and Weickenmeier. Not pictured is Ph.D. student Yana Blinkouskaya.

PHOTOS: M. COOPER

# #ALLRISE CHALLENGE INSPIRES RECORD SUPPORT OF STEVENS ATHLETICS

**T**he #AllRise Challenge is an annual fundraising campaign, traditionally held over a two-week period in the fall, to raise support for the athletic programs at Stevens. Although intercollegiate competition was suspended for the fall 2020 semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Stevens Athletics received a generous \$106,010 in total donations. With the return of both fall sports and fans to campus in 2021, this year's campaign surpassed that number, generating more than \$118,000 in gifts and match challenges.

Here, coaches, staff members and student-athletes reflect on the lasting impact — financial, professional, personal — of this tradition that benefits Stevens' approximately 500 student-athletes. — *As told to Charles O'Brien*

“The #AllRise Challenge is always a fun way for us to engage with those in the Stevens field hockey family. We attribute much of our success this past season to our preseason trip to a ropes course, which we were able to fund through the generous gifts from past challenges. Seeing the support of our alums, families and friends is a great reminder that we play for something bigger than ourselves, and that our community is expansive beyond Hoboken. We are grateful for the most recent gifts as we gear up to plan our next international trip.”



**MEREDITH SPENCER-BLAETZ**, HEAD FIELD HOCKEY COACH

“The support of our alumni means everything to the Stevens Baseball team. Our program would not be where it is today without them all, and their continued efforts keep moving us in the right direction. It's always a huge motivator for our team to see the alumni at our games, and we're thankful for the relationships we've been able to build with them during our time here.”



**ALEX SMITH '21 M.Eng. '22**, BASEBALL

“We are incredibly thankful for all of the support from our alumni, parents, student-athletes, and friends of the program. Because of their support we can ensure that we can give our student-athletes the very best collegiate baseball experience possible at the Division III level.”



**KRISTAPS ALDINS**, HEAD BASEBALL COACH

“

“The bond that the men’s volleyball team has with its alumni is both personal and professional. As soon as our first-years arrive on campus they are met by the whole team, who are willing and able to help with any issues or answer questions, whether it’s about volleyball or academics or even questions about jobs and internships. As the upperclassmen graduate and become young alumni themselves, that bond doesn’t fade; in fact, the relationships and networking opportunities become even greater. The bond that men’s volleyball creates is one that will last a long time and this is why we value the time and energy put into these relationships.”



**DANIEL PERUN '22, MEN'S VOLLEYBALL**

“

“Our current players not only receive enhancements to their overall experience, but they also get to see the support from our generous and strong alumni network. It really makes our program special. The men’s lacrosse alumni have always stepped up to show the team how much they care and respect our program. We love the annual alumni game, career development program, spring Alumni Weekend tailgates and, of course, we appreciate the many donations and networking opportunities!”



**GENE PELUSO, HEAD MEN'S LACROSSE COACH**

“

“The relationships we have with our alumni are absolutely critical in the overall success of the athletic program. While we are fortunate to receive strong operating support at the institutional level for our teams, we depend on gifts from alumni, families and friends to supplement our budgets and ensure that our student-athletes have the best experience possible at Stevens.”



**RUSS ROGERS, STEVENS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

#### **PROGRAM AWARD WINNERS**

While a dedicated website for the #AllRise Challenge was the central point of communication, individual varsity programs also made their case for support via social media, direct mailings and personal outreach to donors.

Match challenges were awarded in three categories: most undergraduate alumni donors, most dollars raised and most parent donors. The varsity programs were divided into two groups: teams with 150 or fewer living alumni (category 1) and teams with 151 or more living alumni (category 2). Additionally, the men’s lacrosse team received a bonus for having the most student donors.

#### **MOST ALUMNI DONORS**

- ▶ Women’s Soccer (category 1)
- ▶ Men’s Lacrosse (category 2)

#### **MOST PARENT DONORS**

- ▶ Men’s Volleyball (category 1)
- ▶ Men’s and Women’s Swimming (category 2)

#### **HIGHEST FUNDRAISING TOTAL**

- ▶ Women’s Volleyball (category 1)
- ▶ Baseball (category 2)

#### **BONUS — MOST STUDENT DONORS:**

- ▶ Men’s Lacrosse

## OUT OF THE ARCHIVES

1



3



2



4



### Descriptions and translations of select stones:

- 1 A large tablet with a long tax list, payable in sheep and other animals. Dated about 2350 B.C. or earlier.
- 2 A receipt indicating the delivery of nine sheep, five rams, three kid goats and three she goats on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Dated about 2300 B.C.
- 3 A typical record of temple offerings. The fingerprints of the scribe are still visible on the sides of the tablet. Dated about 2350 B.C.
- 4 A cone-shaped phallic symbol made by priests at the temple of Ishtar, goddess of love. These cones were sold to visiting pilgrims who placed them between bricks of the temple's walls as an offering for the welfare of the king. Dated about 2100 B.C.

PHOTOS: ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, SAMUEL C. WILLIAMS LIBRARY, STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

IMAGES HAVE BEEN ENLARGED TO SHOW DETAIL.

# GIFTS FROM THE ANCIENT WORLD

*Editor's Note: "Out of the Archives" is dedicated to telling the stories behind lesser-known objects and artifacts from the Samuel C. Williams Library's Archives & Special Collections.*

**A**n unassuming storage box on the second floor of the Samuel C. Williams Library houses nine terracotta tablets marked with complex geometric patterns. Though they vary in size, each one is no bigger than the palm of a child. Some look worn, as though they've passed through many hands. Others bear their markings in high relief — including the fingerprints of their makers — as if they were created yesterday in a pottery class.

These objects are cuneiform tablets — hard, fired slabs of clay indented with cuneiform, a logo-syllabic script developed by scribes before 3200 B.C. in the Mesopotamian city of Uruk (located in present-day Iraq). Though the script itself is not a language, it was used to write several early languages, including Sumerian and Akkadian, and is widely considered to be one of the oldest forms of writing in the world. So, what were these ancient tablets used for?

"They run the gamut between religious and commercial use," explains Ted Houghtaling, archivist and digital projects librarian at Stevens' Samuel C. Williams Library. The library's Archives and Special Collections has translations of each tablet in its care, as well as information on where they were found. Four of the tablets in the collection detail produce and livestock transactions (including taxes payable in sheep and other animals), two are temple records, two are offerings by pilgrims to Ishtar, the goddess of love, and one is a letter written during the reign of Hammurabi,

the influential Babylonian king who issued Hammurabi's Code, one of the world's earliest written legal codes.

Stevens' recent 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary pales in comparison to the age of the tablets, some of which were created as early as 2400 B.C. So how did these ancient objects find their way to Castle Point? For the answer, we look to the legacy of Dr. Henry Morton, first president of Stevens Institute of Technology — and amateur archaeologist.

"Morton was a Renaissance man," says Houghtaling. "He had an interest in the physics of light, he wrote poetry and did watercolors. He had an illustrious career which predated his presidency at Stevens. As secretary of the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, he did scientific demonstrations and created illusions using light and experimental heating techniques. He was a showman who knew how to captivate a crowd while also getting across scientific principles."

Morton was a great educator, teaching physics and chemistry at a variety of colleges and universities. His interest in ancient civilizations was sparked during his own undergraduate days at the University of Pennsylvania. According to a biography published by the National Academy of Sciences in 1915, he and several classmates worked on their own translation of the Rosetta Stone — the ancient text key to interpreting hieroglyphic writing. Though his professional career took him in a different direction, the January 1901 issue of *The Stevens Indicator* asserted, "President

Morton has always kept up his interest in the line of Egyptian and Assyrian archaeology and has accumulated in his library quite a collection of works on these subjects."

Stevens' first president enjoyed a tenure of 32 years in office from 1870 until his death in 1902. He was succeeded by the university's second president, Alexander Humphreys. During Humphreys' term, Stevens opened a museum in the Lieb Building, housing an impressive collection of antique automobiles, geological samples and engineering marvels, including an Edison photograph and the first railroad spike driven for the Camden & Amboy line, the first railroad line built in the state of New Jersey. Humphreys, who was an avid art collector, donated the nine cuneiform tablets to the museum in 1923, in memory of Morton and his interest in ancient civilizations.

With no dedicated curator on staff, the Stevens Museum fell into disrepair and eventually closed. Some objects were sold at auction, but others, like the cuneiforms, made their way into the care of Stevens' Archives & Special Collections.

"They're not just historical oddities of the past," says Houghtaling. "They are living objects that researchers today still make appointments to see, handle and study. By preserving these objects for posterity, we hope to honor the legacy of Morton and his interest in ancient civilizations and share that knowledge with the public." ❖ — Erin Lewis

 Explore more at [library.stevens.edu/archives](https://library.stevens.edu/archives)



# 5 Ways To Be Involved with the SAA This Year

**Here are some avenues to help you connect (or reconnect) with your fellow alumni and alma mater, through the 50,000-plus-strong Stevens Alumni Association:**

## **1. Update Your Contact Info**

We want to let you know about the newest campus and alumni developments and events! Update your contact information online at [connect.stevens.edu/update](https://connect.stevens.edu/update). This is the best way to help you discover opportunities at Stevens that could be of interest to you.

## **2. Build and Share Your Expertise**

Virtual programming at Stevens has exploded! Did you know that more than 280 virtual programs were made available to alumni in collaboration with our campus partners, from the SES Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series to "Stevens During the World Wars," from the S.C. Williams Library to the SAA Book Club? We invite you to tune in — or to reach out to us if you would like to share your expertise for a future program. [stevens.edu/alumni-webinars](https://stevens.edu/alumni-webinars)

## **3. Meet the Locals**

With more than 50,000 alumni across the country — and around the world — we are so glad to bring local in-person programming back! Gather with alumni "neighbors" to enjoy local activities and celebrate your Stevens pride while making some meaningful connections. We have a number of affinity-based groups, too. [stevens.edu/alumniclubs](https://stevens.edu/alumniclubs)

## **4. Volunteer with the SAA**

We are always looking for volunteers — to serve on Stevens Alumni Association (SAA) board committees, to lead regional and affinity groups and to participate in panel discussions, among other efforts. Whatever your passion is, tell us and we'll help find an opportunity to match. If you are looking to become involved, please email [SAAPresident@alumni.stevens.edu](mailto:SAAPresident@alumni.stevens.edu)

## **5. Stay (Socially) Connected**

Our alumni are sharing their stories of where their paths have taken them since their time at Castle Point, and their aspirations for the future. We want our community to celebrate these inspiring stories and lend support. Connect with the SAA on LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/stevens-alumni-association>), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/stevens.alumni>) and Instagram ([@stevensalumni](https://www.instagram.com/stevensalumni)) to read more... And we hope you'll share your story with us, too!



# alumni news



## A MONUMENTAL CAMPAIGN

In 1911, Stevens' second president, Alexander Humphreys, embarked on a fundraising campaign to pay off the school's debts and expand its enrollment. By 1915, the Stevens Tech Fund had raised a total of \$1,360,000 with donations from the greater Stevens community, corporations and from noted steel tycoon and Stevens Trustee, Andrew Carnegie. Revelers celebrated the campaign's success at Alumni Day by erecting a 40-foot tower on the athletic field to showcase the community's collective generosity.

GLASS-PLATE POSITIVE: ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, SAMUEL C. WILLIAMS LIBRARY, STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

# SAA President's Letter

## A Time to Reconnect, and to Say Thank You

Dear Alumni,

On May 7, 2016, we were introduced to *The Power of Stevens* — the most ambitious fundraising campaign in our alma mater's history. An invitation followed for us to be an integral part of this effort that was really about "The Power of Us" — the Stevens community — coming together to make a direct impact on the ability to get a life-changing education, serve students to the highest degree, do meaningful and important research and make a much-needed positive difference in the world. Thanks to the contributions of 14,362 donors — including gifts from 7,774 alumni — *The Power of Stevens* surpassed its goal of \$200 million this summer to become the university's most successful campaign ever!

This edition of *The Indicator* is a celebration of our successful campaign that truly realizes the potential of our community and upholds the Stevens legacy. Every gift has had a meaningful personal significance — honoring what made an impact in our lives and creating a path for those who come after us to chart their own successful futures. To those who donated, thank you for serving as an inspiration and example to our community. To those who are the recipients of their goodness, we want to know your story as it continues to unfold!

As always, the start of a year brings with it a time to reflect, as well as the opportunity to look forward in renewed hope for what is to come. We started 2021 unsure of what the year would bring. And, despite the challenges posed by the global pandemic, we continue to rebuild toward a new normal, reshaping obstacles into opportunities. The transformation of our alumni association presses on with our updated governance framework in full effect, thanks to the countless volunteers that serve on the Board, its committees, and our many clubs. From virtual programming to in-person alumni club gatherings, our alumni association is collaborating with campus partners! To learn more about ways that you can become involved with the SAA this year — and how you can connect with this network of 50,000-plus Stevens alumni — see page 38 of this issue.



Regardless of where you are located around the world, we invite you to take the start of this new year as an opportunity to (re)connect with our alumni community. If you are on social media, follow the Stevens Alumni Association (SAA) on LinkedIn, Facebook or Instagram to find out what our fellow alumni are up to. (If you know a great story to highlight, let us know! [stevens.edu/SAA-social-share](https://www.stevens.edu/SAA-social-share)) Make sure you are signed up to receive our email communications about upcoming events and opportunities.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention we are already looking forward to welcoming back alumni to Castle Point during Alumni Weekend,

June 3-4, 2022! Class leadership teams will gather with their classmates for milestone celebrations. Our Association Annual Meeting will once again share what has been accomplished throughout the year to strengthen our alumni community, while offering a peek into what is planned for the year ahead. We will (finally!) formally induct members of the classes of 1970, 1971 and 1972 into the Old Guard. And, of course, there will be campus tours, the return of traditional wine and beer tastings, our beloved Lollipop Run children's races for the little "ducklings," conversations with campus academic leaders and much more. We will continue to keep the fires of alumni pride burning brightly!

*Per aspera ad astra,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Velasco". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Victoria Velasco '04  
President  
Stevens Alumni Association  
[SAAPresident@alumni.stevens.edu](mailto:SAAPresident@alumni.stevens.edu)

*Editor's Note: By submitting class log information and photos to The Stevens Indicator, you acknowledge that they may be reproduced wholly or in part in the printed magazine, published in the online version of The Stevens Indicator, and/or shared via Stevens Alumni Association and/or institutional social media channels/webpages.*

**'46** November 2021 — Good grief! Twenty-six pages of class logs in the most recent issue of *The Indicator* and '46 trails just one class behind the oldest log in print (and that one from the Alumni Office devoted to reporting a '44 obituary at age 97). Of the 21 alums currently carried on the Alumni Office rolls of our class, we have heard from only six of them during the past few years despite repeated harangues, exhortations, appeals (via emails and voice messages) and unabashed threats. We've not (yet) given up on them, despite the fact that all of us are now beyond 95 and possibly lack the energy to affix a stamp to a postcard or push the right buttons on a dumb phone. Actually, we had intended to open this log on a positive note, advising the 20 that "Mercifully, we have no obituaries to report..." But, alas, I have just confirmed (through Googling a hunch) that Elliott Foster left us on May 14, 2017. In a brief conversation with his wife Shirley, in Florida, I learned of his passing; she gently declined the offer to reprint a copy of his obituary.

Those of us in his section of the V-12 program at Stevens — who were transfers from other colleges — will recall that he was known to us as

Elliott Feinstein, "a short, heavy-set fellow with a pipe..." (quoted from his yearbook page). In the article about my one-on-one visit with Albert Einstein at his home in Princeton, I referred to Prof. Charles Gunther's teasing of "Ellie," who would always be the first to raise his hand in class whether or not he had the right answer; Charlie would invariably smile, shake his head and comment good-naturedly, "Feinstein, you're no Einstein." Our ever-jovial classmate never took offense. Happy trails, old friend!

You'll also recall that in the fall issue, we dedicated considerable space to Lt. Col. Gunther. Courtney Alvey '45, though a class ahead of us, actually reads the '46 log and often relays interesting comments/observations. Here's his response:

"Regarding your tribute to 'Charlie O.' Gunther in *The Indicator*. He was much-liked by '45 as well as '46. We were aware of his knowledge and interest in ballistics but didn't know about his authorship of books on the subject (highlighted in the article). Our class (or at least my section) invited him to be guest speaker at what was then called a 'smoker.' He readily accepted and regaled us for well over an hour on his military career and Hoboken during the '20s and '30s. He said the Clam Broth House, down near the Lackawanna Railroad station, was operated as a speakeasy off and on during Prohibition. The Feds would shut it down, and a few weeks later it would be open again until the next raid. I was and still am not a big clam lover but was persuaded to try it once with a couple of fraternity brothers. As I recall, the floor was covered with

sawdust and the modus operandi was to eat steamed clams on the half-shell and throw the shells on the floor. The whole place stank of rotting clam odor and after eating one clam at my brother's insistence, I bolted outside to keep from throwing up."

In these columns — as well as in other class logs — there have appeared scores of reminiscences about the Naval

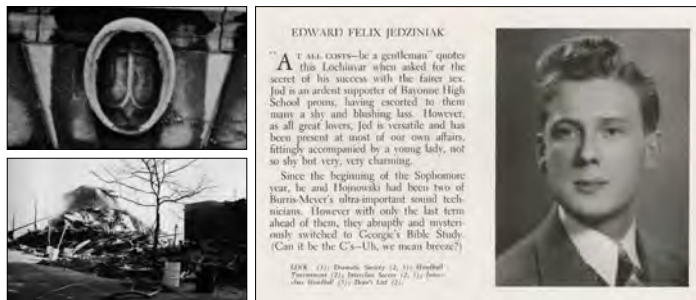
Reserve V-12 program (1943-1946) that provided many of us with tuition, books, room and board, and a uniform (plus \$75 per month). But it has been a long while since there has been much written about a time when there was another naval presence on campus with the establishment of the Steam Engineering School early in 1918. A 1922 issue of *The Indicator* tells us that this naval school was under the direction of Lt. Cdr. Frederick L. Prior, Class of 1897.

"The course established was especially designed to train young men as engineer ensigns to operate the large wartime fleet of Navy vessels then under construction. By the time the school was closed in June 1919, 1,465 men — 56 from Stevens — had been commissioned. With the regular college buildings already crowded with students taking the regular courses, the government erected a brick barracks building at Sixth and Hudson Streets. This, however, was later felt to be inadequate as it was planned by the government to train 6,000 ensigns.

"The Navy then constructed a much larger barracks building on River Street. In the meantime, the officer-students had overflowed the original barracks — in later years to become the college's library — and had to use part of the college gymnasium. At the Stevens graduation in 1919, President Humphreys was proud to read a letter praising the college's contribution to the Navy from a man who was later to become our commander-in chief as president of the United States, then serving as assistant secretary of the Navy [Franklin D. Roosevelt]. 'When it became apparent that we must take advantage of existing educational facilities not under government control, we naturally turned to Stevens for help,' he wrote."

Please write or call. Let us know you're still breathing! — A. Richard Boera, Allen Harbor, 90 Allen Road, Apt. 27, South Burlington, Vermont 05403, (802) 495-5815; arbjb@comcast.net

**'50** November 26, 2021 — No news and no deaths. It's amazing that one of the new buildings will house 1,000 students. I spent two semesters in the Castle. The first in a dark 12' x 25' room with two others. The second in a crazy 40' x 40' bright room with two others. Sadly, all my roommate friends have passed — Alfred Johnsrud, Robert Barnes and John Folley.



EDWARD FELIX JEDZINIAK  
"ALL costs—he a gentleman" quotes this Lockman when asked for the secret of his success with the fairer sex. Jed is an ardent supporter of Batoune High School prisms, having exerted to them many a shy and blushing lass. However as all great lovers, Jed is versatile and has been present at most of our own affairs, fittingly accompanied by a young lady, not so shy but very, very charming.  
Since the beginning of the Sophomore year, he and Hoponowski had been two of Burras-Meyer's ultra-important social technicians. However with only the last term ahead of them, they abruptly and mysteriously switched to George's Bible Study. (Can it be the C's—Uh, we mean breeze?)

Top Left (1): Dynamic Series (2, 3); Horizontal Placement (4); Vertical Series (5, 6); Dynamic Series (7); Dynamic Series (8); Dynamic Series (9); Dynamic Series (10); Dynamic Series (11); Dynamic Series (12)

Above and below, at left: Dick Boera '46 shared these vintage photos of Stevens' former Navy Building. Learn more in the '46 log. At right, above is *The Link* senior photo for Edward Jedziniak '41. Read about a scholarship that his family has established in his memory on page 16.



At 92, I am one of the youngest left but have my share of aches and pains with difficulty walking. But we are in a nice apartment in downtown Oak Ridge near services after selling our Florida condo and big home on the lake.

A note on inflation. It costs 11 times 1950 prices today (check the internet). Those few percent each year add up. My starting salary was \$3,600 annually. We bought our first house a few years later for less than \$15,000. Today's average is over \$350,000 and rising as is everything else.

Call or email to update me. — **Walter M. Carow**, (865) 805-6134; [wcarow@yahoo.com](mailto:wcarow@yahoo.com)

**'51** November 2021 — On Veterans Day I found myself gathering thoughts for this log. I began to reflect on the fact that many of our classmates are fellow World War II veterans. In recent years my wife Arlene and I have visited the World War II Museum in New Orleans, and also the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Both are extremely inspirational, and I hope that those of us who have not made these visits but are still able to travel will do so.

And now for some news. I am grateful for the positive comments received regarding the reappearance of our '51 class log. I will attempt to share news, both good and bad, as I am kept informed.

**Al Donaldson** and Joan are enjoying retirement in Amelia Island, Florida, after his 1988 retirement from a 37-year career with Union Carbide. While retired, he learned how to fish in local waters and attempted to lower his golf handicap. As an active volunteer, he co-founded the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate, Boys and Girls Club and Take Stock in Children, and managed building and grounds for his local church. Joan has been equally busy in a variety of volunteer roles. Al likes to think that their former volunteer activities are one reason "that they have survived so long" and continue to enjoy life with their five children, six grandkids, and three great-grandchildren.

**Herb Fischer** has changed his nickname from his Stevens days of "Speed" to "Fuz." He adopted this nickname 34 years ago with his first grandchild. His wife Polly, also known as "Muz," passed away in 2001. Herb has been living in Raleigh, North Carolina, since 1974. His daughter wrote that he retired from IBM in 1990 and moved into a retirement community in 2017. His legacy includes four daughters, ten grandchildren and, at

the time of this writing, four great-grandchildren, but likely five now.

**Don Landmann** passed away in Ocala, Florida, since the writing of our last class log. He entered Stevens after his Navy service, became an ROTC graduate and went on active duty with the Air Force. After four years he transferred to the Reserves and retired later as a Lt. Col. Don was elected as Ellington, Connecticut's First Selectman (mayor) for four years. Several years after he left the position, another Stevens alumnus (**Michael Stupinski '62**) was elected and remained in office for 12 years. Following retirement from 30 years with J.M. Ney as director of industrial sales, he and his wife Clare relocated to Florida. Many will remember Don's leadership of the Stevens' West Coast Florida Club.

**Ken DeGraw '57** shared this remembrance of Don. "On December 2, 2021, I was pleased to receive Clare Landmann's annual Christmas greeting. My happy mood was short-lived when I read of Don's passing.

"To give his classmates some background, I am also a Stevens alumnus. I served as the Alumni Association's Clubs Director from 2002 through 2012 and had the pleasure of working with clubs around the country. Don and Clare were the leaders of the West Coast Florida Club for a number of years. Every year they held a luncheon in Tampa in the fall then monthly thereafter worked down the coast concluding in the Naples area in the spring.

"These lunches were popular with local alumni and snowbirds, and Don was a good master of ceremonies and a proud alumnus. They were gracious to me inviting me into their Cape Haze home. Besides being fellow alumni, Don and I shared being Air Force ROTC alumni. Also, Don was proud to have several of his family as graduates of Stevens. He will be missed and may he rest in peace. Ken DeGraw '57."

Keep safe, keep well, and let's keep our log alive with your news. — **Charles Wetter**, (817) 348-0509 (home); (817) 944-8383 (cell); [charleswetter@yahoo.com](mailto:charleswetter@yahoo.com)

**'53** *Editor's Note: Stephen Cuff passed away on Aug. 24, 2021. His long-time friend Richard Muller '55 has written this tribute.*

A good and generous friend to many died on August 24, 2021, at his home in Alamo, California. Steve Cuff's active life was celebrated by family and many friends at a gathering held on



September 18 in Concord, California. The event included a eulogy to Steve written by Sam Patti, husband of Steve's daughter, Katherine. The following tribute borrows material from Sam's eulogy, while adding a few inputs from myself.

Steve was born on September 18, 1931, in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from New York City public schools, including the highly-rated Brooklyn Technical High School. By the end of high school, Steve knew that his career goal would be engineering, and that the broad curriculum at nearby Stevens suited his wide-ranging interests. He entered Stevens in 1949 to become a member of the Class of 1953.

Steve and I met in 1951 when he, a brother in Delta Tau Delta fraternity, rushed me, a new Stevens freshman. Although I ultimately joined Theta Xi fraternity, its location across the road from the Delt House led to frequent exchanges during our shared years at Stevens.

After graduating from Stevens, Steve spent four years in the Navy. His training and scholarship had qualified him for service aboard the USS Albacore, a research submarine. Albacore had been designed by the Navy to test experimental features, many of which are still in use today. The ship has been preserved and is now open to the public as a museum exhibit in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Steve's pride in his Albacore years led him to have a scale model of the submarine built and donated for exhibition at the museum.

Steve met his wife, Jean, while on a Navy trip to San Francisco where Jean was a grade-school teacher. Romance blossomed, and in 1957, their 64 years of marriage began. Daughter Katherine was born in 1958 followed by son Paul Stephen in 1960.

Steve's civilian engineering career started

at Sikorsky in Connecticut and lasted a few years before he joined Systron Donner (S-D), a Concord, California, company that produced specialty electronic instrumentation circuits and systems. When S-D resolved to cull their product line, Steve and several associates decided that a new business might be formed to supply sub-systems that would no longer be produced by S-D. Considerable thought and planning led to the birth of a new company, Calex Manufacturing, in 1961. An important early Calex product line, its DC/DC converters, has remained a company staple for more than 60 years. A short time after the Calex startup, Steve bought out the shares of his two startup colleagues and then built up the company, achieving major growth that called for two workplace expansions. Steve also engineered a business success when he joined with others as a founder of the successful Mt. Diablo Bank.

These achievements in business convinced Steve that well-planned and executed education is key to success. He was proud of its influence in his life and would make that clear whenever he described the programs at Stevens, those in Navy research and, later, the excellent presentations at the Harvard Owner/President Business Management Series (HOM Series), a program which he completed with much appreciation and pride.

Stevens reached out to Steve when, in 1993, he was invited to serve as a trustee, a position he held until 2001. Steve proposed my nomination as a Stevens trustee in 1995, and I served in that capacity until 2005.

Steve's dedicated service to people and causes that he respected will keep his spirit alive in many hearts. — *The Stevens Indicator*; [alumni-log@stevens.edu](mailto:alumni-log@stevens.edu)

**'54** November 2021 — My plea for some of my classmates to send me a note even if it's to say, "I'm alive," did not go unnoticed. **Ted Martines** sent me the following email.

"Hi George, your comment in *The Indicator* reminded me of that great closing line from the movie 'Papillon' with Steve McQueen. Trying to escape from Devil's Island penal colony floating on a raft, he looks up at the clouds as if he were speaking to God and says, 'I'm still here.' I was moved by the obit of **Henry Angel**. We were friends during our Stevens years, both coming from Brooklyn with no knowledge of Hoboken other than the place where Frank Sinatra came

## SAA Update

### May is SAA Election Time

In May, we will send out the ballots for the Stevens Alumni Association 2022 Board of Directors Elections, as well as proposed amendments for our constitution and bylaws. Please remember to cast your vote by June 4, 2022.

Please visit [connect.stevens.edu/saavote](https://connect.stevens.edu/saavote) to learn more or to request a paper ballot in the event you do not have the ability to vote online. For more information, email [SAAPresident@alumni.stevens.edu](mailto:SAAPresident@alumni.stevens.edu)

### Update Us!

Please update your contact information with us if you have moved, if you have changed emails, if you have experienced a recent life event or if you wish to be more active with the Alumni Association. Please visit: <https://connect.stevens.edu/update>



from. Well, I just passed my 89<sup>th</sup>, I'm still healthy and active and I'm still here in God's waiting room. I've never sent anything to the class log and frankly had limited interest and only vague memories as time passed. I admire you for taking the time to nurture the class log after all these years. I've been living in Sarasota, Florida, for the past 23 years after retiring from CPI Aerostructures, a company I co-founded on Long Island. My last interaction with classmates was in 1955 at Naval Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Newport, Rhode Island. A few of us that had been avoiding the draft got caught after graduation. I was employed by Arabian American Oil (ARAMCO) and destined to spend a few years in Saudi Arabia. In those days, I had to apply to my draft board for permission to leave the country. When they denied my request, I had a choice of waiting to be drafted or applying to OCS. That decision was a no-brainer. After graduation from OCS, I was assigned as a maintenance officer for naval aircraft, landing in Jacksonville, Florida Naval Air Station. With that experience, after my discharge, I gravitated to companies like Sperry and Grumman, where I spent 27 years. I was a director for Grumman new business development, having gotten my MBA along the way. My limited experience at ARAMCO was useful when I was the Grumman contracts manager and selling F-14 aircraft to the Shah of Iran before the revolution.

"In 1984 I took an early retirement from Grumman and co-founded CPI Aerostructures with another Grumman co-worker. We manufactured structural components for military and commercial aircraft. In the early '90s we took the company public and happily, they are still flourishing. Wow, how time flies. Stay well and God bless you also." Thanks, Ted, for the excellent

input and for letting our classmates know of the very interesting career you had. Your comment about Henry Angel was well taken.

Henry and his wife attended our 55<sup>th</sup> and last class reunion at Stevens. Henry came down in his yacht from Connecticut, I believe, and docked it at a pier in Jersey City. He needed a lift after the affair, and Peggy and I drove him to his boat, or shall I say yacht, as it was a very impressive floating unit. That's about it for now. Hope our classmates will have a joyous Christmas and holiday season, and I will look forward to hearing from others who are floating on a raft and saying, "I'm still here!" God bless to all Class of '54 members. — **George J. Hromnak, 45 Glenridge Blvd., Homosassa, FL 34446-4450; (352) 382-7445; [ghromnak@embarqmail.com](mailto:ghromnak@embarqmail.com)**

**'55** November 2021 — Another year rolling to its end makes me sad to search my very empty Class of 1955 mail collection. Nothing, even in e-format, or with a "Forever" stamp showing places to visit in our beautiful land. OK, sez I, what's out there in these vast wads of data that are churning furiously the educational challenges in my long-established electrical engineering field? Well, years of experience in journalism prompt me to "check out the sources." If '55ers won't write, let's see whether Google has anything to say!

Because of recent correspondence gaps, I decided to conduct a session of "spying on Shiro," largely because Matsuoka and Muller were in the "M" squad. Stevens grads of our era will remember that class members having matching last name initials automatically shared class schedules throughout the four-year curriculum, so Matsuoka and I shared many Stevens

experiences.

**Shiro Matsuoka** was the first native Japanese person that I knew, and his friendship was often in mind when later trips introduced me to Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Sendai for research meetings, and of course, evenings on the Ginza, visits to the natural hot baths in Kobe, and other well-remembered locations. Memorable also, of course, are sobering sights in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I would really enjoy a present-day mail exchange with Shiro. Sadly, however, no answers came in response to requests for news from his end.

I remember Shiro very well from adventures at J'Burg, where we first shared our kinship with nature. I remembered too how an extensive camping trip that my brother and I had mapped out could not include Shiro because his 1950s-era Japanese passport would not allow for a border crossing. We had planned to make hiking in the Canadian Rockies a major goal.

Using Google to find info, I was able to break out some Matsuoka news. After graduating from Stevens, he entered Princeton for graduate studies in the chemistry of materials, earning a Ph.D. in that field. Then in 1959, he began a 36-year career at Bell Laboratories and wound up as a department head in his graduate-study area. His practical scientific success was attested by his election in 1989 as a Fellow in the National Engineering Academy "for pioneering contributions to the methodology for prediction and explanation of the aging and strain history of

mechanical properties of solid engineering polymeric materials." NAE membership is a highly significant honor, especially in the university, and it is not surprising that, after his successful career at Bell Labs, Columbia University hired Shiro as an adjunct full professor. He taught and did research at Columbia in this capacity until a second retirement in 2006.

I believe that my election to the NAE (in 1992) marks the second and last entry from our class. The citation in my case, "for contributions to the technology and design of integrated electronic sensors," can be compared with the citation in Matsuoka's case to illustrate the breadth in engineering specialties that typified engineering education at Stevens during our years there.

As any explorer using Google soon learns, Googling doesn't typically save time — usually it's more the start of a many-headed gargoyle hunt. Thus, on one of many laptop forays, I happened to read a printout describing Victor B. Lawrence, NAE member and senior research scientist in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering within Stevens' Schaefer School of Engineering and Science.

Lawrence was elected to NAE in 2003 "for contributions to data communications." Prior to joining Stevens, he also had a 30-year career at Bell Laboratories. I haven't located any other NAE members on the Stevens faculty but have not carried out an exhaustive search. After several nonproductive hours, fatigue and other chores

led me to forego further efforts. I decided that I'd end personal NAE membership-searching among Stevens faculty by offering alumni log space to whomever sends me a valid overlooked entry.

Another decision is to seek entries in future '55 logs by encouraging readers to think of Stevens faculty who had meaningful influences on their lives — and then, by interviews, Googling, post office posters or other notifications — compose a personal essay for the '55 log. I was thinking of this when assembling the foregoing item about classmate Matsuoka. I recalled that in 2005, at the dinner on campus celebrating 50 years since graduation, Shiro had a few words of strong praise recounting the influential friendship he'd enjoyed with Stevens' chemistry professor Stivala. I would gladly have learned more. My own memories of professor Nick Rose stir similar thoughts. How about you, dear reader — any especially influential faculty memories? Send descriptions for future class logs.

A final notice for this column follows. I have contributed a memorial to **Steve Cuff '53**, who died August 24, 2021. I met Steve at Stevens, but we became closer friends in California. Probably, some of you '55ers knew Steve, a well-rounded and talented fellow. The memorial appears in the current '53 Log. — **Richard S. Muller, 1519 Oxford St., Apt. H., Berkeley, California 94709-1542; (510) 559-0866; muller@berkeley.edu**

**'57** Submitted by guest columnist **Ken DeGraw**

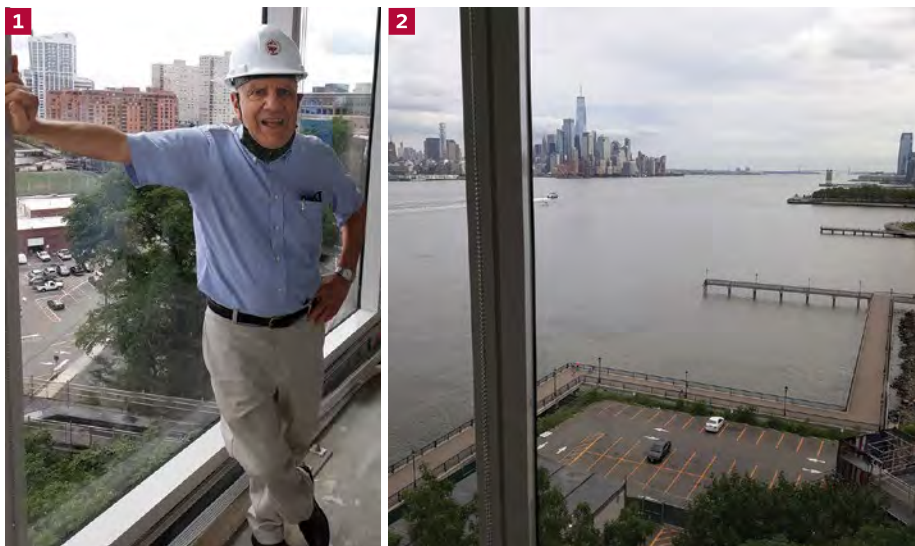
November 8, 2021 — By the time you read this, you will have already received mailings concerning our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 3-4, 2022, from the '57 reunion committee. And, hopefully, you responded.

As you remember, **Chuck Filippone** wrote many '57 logs over several decades. When Chuck and I spoke, he said it's time for someone else to take over this log. Will you volunteer?

The second thing is to plead, as Chuck did, for bits of news and photos from all of you about your lives, families, etc. Just send them to *The Indicator* editor and I'll get them. If you are reading this, you have to pay your dues by contributing.

As you read in the last *Indicator*, we lost our class president **Paul Steffen**. If you had difficulty with the link, type in this one: <https://www.stevens.edu/profiles/grateful-classmates-reflect-president-paul-steffen-57>. Also: [stevens.edu/paul-steffen](https://www.stevens.edu/paul-steffen).

Your Reunion Committee is trying to prepare a



**1** Bob Fiocco '58 is seen at the Robert Fiocco '58 M.S. '61 Sc.D. '63 Residential Lounge inside the new University Center Complex this past summer. **2** Here's the lounge's stunning view; read more in the '58 log.

slate of new officers. If you can participate, even remotely, please contact me at (201) 391-1225.

As I have nothing from you to report, let's take a trip down memory lane and re-read some words from our 1957 *Link* yearbook. Below is a message to our class from then-Stevens President Jess H. Davis:

"To the Class of 1957: Every college student looks forward to the day when he will be graduated and to the time when he can put his knowledge, resourcefulness and initiative to productive use. Many of the details of your college career will be forgotten in your new responsibilities but I sincerely hope that the broad influences of the Stevens educational program will remain with you.

"The two major objectives of the Stevens curriculum have been to impart the accumulated knowledge of science, engineering and the humanities developed by thoughtful and dedicated men; and to encourage investigation and research so that each may contribute his share to man's total knowledge.

"But of equal importance is our objective to implant a sense of personal obligation to serve society and the engineering profession with integrity and devotion. The Stevens Trustees and Faculty wish you every success as engineers and responsible citizens." — [Ken DeGraw](#); [kjdsr@optonline.net](#); [Art Stahl](#), [afstahl@msn.com](#)

**'58** *Guest log by Bob Fiocco*  
November 2021 — Hi '58ers.  
Hope you enjoyed the winter holidays. I continue to look forward to hearing from classmates so we can keep the logs up to the historic high standards set by our many fine previous class secretaries. But I do need your inputs.

Our most recent class secretary **Mike Bonner** was such an excellent class secretary — and a kind and wonderful person and friend to many of us. I am so very sad to report that Mike passed away on December 5, 2021, after a long and valiant battle with cancer. He will be deeply missed by all of us, and a tribute to him will run in a future class log.

Recently, I received notes from three classmates, **Bob Walker**, **Ron Swade** and **Rich Harries**. Bob wrote: "Barb and I are doing pretty well for our age group, lots of doctor visits and a lot of reading, although I'm starting to have some vision problems. On a more positive note, our grandson Kevin Walker is a budding film director now living and working in Manhattan. He has produced and

directed a ten-minute film called "Marblehead," which was shown at the Woodstock Film Festival in October and received the award for best short film at the Big Apple Film Festival in New York City in the first week of November. Naturally we're very proud of him." (For sure!)

Ron says: "Hello All. Suzanne and I have been in Kissimmee, Florida, for about 15 years, enjoying sun, family and friends. Usual aches, but you deal with it. Occasional golf, pool, cruises, whatever." (Sounds like the sweet life to me!)

Rich Harries wrote: "Still on the roll, being very active in closing out the last business transactions and keeping up with my daily weightlifting and dry sauna program ... then comes the daily routine of maintaining my 15-car collection and two large homes. Much of my weeks are spent with Stevens, to be on top of the University Center Complex progress and support programs.

"The big day of completion is rapidly coming, with dedication on Saturday, May 14, 2022. However, there are still many possibilities available for the residential lounges on floors 5-20, and also the main lobby of the North Tower. I do hope our class could continue the support of this project so the North Tower would become a 'Class of '58' entity. Carol and I wish everyone a joyous holiday season!" (As do I.)

Meanwhile, I have been here enjoying Fellowship Senior Living for well over a year now. It continues to get better and stay COVID-free. I'm enjoying the many interesting people (one in particular), the amenities and the various activities like qi gong, Pilates and boxing — all good stuff! Also, I'm just back from a two-week vacation trip to Palm Springs, California, visiting with my daughter and niece, and staying at a very nice Marriott timeshare — lots of fun!

During the summer, I also had an opportunity to tour the nearly completed Richard F. Harries Residential Tower and University Center Complex. It's truly transformational and impressive! Included with this log are photos that I took of the Robert J. Fiocco '58 M.S. '61 Sc.D.'63 Residential Lounge on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Rich's tower — great view of the Hudson River and New York City (and of me, of course)! Another photo I took shows the South Tower with the large Stevens sign on top during its initial lighting ceremony this summer. The sign is easily seen from New York City.

The Tower/Complex officially opens in Spring 2022 and will be a very special extra treat for every '58er's next campus visit — hopefully by 2023



Emmy Award-winning engineer Henry Mahler '60 passed away last fall.

for our 65<sup>th</sup> (wow!) class reunion, if not sooner! Rich, Carol and I look forward to welcoming all.

So that's it from me for now. Please drop a line or give a call! It's always great to hear from classmates and share good times, plans, reminisces, general words of wisdom or just plain greetings.  
— [Bob Fiocco](#), 5120 Fellowship Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920; (908) 660-9038; [bobfioc3@gmail.com](#)

**'60** *November 2021* — We sadly report the passing of two of our classmates: **Henry William Mahler** and **John C. Feggeler**. Their loved ones have our deepest sympathy. They are remembered below.

Henry William Mahler passed away peacefully on October 5, 2021, in Newtown, Connecticut.

After graduating from Stevens, where he also played lacrosse, Henry spent his entire 60-year professional career with CBS as a research engineer. In 2002, he received an Emmy Award in the Technology & Engineering category for his groundbreaking work in the development and standardization of the color bar test signal used to calibrate television monitors.

His personal interests included hiking, camping and fishing in the Adirondacks, attending and watching NHRA, Nascar, IndyCar and F1 races as well as taking vacations with his family and extended family.



Karen and Larry Mannis '63 celebrated their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, this past September.

Henry is survived by his wife Marilyn; three sons, Jeff, Chris and Greg; and two grandchildren.

John C. Feggeler of Holmdel, New Jersey, died on September 28, 2021.

After graduating from Stevens, John began his long career at Bell Labs, first in Whippany, New Jersey, and later in Holmdel. He received his master's degree from N.Y.U. and returned to Stevens to earn his Ph.D. in electrical engineering.

At Stevens, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and the Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society. He made lifelong friends at his alma mater.

During his career at Bell Labs, he was awarded a patent for sound clarity in mobile phones. John also worked in the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific on fiber optics, subsequently laying cable lines from the UK/France to the U.S. and on to Japan. Following his retirement, he went to work for Tyco Corp., Eatontown, New Jersey, for 10 years.

John enjoyed traveling to Alaska and Hawaii, especially hiking in Maui and Kiawah. He was a fan of Lionel model trains, and saltwater fishing in Florida. And he loved having a large Christmas tree in the house and always hosting Christmas dinner at his home.

He was predeceased by a son, James Michael Feggeler and his daughter-in-law, Amy Feggeler. Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Ruth; two sons, John and Stephen; three grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter. —**Don Merino**, [dmerino@stevens.edu](mailto:dmerino@stevens.edu); **John Dalton**, [jjdalton1@verizon.net](mailto:jjdalton1@verizon.net)

**'62** November 2021 — Your reunion committee, consisting of four class officers and four volunteers, have met six of the past seven months to plan our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion, June 3-5, 2022. Each meeting has resulted in a comprehensive report of our

activities and has been sent out via email to all classmates. The committee will continue to meet monthly, or more frequently as the need arises, to ensure that we have a most memorable reunion.

Meanwhile, how can you do your part, you ask? First, please be sure to read your reunion committee's monthly reports and provide any helpful ideas and comments; second, please let us know that you will be joining those of us at our 60<sup>th</sup>; third, plan to register for the class events as soon as registration opens; and last, show your support for Stevens by making a generous contribution to the Class of 1962's scholarship fund. All donations will be applied to our class gift to Stevens.

The following is a list of 37 classmates planning to attend our reunion as of the end of November 2021: **Dennis Blahut, Bruce Boylan, Lou Capuano, Vince Citarella, Frank Derato, Joe Giovannoli, Ed Henderson, George Jurick, Juris Kaugerts, Ray Kent, Al Kiel, Phil Kimball, Leon Kirshner, Bill Kowenhoven, Hans Kurzik, Jim Kyriazis, Dick Leichus, John Lupi, Alex McKenzie, Tony Mirabella, Bob Mitchell, Howard Oringer, Dick Orth, Al Pearson, Alex Peck, Mike Pellet, Frank Perrotta, Paul Rank, Dick Sard, Jack Singlevich, Kosmos Spiridellis, Mike Stupinski, Ben Tirabassi, Mike Vallidis, Thomas Wang, Dick Ward and Mike Zupko.**

I heard from Jim Kyriazis in the spring of 2021 but couldn't include his update until now. He says, "Greetings from California. We moved to the Sacramento area to be near our daughter and grandchildren after living and working in Southern California for over 57 years! I found a photo of members of our class, including **Manfred Augenstein**, Jim Kyriazis, Richard Leichus and Howard Oringer. (Note: This photo will appear, along with Jim's comments, on the upcoming class page, which is currently under construction at Stevens.) I married a native California girl, Georgia, in 1964, and never made it back to New Jersey except for occasional family visits and later on, class reunions. We had two girls, Kristen and Renee, and now two grandchildren, Constantine and Gianna. Following my first job with Aerojet General, I went to work for the Fluor Corporation, an international engineering and construction company. I retired from Fluor as an executive project director after almost 38 years. It was a most rewarding career. The executive who interviewed me for this job was **Pat Randolph**, Class of 1937. He was president of the Stevens Club of Southern California and

we hit it off. When he was transferred to another Fluor office, I took over the club and managed it for a few years until I too was transferred to another office. The club covered the distance between San Diego and Santa Barbara. It's a tough assignment for anyone. God willing, I'm looking forward to our reunion in 2022! Regards, Jim 'The Greek' Kyriazis."

And this from Howard Oringer about his foundation's work; "Phil, we have been funding Launchpad@Stevens for the past five years, and recently worked with two seniors and their startup, Square1Jobs, to assist those formerly incarcerated to obtain meaningful employment. This has been a focus of our family foundation, Omnia, for the past 20 years, while working to reduce mass incarceration. — Howard"

Dick Ward posed the following idea, "Like most of us, COVID has limited the travels that Jeanann and I wanted to make this past year. The good news is that we are looking forward to a trip to Castle Point for our class' 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion. Since some of our classmates won't be able to make this reunion, I hope that Stevens will be able to make a video for viewing by those who cannot be with us."

This just in from Alex McKenzie, who says: "In 2014 a paper I was hired to write about the history of the Internet published in the three-volume, 'Discoveries in Modern Science.' I was required to cover several specific items which the publishers considered critical whether I thought so or not. Of course, with a restricted word limit, the big question for an author is what to include and what to leave out. I'm sure other authors would have made different choices from mine. I was recently granted permission to post a copy of this article on my website. Should anyone be interested, it can be found at: <http://alexmckenzie.weebly.com/history-of-the-internet.html>"

And lastly, the Stevens *Indicator* staff has asked that I forward the URL for your option to submit class log updates and photos online as follows: [stevens.edu/alumni/submitnews](http://stevens.edu/alumni/submitnews)

Remember to make your donation to Stevens prior to our reunion for it to count toward our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary class gift! I look forward to seeing you all in June! — **Philip B. Kimball**; [pbkim25@gmail.com](mailto:pbkim25@gmail.com)

Don't see your class log listed? Send an update to [alumni-log@stevens.edu](mailto:alumni-log@stevens.edu) or call 201-216-5161.



**'63** December 6, 2021 — Hi, Guys.  
Larry Mannis, in responding to my plea for news, wrote: "Can't remember if I ever wrote before, but I'll make it brief.

"Moved to Dahlonega, Georgia, a mountain town that was the site of the first gold rush in the U.S., in 2003 and retired the year after being director of professional services at Competitive Logistics in Atlanta. Software and consulting were the third of my careers after launching rockets at Cape Kennedy in the 1960s and teaching at Wake Forest University for five years. I did the civic volunteer thing here for several years — Historic Preservation Commission and Friends of the Lumpkin County Library. Most of my time is spent on golf, poker, bridge and reading. Achasta, the subdivision where we live, has a beautiful Jack Nicklaus signature golf course with wonderful mountain vistas. I usually golf three times a week and have been running a weekly Stableford competition for 14 years. Just celebrated my 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary with Karen in August, and we are both doing well for our ages." (Larry also sent a photo, with wife Karen, from their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary celebration.)

Mike Delevante, from his hideout in Ontario, mentioned that he "had an operation in April; no details but a check up a few weeks ago was fine, so I am OK until my next 5,000 mile check up. Could be awhile since I do not venture too far in a pandemic. Have not been back to my native Jamaica for two years since COVID is not under control and the testing before you leave and when you return costs nearly as much as the air fare ... I still have a few clients who want to get into craft distilling ... I'm also designing some products for existing crafters and teaching a few wanna-be distillers, so I am at least exercising my brain.

"I often reflect on the relatively carefree days we had at Stevens. The political situation seemed less complicated, we did not have the pesky internet and all the social media, and all calculations were on a slide rule. I showed mine, still in good condition, to one of my millennial students. She was fascinated, but I've actually forgotten how to use it. Everything I learned in university now seems like a mystery ... Stay safe and I hope I can attend the Old Guard Luncheon next spring." One of my hopes is that, over the next few months, we can get across the border

and check in with Mike in person.

It was really interesting to me to read Chris Coccio's note about how his company, Sono-Tek, made it to Nasdaq. He went on to say, "I had the privilege of closing the exchange on September 3, 2021. It was quite an exciting time for all of our team who worked so hard over the years to create a successful company." See a photo from that momentous day for Chris and his team on page 48.

Lastly, Robert McGinn wrote the following. "Those of us living in the San Francisco Bay Area are slowly emerging from the pandemic, one small step at a time. My partner Birgit and I got our booster shots last week. Emboldened, this Sunday we will be making our first trip to a concert hall since January 2020 to hear the San Francisco Symphony. On the work front, I'm still doing ethics research for the Center for Cellular Construction at UCSF. After a long slog, just sent off an essay on the Theranos fiasco to the journal *Science and Engineering Ethics* and may teach a mini-course on research ethics for scientists and engineers at UCSF next spring. I'm hoping that the COVID situation will be sufficiently under control by next March for a trip to Italy.

## Giving with Impact: IRA Charitable Rollover

**"I was the first in my family to attend college and was fortunate to receive scholarship and financial aid from Stevens. Several years ago my wife and I established the Kaminski Family Scholarship and we have been able to grow the fund and provide financial support for 17 students. Truly worth your consideration."**

**— Joe Kaminski '60**



If you are over the age of 70½ and own an IRA, you can authorize your IRA administrator to make transfers each year (totaling up to \$100,000 per year) to one or more charities – without the amount being added to taxable income.

### An IRA Charitable Rollover Gift to Stevens Institute of Technology can:

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- Be excluded from your gross income: a tax-free rollover. (No income-tax deduction is allowed for the transfer.)
- Count toward your required minimum distribution, which, under the 2019 SECURE Act, begins at the age of 72.

The information is offered for general informational and educational purposes. You should seek the advice of an attorney for applicability to your own situation.

To make an IRA charitable rollover gift or to learn more, contact us today:

### Michael Governor

Director of Planned Giving

Call: **201-216-8967**

Email: [Michael.Governor@stevens.edu](mailto:Michael.Governor@stevens.edu)

Visit: [stevens.giftplans.org](http://stevens.giftplans.org)

Read more about the impact of Kaminski Family Scholarships on page 10.



Chris Coccio '63, center, with striped tie, celebrates with wife Laurie (in white blouse, next to Chris) and his company Sono-Tek, on September 3, 2021, after Sono-Tek's first full week of trading on the Nasdaq Capital Market. See Sono-Tek's billboard, at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Broadway.

"I've been in email communication recently with two of the Class of 1963's most distinguished alumni: **Mike Iofreddo**, who spent most of his career with the Department of Defense, and **Richard Herman**, still affiliated with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign after serving as its chancellor and greatly enhancing its research and teaching programs. Both Mike and Richard seem to be doing splendidly."

Me, I'm looking forward to another winter of skiing, ski patrolling and doing a fair amount of snowshoeing and winter hiking with a very patient wife. I still enjoy the challenges of engineering and writing articles and books, but the older I get, the more Mother Nature amazes me.

I hope you all stay healthy, contribute to the Class of '63 scholarship fund and manage to get to the next Old Guard Luncheon this spring. Nev  
—**Neville Sachs**; [nevsachseng@gmail.com](mailto:nevsachseng@gmail.com)

**'64** November 27, 2021 — Dear Class of '64: Another year of Stevens has started, and it is off and running. The summer ended with big excitement and fanfare as Stevens unveiled its new sign across the Hudson on top of their newly constructed dormitory buildings lighting up the Hoboken skyline.

**Fred Horowitz**, class treasurer, writes, "The 2021-2022 scholarships supported by the Class of 1964 Endowed Scholarship Fund have just been announced, and I want to share this information with our classmates. You will recall, the scholarship was established over a decade ago to provide an 'annual' funding base from which to award scholarships for students in need. Subsequently, we used the funding activity at our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion to make a step change in the value of the fund to 'over one million dollars.' At that time,

this was the largest class endowment scholarship fund at Stevens, and, at this level, it supports four scholarships. And, as the endowment grows, the amount of a scholarship can grow, or we can award more scholarships.

"For the academic year 2021-2022, Class of 1964 Scholarship recipients include one senior, one junior and two sophomores, majoring in disciplines ranging from computer engineering to engineering management. Individual bios are being prepared, and we will share some of that information when available.

"While it is important to continue to grow the dollar amount of the endowment, it's also important to increase the level of donor participation. This is because it is an important metric used by *U.S. News and World Report* in their annual ranking of colleges. Last year, our class participation level was 34%. This placed us in second place within Stevens' internal Class Participation Challenge, for which an extra \$1,000 was added to the Fund. But clearly, we have lots of room for growth in this metric. So, as we approach year-end financial planning, let's see if we can increase our overall participation and giving levels for the Class of 1964 Endowed Scholarship Fund."

On a different note: **Joe Weber**, Class VP, sent along: "Old roommate **Gordon Spoelstra** called to inform me that he's moved to Williamsburg, Virginia. I don't have the exact address. Interesting, though, is that at least two other of his childhood friends from Wycoff, New Jersey, have also relocated to the same neighborhood... friends forever!

"On October 13, I brought two foursomes to the long-postponed Stevens' Golf Outing (last year's was canceled). Attendance was a bit better than usual, including more alumni! I think

we're all anxious to get out again! C'mon guys get your buddies out for a round while helping the old alma mater."

**Gene Orosz** writes from the coast of Massachusetts: "The big thing here was the major storm that hit us — 90 mph-plus winds that nearly flattened us, no power and no cable for a week, trees down all over the place. We lost several trees, but no damage to the house. We are now back to normal, thank the Lord."

From **Peter Astor**, class president, and chairman of the Stevens Old Guard, of which we are all members: "Dear Harley, Reluctantly, the Old Guard Day planning committee postponed our gathering (including OG luncheon, campus tour, Rho Delt Wall of Achievement and milestone reunions), originally scheduled for October 23, until Spring 2022. This difficult decision was made with input from anniversary classes, and the overwhelming majority of polled registrants felt it wiser to wait until next year. For those who had already registered, Stevens will carry over your payment to next year's event. If you prefer a refund, please contact Ed Yao, director of alumni engagement, at [eyao@stevens.edu](mailto:eyao@stevens.edu).

"When we first conceived this program back in early June, we thought the fall would look much different than it currently does. However, uncertainty regarding new COVID strains and rising transmission rates continue to be key factors in other Stevens decisions related to in-person, indoor programming, including postponement of the much-anticipated Awards Gala. While none of us can guarantee a COVID-free state next spring, we know that moving to a warmer time of year will provide additional outdoor space should the need arise.

"We share your disappointment in having to make this decision, but the Old Guard Day planning committee and the university are committed to bringing everyone together in the safest way possible. Please stay in touch with the Stevens Alumni Association, and especially with the organizers of your milestone reunions for all the latest information. If you have specific questions or comments, please contact Edward Yao, director of alumni engagement, at [eyao@stevens.edu](mailto:eyao@stevens.edu). I will be looking forward to again greeting you and celebrating with you next year."

Class, this column needs your input. Let us know how you are doing, what you are doing and to all a "thank you" for your donations to the class. This is what makes us strong and Stevens stronger. — **Harley Graime**; [hgraime@att.net](mailto:hgraime@att.net)

**'65** November 2021 — What a year: unprecedented heat waves; searing drought; explosive wildfires; atmospheric river-driven floods; devastating freezes; destructive tornadoes; severe hurricanes; COVID-19; and that's excluding today's dangerously divisive politics! The Chinese curse: "May you live in interesting times," seems all too appropriate!

First some travel news:

**Alberto Lorenzoni**, who lives in Rome, devised this workaround during the U.S. travel ban: "I spent eight days with my daughter and oldest grandson in Iceland. We chose Iceland since it is about halfway between Rome and Washington. Pretty cool, both scenery and temperature."

**Dennis & Jean Curtin**: "In June, we had a wonderful trip with a group of 38 to Egypt; 18 of whom continued for the post trip to Jordan — a great collection of travelers.

"No COVID or other illnesses in our group, but masks everywhere, except when well-spaced outdoors and there was a lot of outdoor activity. We were required to have COVID-free docs to enter Egypt, Jordan, and return to USA. On returning, we were tested again, then this past Friday, got our booster shot.

"This was our 22<sup>nd</sup> overseas adventure trip (not counting my business travels). Cairo, Alexandria, and Amman were busy with cars and people 24/7. The hotels were just starting to welcome tourists, with groups from Spain, Italy, France and the USA. All the sites were open, and the vendors were out in force, happy to see tourists return. BUT no crowds — what a great time to visit. This was our second visit to Jordan.

"There were great sites and experiences everywhere. This 21-day trip was vigorous and adventurous — lots of walking (outside and inside the museums, temples, etc.), stair climbing/descending, hot weather, floating in the Dead Sea, a



Jane and Dennis Curtin '65 embarked on a 21-day trip to Egypt and Jordan last June. Read more in the '65 log.

swim in the Mediterranean, etc. The trip to Petra (and back out) was seven hours on foot through a slit-like canyon. But the Turkish massage afterwards was great. Unfortunately, the food was also great, and even with all the daily exercise, we managed to gain a few pounds. Next May we will visit Croatia and Greece for the second time."

**Bill & Anne Tootill**: "The Canadian border opened on August 9. At 7:30 a.m. we crossed with no problem: the COVID-19 bureaucracy was happy with us! Our cabin in Jones Falls survived our 22-month absence without issues thanks to our Canadian friends. Probably the high point of the trip was visiting live humans again. The folks in our region took COVID seriously with a 90%, two-dose vaccination rate. As a result, it averages three to five new cases a week, with only two people in the hospital out of a three-county population of 200,000. Wow! We arrived back in Florida on October 11: no floods, no hurricane, no problems, and there was light snow at the cabin on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Good timing! I highly recommend riding out a pandemic sitting on the shore of a Canadian lake, listening to loon calls, with a tall drink at hand. I have always said that I was born in Massachusetts, live in Florida, but consider Jones Falls, Ontario home. This trip proved it."

**John & Pat O'Neil**: "Pat has been volunteering at local Red Cross blood drives three or four days a week. We stay busy keeping our trails and mile long driveway clear of fallen trees and large, up-sprouting rocks.

"Our tractor doesn't have a backhoe, so we dig them up by hand, then crowbar them out of their holes."

Engineering the future: an urgent job for engineers and scientists. While we mostly hear the dire side of climate change pushing the world into the Malthusian Trap of not enough food or water to sustain the population, there are actually some promising developments that should make surviving the future possible. There isn't enough space to describe them here, so I suggest searching for the following keywords on YouTube: Rob McGinnis on global water scarcity, Rob McGinnis on eFuels, Andrew Forrest on green energy, and Magtor compressor.

I'm still trying to get the last guys' bios over the finish line. I've exchanged emails with most of them, supplied base pages, learned that they have fascinating stories, but I haven't found the catalyst to make it happen. It would be a shame if they ran out of time before sharing them. — **Steve Cochran; (214) 310-2773; cochransm@aol.com**

**'66** November 2021 — Just after the deadline for articles for the fall 2021 edition, I received some news from some classmates.

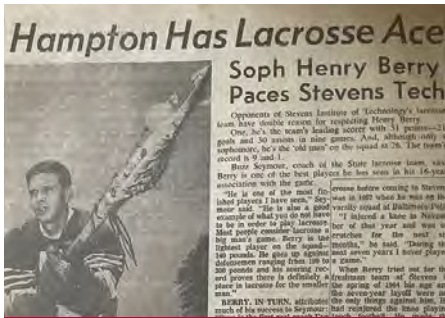
On June 18, 2021, **Richard McDanolds** passed away in Hampton Township, New Jersey. Richard was employed by Picatinny Arsenal for 38 years, retiring in 2003. He is survived by his wife, Sandra, in addition to his son, Richard, and daughter-in-law, Kristin. If any of our fellow Stevens alumni would like to share other memories of Richard, please let me know.

I also heard from **George N. Zaczek**, who wrote that he and **Bob Dent** have been active in the Stevens Metropolitan Club and are looking forward to their upcoming Christmas luncheon with spouses in December. Club members meet monthly and have a great time sharing our experiences. That Club's senior member is from the Class of '46, while the youngest is from the Class of '98. One shared experience is a love of deep-sea fishing. They try to go at least two or three times a year, fishing for fluke, black sea bass and striped sea bass mostly. George also commented that their largest fish this past year was a 35-pound striper (I assumed that he meant striped bass, and not some gal he met at a gentleman's club... if you don't find that amusing, please ignore my attempt at humor!).

George is proud to report that his granddaughter graduated from Stevens this past summer with a B.S. in applied and theoretical mathematics and will complete her master's at Stevens this December in financial engineering. She finished with a 3.85 GPA for four years, which is a lot more than I can say for myself. It is most unfortunate that the COVID-19 pandemic has truly disrupted the social life of these kids due to remote learning and missing the full benefits offered by a four-year college experience.

All of George's family is doing well, and George recently retired as chairman of the Sparta Township Planning Board in New Jersey, after serving in that capacity for the past eight years. From now on he will focus on taking it easy and taking an occasional vacation.

Most of you are aware that our class established a Memorial Scholarship to honor **James Rost**, and **David Dinan**, who lost their lives during the Vietnam War. Stevens recently announced that our latest Scholarship recipient for the 2021-2022 academic year is Francesca Severino, from the graduating class of 2023, who is majoring in software engineering. Francesca comes from



Here's a 1964 *Daily Press* of Newport News, Virginia, story covering Hank Berry '67's outstanding lacrosse season at Stevens. Berry worked at the Newport News Company before attending Stevens and was an All-American player.

Bergenfield, New Jersey.

Carolyn and I just returned from a Thanksgiving trip to see our son, Kevin, and his family in Orrville, Ohio. We are now re-packing for our flight to Houston to spend an early Christmas with my son, David, Class of '93, and his family. Next June will be very busy, as both Kevin and David have daughters who will be graduating from their respective high schools, while I will be performing again in a series of concerts, although time and place has not yet been firmed up.

I look forward to hearing from many of you in the coming months. — **Gerry Osborne, (704) 425-5722; Scandia44@windstream.net**

**'67** November 2021 — From **Hank Berry**: “My wife Christina and I feel blessed that our health is still good. (I am 82 now). I am also fortunate to be able to play golf four times a week while working and living in Delray Beach, Florida, during the winter months and in Williamsburg, Virginia, during the summer.”

From **Tom Corcoran**: “My wife Claudia and I have spent a significant amount of time during COVID at our home in Florida. The downside is that our children and grandchildren are not as close as they are when we are in Maryland. I've been able to do business via Zoom calls. I'm on the board of directors of several public companies and continue as a trustee at Stevens. Since I've been unable to play golf lately due to back trouble, I've had more time for my book club. Overall, life has worked out very well, and we feel quite comfortable. We are very thankful.”

From **Jerry Havel**: “The past almost two years of a COVID world have resulted in a very

confined and restricted life. Many of the plans I had for what's left of my life, largely travel, are on hold, seemingly forever. Our social lives are quite limited, and along with many curtailed activities — I haven't been to an auto race since Sebring a few years ago — life seems to be a version of 'Groundhog Day.' Worst part is, I think that the COVID virus, in its many mutated forms, will be with us for a very long time.

“Since I live in Northern New Jersey, and one of my granddaughters likes to go to Hoboken, I am there occasionally, and am really struck by how much the Stevens campus has changed. That's certainly not unexpected. It's been almost 55 years since we graduated, but it's still a bit of a shock. The new University Center Complex is a huge addition to the campus, overshadowing the Stevens Center. Yes sir, we are slowly being swept into the dustbin of history!”

From **Neill Myers**: “I retired from NASA after 52 years but continue to work for a subcontractor part time. I am working with the same group that I was in when I was with NASA doing the same aerospace mechanical design.”

From **Ralph Nadel**: “Patricia and I just celebrated our 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary. Living in Florida, we voluntarily stayed locked down for the first three months of COVID, but afterwards did a good number of weekend trips, including a snapper fishing adventure in Alabama plus three week-long trips to the Carolinas, a week in Alaska, and just returned from Italy. Two weeks ago, I did the Autocross at the Daytona Speedway.”

From **Enrique Origgi** from Peru: “I am fine, so is all my family. I will be traveling more often to New York; my son Marco is working there. This Christmas, we will have a full house. Four of my kids and three of my grandkids will come to our home, and we will spend New Year's Eve at the beach. I am looking forward to visiting Stevens this coming year. Looking forward to getting together.”

From **John Spaziani**: “I had serious hernia surgery yesterday. Was a long muscle tear, originally misdiagnosed as a muscle pull. But I did get lucky. Effective today, the Cleveland Clinic is minimizing operations. They need COVID beds.”

I asked Spaz about his long-time hobby of Civil War enactments, given the events of the past year. He responded, “In general, the participants are aging. More people are retiring than younger people joining. History is no longer cool. Many schools have de-emphasized American history.”

And finally, I report a remarkable coincidence. Prior to writing these logs, I use the Alumni

Association's compilation of information of our classmates. This time, I noticed that **Dan Rusinak's** hometown is Oak Park, Illinois. For most of us, Oak Park would not hit a nerve. But for me, it most surely did. A few weeks ago, the editors of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)* asked me to write a retrospective of the eminent African-American chemist **Percy Julian (1899-1975)**. Julian was a member of the National Academy — one of the highest honors an American scientist can receive. Julian's last residence was in Oak Park. He and his family were not unanimously welcome in this neighborhood, and his home was fire-bombed twice in the early 1950s. But Julian persevered, as he did throughout his life, and overcame many roadblocks to be highly successful.

In my research on Julian, I had not been able to locate any living chemist who had worked with him. This was not unexpected, as Julian died 46 years ago. But in my email to Dan seeking information for this log, I pointed out the coincidence that he lives in the same town where Julian once lived. Dan's response, “I used to work for him.” Dan provided very helpful information, including the contact information of a living research chemist who also worked for Julian. What a bonus for being your class secretary! I've already spoken with historian **Arnold Hirsch**. For more of the Percy Julian story, you can read my upcoming paper in the *PNAS* (or rely on Wikipedia and the NOVA movie “A Forgotten Genius” that is available online). — **Jeffrey I. Seeman, jiseeman@yahoo.com**

**'68** November 2021 — By the time you read this, we will all be in the dead of winter (even here in Texas, where we had our deep freeze last February!). I hope this log finds ya'll in good health and spirits.

It is with sadness that I report the death of one of our classmates, **Jack Wolff**. For those of you



Hank Berry '67, with wife Christina, sends an update from Delray Beach, Florida.

who did not know him well, I include his obituary. He was a brother in Pi Lambda Phi fraternity and a mathematics major.

"Jack Ronald Wolff, 75, of Sarasota, Florida, died Thursday, July 22, 2021, peacefully at the Respite House in Colchester, Vermont, with his family at his side.

"He was born March 15, 1946, in Newark, New Jersey. He is predeceased by his parents, Aaron Nathan and Marian Glass Wolff. Survivors include his devoted and loving wife of 53 years, Marilyn, of Morrisville, Vermont, and Sarasota; his eldest son Marc S. Wolff and his wife, Rechelle of Hyde Park, Vermont, and Sarasota; and his younger son Daniel J. and his wife Janelle of Tampa, Florida. He leaves three siblings: Judy Rosenblum (Harry), Jeffrey Wolff and Joel Wolff, all from New Jersey. He leaves seven grandchildren: Alexandria Wolff, Joshua Wolff, Zoe Wolff, Nina Wolff, Josie Wolff, Questin Gudgel and Maddison Gudgel. Survivors also include many nephews, cousins and nieces, not to mention numerous loving friends.

"He grew up in Livingston, New Jersey, and graduated from Livingston High School, Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey with a degree in mathematics and Syracuse University with a master's degree. Later in life, he received a degree in gerontology from New College in Sarasota.

"Jack and Marilyn moved from New Jersey to Sarasota in 1983 and then, after 36 years, decided to become snowbirds flying over the magnificent green mountains of Morrisville.

"Jack owned Investment Financial Services in Sarasota. As a financial planner, he was a true gem to all his clients. They were not only clients, but true friends and considered each other family. Regardless of one's financial status he made each client feel special and safe. Most importantly, he was like this with everyone in all aspects of life and received amazing letters to thank him for his help. He had an intense need to be needed and was born with the gift to fulfill this need. The enormity of the respect of his colleagues cannot be measured.

"Over two decades ago, he instituted the Aaron Wolff Scholarship Fund, named after his father, for deserving students needing college financial assistance. He was extremely philanthropic, contributing both to established charities and to those who needed personal assistance. He volunteered in many countries, including Haiti, Costa Rica, Peru and Romania.

"As a younger man he completed two consecutive New York Marathons. He loved running more than anything and missed it when he could no longer do it. He loved golf, and when able, loved to participate in sports. He also loved watching sports on television — having two sons graduate from the University of Florida, he was an avid Gator fan!"

I personally did not know Jack well but do remember seeing him on campus and in some classes in our earlier years. I do not have any contact information for the family, but you can try contacting the Alumni Office.



Reuniting this past summer in Westhampton Beach, New York, from left, were Carolyn Hjembo, Martine Scheuch, Deb and Bill '70 Kelley, Shirley Wilken (wife of Bruce '72), Neil Curran '70, Alice Lyons, Erick Hjembo '70, Pat and John '72 Morris, Frank Cashin '70.

Since I have some space left before I reach my limit, I'll start my feature on **Joe Carra**. Joe grew up in Oceanside, New York, and was a brother in Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. (Note: The following information was gained during our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion, so if anything has changed, please, Joe, drop me a line and I'll print a correction.) Joe earned a B.S. in mathematics at Stevens and went on to earn an M.S. in statistics at New York University. He also participated in public health fellowships at Harvard University and the University of Pittsburgh, as well as an executive leadership training program at the University of Michigan. Upon graduation, Joe worked on inertial navigation systems for ballistic missile-carrying subs while living on Long Island. He then worked for the U.S. government in Washington, D.C., for 40 years, 32 of those as a senior executive at the EPA (20 years) and the Department of Transportation (12 years) working on vehicle safety. Some highlights are: shepherding environmental legislation through Congress; leading U.S. delegations to international meetings and negotiating international agreements; authoring U.S. government strategic plans on health/safety topics; leading research on emerging vehicle crash avoidance technologies; receiving a management excellence award from the EPA; and receiving an executive excellence award from the president of the U.S.

There is more to report on Joe, but it will have to wait 'till my next log.

'Till then, stay healthy and safe. — **Allen A. Foytlin**, [foytlin01@gmail.com](mailto:foytlin01@gmail.com)

Don't see your class log listed? Send an update to [alumni-log@stevens.edu](mailto:alumni-log@stevens.edu) or call 201-216-5161.



Gathering for a monthly virtual cocktail hour, top row from left: Russ Eitel '69, Neil Curran '70, Joe Giacone '69, John Strelitz '69; second row: Stan Urbanik '70, Sam Allen '70, Dave Vercollone '69, Dr. Don Kennedy '69; third row: Joe Rocky '69, Michael Kosusko '77, Dale Jacquish '70, Erick Hjembo '70; bottom row: Hank Berry '67, Frank Cashin '70.

**'69** Log by **Russ Eitel**  
 November 2021 — There are many positive developments that have benefited from a nation dealing with the COVID virus. A group of alumni adopted Zoom to meet on the first Thursday of each month to discuss what is happening in their families and share stories. We found there were smaller groups of fraternity brothers that would meet in person each year, but now we realize there is an even larger group of classmates who enjoy reconnecting after 50 years. The monthly virtual cocktail hour is attended by as many as 20 alumni, but generally there are always 15 to 18 of us who are able attend. It continues to be a great experience supplemented by personal visits as time permits. We encourage you to give it a try! Email me at [russ@eitelgroup.com](mailto:russ@eitelgroup.com) if you would like to join us. (See photo on page 51.)  
 — **Ed Eichhorn**, [ed.eichhorn@medilinkgroup.com](mailto:ed.eichhorn@medilinkgroup.com); **Gerry Crispin**, [gcrispin@careerroads.com](mailto:gcrispin@careerroads.com); **Russ Eitel**, [russ@eitelgroup.com](mailto:russ@eitelgroup.com)

**'70** November 2021 — I was disappointed, as many of you were, when I heard Old Guard Day and our already-postponed 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion was again postponed. We are now planning for a joint event with Alumni Weekend 2022 for a class dinner on Friday, June 3, among other events. Please keep the weekend open and we will look forward to reconnecting, for many after quite a few years.

In our attempts to contact surviving spouses or other immediate family members, we have made good progress. While originally we knew of no children for **Dave Lynch**, **Tom MacMillan** let us know he had a son, and we were able to find him with Tom's help and send him an Old Guard pin. Needless to say, Dave Lynch's son, also named Dave, was pleasantly surprised and very appreciative.

We now have sent out 20 Old Guard pins to surviving spouses and significant others. We are still looking for surviving spouses or family members of **John Beard**, **Eugene Catania**, **Don Daher**, **Bill Douglas**, **John Paul Hartofil**, **John Hughes**, **Richard Kielar**, **Dave Pollack**, **Pete Sapios**, **Dave Tanis**, **Tom Virbila** and **John Yurko**. Any information that can be provided will help us provide all surviving spouses or family members with the Old Guard pins.

We also have more than 40 classmates with invalid contact information, either an email address, home address, phone number or a combination. We will be working on correcting these to ensure we are able to contact all classmates with information on our rescheduled 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion.

**Hank Van Handle** let us know he planned on attending our belated 50<sup>th</sup> on Old Guard Day but had a conflict as that weekend was his belated 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration. Congratulations to Hank and Mary Lou. Hopefully, we will see them next June. Hank can be reached at [hankvh@optonline.net](mailto:hankvh@optonline.net).

**Aaron Grosky** kindly let **Roy Nicolosi**, **Charlie Rosewell**, **John Phillips** and **Barry Cohen** know of **Gordon Quinones'** passing. Aaron has also written many big band jazz compositions, and he mentioned, "One of my compositions was inspired by a Gordon Quinones solo. I'm considering either renaming it in his honor ('I Remember Gordon') or simply dedicating the composition to his memory." Aaron can be reached at [aige02@gmail.com](mailto:aige02@gmail.com).

**Fr. Gabe Costa** has two books coming out toward the end of this year. He co-authored *Schaum's Outline of Differential Equations, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition* with **Richard Bronson Ph.D. '69** and edited his book, *Sabermetrics: Baseball, Steroids, and How the Game has Changed Over the Past Two Generations*. Gabe planned on attending our reunion during Old Guard Day, and I am sure he will be

◀ *Sabermetrics: Baseball, Steroids, and How the Game Has Changed Over the Past Two Generations*, edited by the Rev. Gabe Costa '70, M.S. '72 Ph.D. '84, was published in 2021.

there in June 2022. He can be reached at [gabriel.costa@westpoint.edu](mailto:gabriel.costa@westpoint.edu).

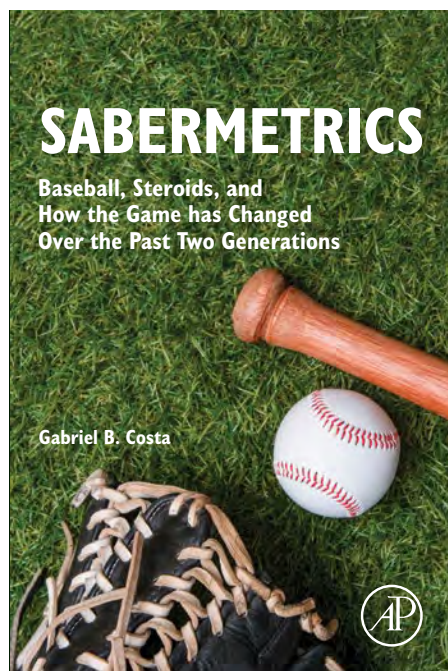
**Pete Bourdelle** let us know, "Sandy and I are still upright and (semi) ambulatory, LOL. I just did a six-month stint consulting at START, LLC, in Shelton, Connecticut, not far from Milford, Connecticut, where I was 40 years ago at Baker Instruments. A blast from the past. Have fun and take time to be bad." Pete can be reached at [pbourd@gmail.com](mailto:pbourd@gmail.com).

I am looking forward to reconnecting with many of you in June 2022. Until then, the very best. — **Eugene A.J. Golebiowski**, [eagolebiowski@att.net](mailto:eagolebiowski@att.net)

**'71** November 2021 — The never-ending COVID-19 forced cancellation of our planned 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion and Old Guard induction in October 2021, but I still have virtual reunion notes from June 2021.

**Victor Skowronski** used his electrical engineering degree to do nuclear reactor design for the Navy, then went into software engineering and set up a "beyond help office" for people who could not use the computer mainframe to solve their problem. He developed a set of user interfaces that worked on a super minicomputer using PCs as terminals. Instead of writing their results on a card that was then punched, the information was transferred electronically. Victor went on to get his Ph.D. at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and then joined Analytical Sciences Corp. in Massachusetts. Victor is now retired and living in a senior community in Woburn, Massachusetts.

**Dave Kamrath** celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his marriage to June Hilt this year. After graduating with his chemical engineering degree, he joined Air Reduction's management training program as a maintenance engineer in its Niagara Falls arc furnace electrode manufacturing plant. He moved back to New Jersey a year later to join the company's cryogenic engineering and construction group. Following the company's purchase by British Oxygen, he moved to England, where he was responsible for project execution in Europe and Asia. After five years in England, he returned to New Jersey for three years and then left British Oxygen to run Air Liquide Process and Construction in Houston. He remained in Houston following retirement. He spends time with his two daughters and three grandchildren, plays golf year-round and is a member of the Houston Archaeological Association, Museum of Natural Science and Fine Arts Museum.



# Graduate Log

After graduating with his mechanical engineering degree, **Ralph Cohen** worked with Koppers Co. on precipitators, in Liberia with the Peace Corps, and finally with Texas Instruments and Intel in facility engineering for 26 years, until he retired in 2005. He and his wife, Alice, married since 1982, have lived in Portland, Oregon since 1993 after returning from a two-year stint in Ireland. After retirement, he started consulting. In retirement, he also keeps busy with volunteer work — promoting STEM in high schools, repairing bicycle wheels, playing as an amateur orchestra member, producing the RiversWest boat building club quarterly newsletter, and serving as an active board member of Professional Engineers of Oregon. Ralph enjoys a monthly Zoom call with fraternity brothers from Alpha Sigma Phi. His daughter lives in Detroit with their two-year-old grandson.

**Phil Winkler** went on to get his MBA from Rutgers and worked for Air Products for 30 years until retiring in 2010. Prior to joining Air Products in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania, Phil worked for several air pollution control equipment manufacturers in North Jersey and in New York City. He then moved to The Villages in Florida with his wife, Joy. Phil and Joy will be celebrating 16 years of marriage in December 2021. The Villages is a huge retirement community with many activities. Phil enjoys water volleyball and the billiards league and is a member of one of the Corvette clubs. He continued with some consulting work after retirement and still volunteers helping new businesses with Mid-Florida SCORE. He still keeps in touch with his fraternity brothers from Theta Xi. He did make a trip to New Jersey in September 2017 for his 50<sup>th</sup> reunion at Hackensack High School, and for a program/dinner event at Stevens, where he was recognized for joining the Stevens Legacy Society.

**Pascal Ferrara** completed his electrical engineering degree and went on to fulfill his ROTC commitment with four years at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio. He obtained his M.S. degree at New York University, got married and then went to work for Kearfott in Wayne, New Jersey, as a software engineer for guidance systems, then worked for BAE Systems, also in Wayne. Pascal has two children, and in retirement, he is enjoying traveling with his wife, Yvonne.

**Ken Sullivan** spent 24 years in the Air Force, spending time in Texas, California, New Hampshire, Washington, D.C., Nebraska, Arkansas, Taiwan and the Philippines. After retirement,

**GEORGE KOO SC.D. '69** published “Will Democracy Summit lead to collaboration or conflict?” in the December 7, 2021, edition of the *Asia Times*. In his opinion piece, which reflects on the international summit hosted by the U.S. this past December, Koo cites the U.S.’s high incarceration rate, the increase in legislation that has decreased access to voting in certain parts of the country and the outcry in some states against mask wearing, among other problems plaguing the country. Koo retired from a global advisory services firm where he advised clients about their China strategies and business operations. He is a board member of Freshfield’s, a green building platform.

he went to work for a small defense contractor, which was bought out by a larger firm. Ken finally retired in 2019. Ken and Nan are keeping their Virginia mansion for now but are building a house in Wilmington, North Carolina to be near their son and five grandchildren.

**Otto Boelens** graduated with his M.S. in 1971 and was a teaching assistant at Stevens. He called in from The Netherlands, around midnight. Otto got married in Manhattan but went back to The Netherlands in 1974 to work for IBM and has been traveling around the world during his entire career.

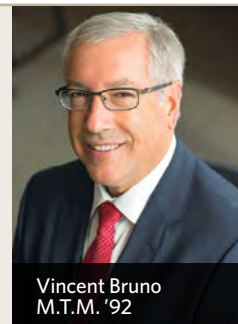
I should finish up the virtual reunion notes in the next *Indicator*, then hopefully will pick up a lot more news if we are finally able to have our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion next year. — **William F. Stengle**, [wfs20hlm@aol.com](mailto:wfs20hlm@aol.com)

**'72** November 2021 — Fellow Classmates: Guys, our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary class reunion is rapidly approaching! We have sent emails, letters, smoke signals and tried to reach you by telephone. Now we are reaching out in printed form. Mark your calendars. Alumni Weekend is June 2-4, 2022. Please come!

Get reacquainted with your old friends. Make new ones. Eat, drink and be merry. Your class officers together with the Reunion Committee have been planning a grand celebration. We will receive our Old Guard pins at the cocktail

## VINCENT BRUNO

**M.T.M. '92** is vice president, sales & marketing, with A-V Services, Inc. in Fairfield, New Jersey. He has more than 30 years of experience in the consumer electronics industry. Bruno was CEO of the Custom Electronic Design and Installation Association (CEDIA®), the international trade association for 3,700 member companies that design, manufacture and install technology for the home, luxury transportation, boutique hotel and small business markets. Before joining CEDIA, Bruno was the global director of marketing at Crestron Electronics and doubled its sales revenue twice during his eight-year tenure.



Vincent Bruno  
M.T.M. '92

party/anniversary dinner on Friday, June 3. There will be campus tours, wine tastings and beer tastings. Take a tour of Hoboken and see how it has changed. But no matter how much we plan, without all of you being there, it's not going to be a grand celebration.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Stevens. Take it away George...

Thanks Enrique! Speaking of the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion, we continue to seek fraternity members who intend to attend our reunion and are willing to help encourage their brothers to join the reunion festivities. It is always much more fun to celebrate with many good friends. We could use assistance with **Beta Theta Pi, Chi Phi, Phi Sigma Kappa, Pi Lambda** and **Theta Xi**. If you are a member of one of these fraternities and would be willing to volunteer a small amount of your time to calling or emailing your brothers, please contact us.

Now some more class news.

We received a very pleasant call from class reunion committee member **Greg Siegel** (Sig Ep, [gregsiegel@aol.com](mailto:gregsiegel@aol.com)). In June 2020, Greg married Jo Nita Adams and moved to her 25-acre farm in Cameron, Texas (northeast of Austin). Quite a change of pace from his roots as a Jersey boy. After a 26-year highly successful career in the Air Force and subsequent gigs as an aerospace consultant involving drones and other advanced technologies, Greg is enjoying his new life as a Texas country boy. He also has acquired



**1** Enrique Blanco '72 attends a ceremony last summer to illuminate a new Stevens sign atop the University Center Complex with wife Mary and Michael Governor from Stevens' Development and Alumni Engagement office. **2** Enrique celebrates with Attila the Duck.

an eclectic collection of vehicles, including a mint 1965 Mustang, 2013 Corvette Grand Sport, two recent Mazdas, and just for fun, a 2018 Harley trike motorcycle. Plus, what would life be on a farm without a 1988 pickup truck? Jo Nita has three children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Greg has two children and three grandchildren. Greg and Jo Nita, warmest congratulations on your marriage and looking forward to seeing you both at the 50th Reunion!

Recently, **Tom Germinario** (aka Tom Germine, [tjgermanario@earthlink.net](mailto:tjgermanario@earthlink.net)) and I met for lunch after having to cancel previous attempts because of the COVID-19 shutdown. Tom practices intellectual property and land use law in Chester, New Jersey. Not only is Tom an expert in patent law, he also is an inventor, having received a patent directed to a solar-powered cell phone. Tom has written four books exploring the intersection of physics and metaphysics. But as Tom chuckled, "They haven't exactly been bestsellers." His fondest remembrance of Stevens was the student strike after the Kent State massacre in

May 1970. Tom participated in the protest which took over the Stevens campus. The participating Stevens students marched to Jersey City, where "the cops attacked us."

Tom and spouse, Jacqueline, have two children, son Jesse (age 34) and daughter Lena (age 32). Both presently live in California — Jesse in San Francisco working for a software firm, and Lena in Sacramento, a lawyer employed by the California state government. Jesse is moving back to the new mecca for high tech companies — Brooklyn — to start his own software company. Lena, who has a science degree, and Tom are considering teaming up to expand his IP legal practice to both coasts.

Techtoids — some unique facts about Hoboken:

- It was the site of a World War I embarkation point — almost all the American troops sent to Europe left from River Street between 1st and 2nd Streets.
- Frank Sinatra was born at 415 Monroe Street.
- Soft ice cream was accidentally invented at 726 Washington Street.
- The first Blimpie sub sandwich restaurant was opened on Washington Street.
- The Oreo cookie originated in Hoboken.

Learn more about Hoboken at our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion during Alumni Weekend. — **George W. Johnston**, [gwjohnstonjr@msn.com](mailto:gwjohnstonjr@msn.com); **Enrique L. Blanco**, [elbmcb@optonline.net](mailto:elbmcb@optonline.net)

**'74** November 2021 — What do the songs "Summertime," "Amazing Grace" and "Yesterday" have in common? They are believed to be the top three most-recorded songs of all time. Loss, confusion, nostalgia, comfort — the deep emotions portrayed in these songs have touched the greatest number of people and ultimately expressed their hope for better days.

Fifty-one years ago, these were my same emotions on the first days at Stevens. I still have vivid memories of those first days. Walking to South Dorm from the Gatehouse with my stuff (one trip from the car to my room with a radio/CD player and some clothes). Walking up the path to the bookstore and realizing I did not know anyone here. Meeting my new roommate, Sal (someone totally unknown to me up to that point), who I would be sharing a very small dorm room with in the coming year. I had shared a bedroom with my

younger brother from the time he was born, so having a roommate was not a new experience for me; however, it was for Sal. That and two other annoyances were revealed in the first hour we talked — Stevens was not where he wanted to be, and how could Stevens not have maid service in the dorm? Obviously, he and I had grown up differently. He transferred at the end of freshman year. A final memory is meeting class members during that first week who would become close, lifelong friends. College was a great adventure for me, with hope for a challenging and interesting life. I'm not sure I fully realized it at the time; however, that is what I paid for. Four years of paying for the experience, rather than getting paid for my time at a job or in the military. I chose a path with an unknown outcome at the time and made an investment in me for the long term as a Stevens engineering student.

Was it worth it? For me, yes! We each certainly have our own judgments now 51 years later. We had many other choices available to us. I'm sure we each chose this experience with a hope of fulfilling a dream, a desire, or something that we believed Stevens could provide. What were your early experiences and memories? Let's take a little time to share some of those in future logs. They don't have to be first-day experiences but memories of why you came to Stevens or why you stayed.

Along with these remembrances, our log will continue to contain current updates from class members.

An update from **Greg Gemgnani**, class vice president. "It has been two-plus years since we sold our house in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and for most of that time we took turns living with three of our daughters and their families while waiting for our senior suite to be built. We moved into the senior suite in July this year and we are now living with our oldest daughter, son-in-law and three grandkids. Our new address is 125 Bryn Maws Ave., Bala Cynwyd, PA19004.

"Our family has grown with eight grandchildren now and with God's grace, a ninth grandchild in June. Claudia's sister did the genealogy search for their father's side of the family and was able to register as a Daughter of the American Revolution, so Claudia and our daughters can share that as well if they choose to do so.

"My 50-year class reunion for Irvington High School was October 1 and about 60 classmates attended out of 640 in my graduation class. Got to believe that COVID kept a good number of



people from showing up, including myself. Hopefully, COVID will not be an issue in 2024 for our 50-year Stevens Reunion.”

And we heard some good news from Bill Linder: “I am proud to announce that my son Ryan has been named head strength & conditioning coach for the Stevens Ducks, after being the assistant strength & conditioning coach the past two years. It is great to continue the Linder legacy at Stevens after I graduated 45 years ago. I know Ryan will do a great job getting athletes in shape to continue to succeed in the future. Go Ducks!” See Coach Linder’s photo on page 63.

As a reminder, our 50th can be a very special reunion, with your ideas and support. Please contact any of us with your ideas if you would like to participate more actively in the planning; ftdonaldson5@gmail.com; ggemgnani@gmail.com; tholenr@gmail.com; jungpackaging@msn.com — Gary A. Jung, [Classof1974@alumni.stevens.edu](mailto:Classof1974@alumni.stevens.edu)

**’75** November 2021 — Dear Class of 1975, I hope this edition of *The Indicator* finds you and your families well. Though we have some sad news to report, it is good to hear from four of our classmates.

Richard J. Feeney writes: “I work at Tetra Tech Inc., an environmental services firm, as vice president of engineering and national engineering. I spent ten years in Green Bay, Wisconsin, on a remediation project where we dredged six million cubic yards of sediment and installed engineered caps in 13 miles of the Lower Fox River. It was contaminated with PCBs from the era when carbonless copy paper was produced. We designed and operated a sediment processing plant and water treatment facility, the largest project of its type in the world. Green Bay revolves around the Packers, and I was lucky to learn how to tailgate professionally and attend ten games. Know that it’s cold in Green Bay and in 2013 it dropped below zero for more than 50 days in a row! I also learned how to ice fish by driving your truck on a frozen river and setting up a tent.

“As I wind down my career, I’ve gotten involved with another remediation project: the Lower Passaic River in New Jersey has had a long history of industrial discharges. Most notorious of these originated from a facility in the Ironbound section of Newark where Agent Orange was produced during the Vietnam War by a company called Diamond Alkali with active

ingredient 2,3,7,8 dioxin. It is one of the most toxic substances ever produced, highly effective as a jungle defoliant. There are a variety of other contaminants in the river bottom produced by a who’s-who of the largest industrial companies. Implementing the remedy for the Lower Passaic River will face challenges from well-funded litigation, though the actual clean-up work is the easy part.”

Jim Tosone writes: “A brief update on my musical activities. I play classical guitar and you can find my videos on YouTube by searching for ‘Jim Tosone guitar program.’ I also play bass guitar in a duo that plays ‘60s and ‘70s folk rock. Search YouTube for ‘J&B Duo playlist.’ Lastly, I play mandolin in a duo that plays bluegrass and Irish Tenor Banjo. Search YouTube for ‘Stephenson Tosone Duo playlist.’ Once things return to normal, the duos hope to continue their community giveback by performing gratis at assisted living facilities, nursing homes, veterans’ hospitals and other nonprofits.” (See Jim’s photo on pg. 59.)

Eric Johnson writes: “I have had many, very satisfying experiences after graduation. My journey began between junior and senior year with a research internship with Hercules Inc. working on the Hercudet Gas Ignition system, a safer method for setting off dynamite. I earned a master’s in chemical engineering from the University of Massachusetts specializing in polymer processing. I returned to Hercules in plastic products research. There I improved the heat seal coatings on high-speed form-fill packaging machines for the snack industry. I worked on a product called Delnet, a plastic mesh non-woven used in cheese cloth and the no-stick strip on BandAid. After

## Marriages

Greg Siegel ’72 to Jo Nita Adams in June 2020

Sylvana Azana ’14, M.Eng. ’14 to Daniel Serrano on September 18, 2021

Christina Sciarra ’17 to Branimir Kain ’17 on August 28, 2021

Dominique Smoyer ’17 to John M. Bicho ’17 on September 12, 2020

Kiera Sheridan ’19 to Nathan Schaefer ’19 on October 30, 2021

E.A. Barbieri ’62 2/18/21

W.J. Lahm ’63 6/23/21

R.C. Bracalente ’64 6/1/21

R. Cuneo ’64 4/5/21

C.T. Osiecki ’65 5/14/21

H.K. Rappaport ’65 10/12/21

M. Laino ’66 6/27/21

R.T. McDanolds ’66 6/19/21

R.P. Grippardi ’68 2/28/21

J. Wolff ’68 7/22/21

R.A. Hovan ’74 7/12/21

P. Hogan ’76 10/16

S. Goff ’77 9/9/21

N. Langseder ’77 3/4/21

S.B. Goff III ’78 10/5/21

D. Cantore ’81 11/21/21

A. Papazian ’89 6/2021

K.M. Cenicola ’93 10/5/21

## Graduate

F.L. Bradley, Jr. M.S. ’54 10/17/21

R.C. Hajner M.S. ’59 7/3/20

W.E. Misdorn M.S. ’59 9/1/21

A.J. Schneider, Jr. M.S. ’59 8/2/21

P.J. Spiewak M.S. ’59 7/22/21

J.R. Estabrook M.S. ’61 7/8/21

A.E. Merrill M.Eng. ’65 5/1/21

M.M. Nigro M.S. ’65 7/26/21

D.W. Strang M.M.S. ’67 10/24/21

R.G. Galazin M.S. ’70 4/8/21

P.F. Mulligan M.M.S. ’71 5/1/21

P.K. Skurkiss M.S. ’71 10/30/21

D. Cirillo M.S. ’73 6/7/21

C.F. Smarsh M.S. ’73 8/25/21

P.R. Stalets M.Eng. ’76 8/5/21

S.L. Antieri M.Eng. ’78 10/17/21

D.M. Caprioni, Jr. M.Eng. ’83 11/17/21

T.H. Lloyd M.S. ’84 7/13/21

J.E. Butcher M.S. ’87 4/20/21

R.J. McGowan M.S. ’87 5/17/21

K.D. Marbach M.S. ’15 6/14/20

## Obituaries Undergraduate

R.W. Davenport ’44 11/23/21

C.T. Rogers, Jr. ’46 6/4/17

D. Vinik ’49 11/10/21

A.S. Wells ’49 8/1/21

G.M. Coats ’50 8/23/21

W.J. Lewis ’50 10/19/21

E. Austin ’51 1/21/21

M.C. Fraser ’51 11/13/21

D.V. Landmann ’51 10/15/21

G.E. Schoenfeld ’51 5/9/21

L.O. Eber ’52 9/15/21

A.F. Knights ’52 6/28/21

S.P. Cuff ’53 8/24/21

R.A. McCormack ’53 11/4/21

E.A. Seeman ’53 10/30/21

A.P. Gross ’54 9/11/21

R. Herink ’54 10/14/21

G.A. Diamond ’57 10/26/20

D.T. Northrop ’57 8/12/21

M.F. Bonner ’58 12/5/21

J.C. Feggeler ’60 9/28/21

R.H. Kolvek ’60 1/26/21

J.F. Lasko ’60 1/21/21

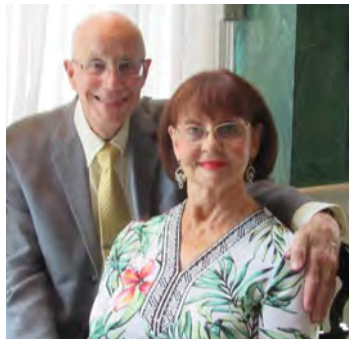
H.W. Mahler ’60 10/5/21

A.L. Straut ’60 1/31/21

R.E. Busch ’61 8/31/21

E.H. Weiblen ’61 12/7/20

Hercules I went to Applied Extrusion Technologies. There, I met my wife in the testing lab — but that is a story for another day. One invention that I am most pleased with is used in construction and called SOF Rod. It is a soft bi-cellular polyethylene foam backer rod used in concrete construction. My next job was at Kimberly Clark in Wisconsin (where I still live) as materials lead for Huggies Ultratrim diapers. I seemed to have a knack for problem solving and inventing and



**1** Al Gunther '76, from his Stevens days; Al, at far left, and his family at his daughter Julie's recent wedding. **2** David Williams '76; and David, second from left, with his sailing team. **3** Allen Schrupf '76; Allen and his wife, Linda, at Melk Abbey in Austria, during their recent river cruise. **4** Ron Yannone '76; and Ron and his wife Jacqueline at the Greenbrier resort in West Virginia. **5** Al Dopart; Al and his wife Cathy, with daughter Pam, her husband Tyler and new grandson Dean Alan.

was offered the job of patent strategist. I retired several years ago during a reduction in force. I have been blessed with inventing and improving many useful consumer products and named as an inventor in 47 U.S. patents from 1986 to 2021. What a great time of achievements I have had. I owe much of that to a great education from dear old Stevens Tech!"

Charles Irwin writes: "For those that knew Paul Hogan, I have some sad news. Paul passed away in October of 2016, at age 64. Sorry for the delay in notifying the class. I traveled from Oklahoma to New Jersey for the funeral and gave a eulogy. Paul attended Stevens only for the 1971-72 academic year. He lived in Lake Hiawatha, New Jersey and worked at Fischer Scientific. He is survived by his wife Marilyn, daughter Jennifer, son-in-law Matt and his brother, Mike. Paul was known to visit the Sigma Nu house after he left Stevens and play chess with John Sylvester."

That's it for now. We hope to hear news from many more of you in the coming months. Contact me directly via email and join our class Facebook page, "Stevens Tech Class of 1975" to stay in touch. Find it at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stevenstechclassof1975> — Harry MacArthur; [harrymac@comcast.net](mailto:harrymac@comcast.net)

**'76** November 2021 — We were fortunate this issue to receive several first-time entries. Many thanks to all! For those considering future contributions, please let this inspire you.

Ron Yannone replied to *The Indicator* request for input with an extensive recap of his career — which I've had to dramatically edit to honor the word count limit, and even with that, Ron provided more than we can fit — so his story will continue next issue.

Briefly, Ron enjoyed 15 years at General Electric and about 16 years at Sanders-a Lockheed Martin Company which, transitioned to BAE Systems, giving him a total of 31 years in the defense industry.

Upon graduation from Stevens, Ron went to work for General Electric Company in Utica, New York, at their Aerospace Electronics Systems Department (AESD), in GE's prestigious advanced course in engineering — a 3.5-year program to obtain a master's degree in electrical engineering at nearby Syracuse University while doing a series of six-month rotational assignments within the two GE AESD plant locations.

Ron left GE in 1991 for personal pursuits and in

1995 was asked to go to Nashua, New Hampshire, to Sanders Associates (then Sanders, a Lockheed Martin Company) as a contract engineer for two weeks to develop multisensor/multitarget tracking fusion algorithms for United Defense. Two weeks as a contract engineer turned into seven months, when he was offered a full-time job to develop what was called the “Commander’s Decision Aid” for United Defense. Ron began doing more classified presentations, including at international conferences in Japan, Germany, Austria, Scotland, Switzerland and Hungary.

Ron asked to share his email if anyone wants to connect with him; he can be reached at [ronald.yannone@yahoo.com](mailto:ronald.yannone@yahoo.com)

We also heard from **Al Gunther**, who said, “Still living in the Detroit area. I come back to New Jersey periodically to see my mom, who is 103 years old! Still married. My youngest daughter, Julie, got married on October 2 of this year. I retired from GM in 2009, during the bankruptcy, and started my own business as an automotive technical sales agent and consultant; Global Engine Cooling Solutions LLC. Business had been really good until the pandemic hit last year, but I’m still surviving! I’ve got a summer home in Northern Michigan, not quite on the shore of Lake Huron. I try to go there frequently. I like to fish, take the dog on long walks and just hang out on the beach. I have a lot in Florida but haven’t had the time or energy to develop it.”

And **David Williams** contributed, saying, “My wife Lorrie and I have been living, working and sailing in Chicago since 1983. Competitive sailing was something I learned as an undergrad at Stevens, and it became a lifelong hobby. Currently, I am sailing on an Etchells 22 out of the Chicago Yacht Club at Belmont Harbor. The youngest guy on our team was the only one smart enough to wear a mask this summer. I am second from the left.” (See photos of David and several other classmates near the '76 log.)

When prompted for a brief bio, David also said, “After graduating from Stevens, I went to grad school at Princeton, where I finished my Ph.D. in 1982. I spent a year on an Alexander von Humboldt postdoc in Germany. Since 1983 I have been a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. My plan is to retire in three years. Let’s see if I’m successful.”

**Al Dopart** reported in: “I hope my fellow '76ers are doing well! My wife Cathy and I recently

retired (just in time for COVID!) and have been beginning our life adjustment. I have been busy with previously planned but not scheduled home improvement projects and relaxing. I also have formed my own LLC and have been working part-time, dabbling in my previous occupation (insurance risk consulting). In early October my eldest daughter Pam and husband Tyler made us first-time grandparents with the birth of our grandson, Dean Alan! Of course (with no prejudice!), he is the most adorable baby of all! We wish everyone good health and look forward to a future class anniversary get-together at Stevens!”

Finally, **Allen Schrupf** provided input, saying, “We left New Jersey for Florida in 1989, and have been living for the past 30 years in Orlando. Still working (30 years) for DRMP, a civil engineering consulting firm there. Anyone who has traveled Florida’s highways has probably seen some of the projects I was involved with. Both of our daughters are now married and live nearby, so we see them and our granddaughter often.

“We just completed our second Viking river cruise, from Budapest to Amsterdam (three weeks, 22 tours and 18 cities and towns). This was a fantastic trip, highly recommended. We felt Viking did a great job keeping us safe in these difficult times for travel. Cruising the Middle Rhine and Danube’s Wachau valleys in full fall color was memorable.”

Anyone venturing into Central Florida is invited to contact Allen at [allen.schrumpf@gmail.com](mailto:allen.schrumpf@gmail.com).

Please provide input for next issue to [FrankRoberto76@gmail.com](mailto:FrankRoberto76@gmail.com)

Thank you. — **Frank Roberto**, [frankroberto76@gmail.com](mailto:frankroberto76@gmail.com); **Thomas F. Errington**, [terrington@comcast.net](mailto:terrington@comcast.net)



Top photo: Dawn Ortell '77 and her husband Vic Baran on a recent birding expedition in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Below, Dawn enjoys a spectacular vista. Read more in the '77 log.

**77** December 1, 2021 — Hello again everyone, I hope you’re well. As I write this, I’m recovering from Thanksgiving 2021 and the associated overeating. Perhaps the most pertinent thing to mention is that at this point, Jeff Dawn and I are trying to keep track of any planning information that comes from Stevens relative to what would be our 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion Weekend this coming June. You should be looking at the Class of '77 Facebook page, watching for email updates (assuming



Class of '78ers Bob Fernandez, left, and Jim Jarboe reunited in Hoboken last fall and enjoyed a walk around campus.

you've supplied us with an up-to-date email address), or if nothing else, checking out the Stevens website. As of right now, it's looking like we will have an in-person alumni reunion in June. Let's see how much that does or does not change by the time you get this issue of *The Indicator*.

Shifting gears, I've gotten a number of different news items from our classmates.

**Miriam Hamilton** tells us that she is living in Bethesda, Maryland, writing a book, and enjoying the retired life!

**Sigmund Grudzinski** writes that he hopes everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. One longtime project — his '85 Vette restoration — is done. He's helping his son upgrade his '07 Mustang with LED lighting as well as installing a ram air intake system. He added that the family is looking forward to his daughter coming home on leave from the Navy, NAS Fallon for Christmas.

**Stephen M. Bauer** let us know that after his employer moved his job to Irving, Texas, in 2018, he and his wife lived in a small apartment in Irving for two years. A year ago, they bought a house in Bedford, a suburb of Fort Worth. Since the pandemic, he has been working from home of course. He is also teaching CCD (Sunday

school) to fourth-graders at his parish and will continue when he retires in two years. He says the fourth-graders keep him in touch with the younger side of life. The quality of life in Texas is good, and he has no complaints, except for the fire ants — he has been bitten by swarms three times. He will probably move back to New Jersey at retirement, at least for the short term, until he figures out what to do from there. He says his and his wife's health are good, but he just wishes he could get his weight closer to what it was when at Stevens! He said fat chance of that, pun intended!

**Paul Anteri** announced that his band, Emerald City, is back doing gigs and just completed two outdoor gigs at the Wolf Creek Brewery and the Saugus Speedway swap meet. Also, he just spent two weeks in Las Vegas at the World Series of Poker.

**Steve Harmelin**, who has four daughters, noted that his two youngest are both pregnant. Their due dates are one week apart, raising the number of grandkids from five to seven. (Currently, four boys and one girl.) His youngest is having a girl, but there's no word on the sex for the other daughter. He assumes it will be a surprise. He is still living in Georgia outside of Atlanta.

**John Bieger** moved to South Carolina last year during COVID, and he is now building a house to retire in and looking forward to living at the beach.

**Dawn Ortell** reported that she and husband Vic Baran just returned from a two-week vacation to New Mexico. They are active birders and saw over 10,000 birds at Bosque del Apache NWR (90 miles south of Albuquerque), including Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese. She said the vistas in the surrounding areas were magnificent!

**Stephen Craffen** didn't have any news to send along this time, but he pointed out that classmate **Neil Langseder** had passed away. I found an obituary for Neil and here are the main points I got from that. "Neal Edward Langseder, 65, of New Canaan, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on March 4, 2021. He graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Stevens and achieved an MBA in finance from the University of Chicago. He spent over 40 years in the packaging industry, designing metal, paper and flexible packaging as a research and development engineer, general manager and business development manager. He held multiple patents for metal packaging design. Neal is survived by his loving wife Eileen, and his children Jaclyn and James."

On another somber note, **Samuel Goff** who

many of you knew, especially if you were involved with WCPR, passed away on September 9, 2021, just short of his 68<sup>th</sup> birthday, due to complications of Parkinson's Disease. After his time at Stevens, he worked as a civil engineer. He was predeceased by his wife, Gloria (Autrey) Goff.

Remember, if you want to be on the mailing list for the Class of '77 newsletter, email your request to [Classof1977@alumni.stevens.edu](mailto:Classof1977@alumni.stevens.edu). Stay in touch with us that way, through the "Stevens Class of 1977" group on LinkedIn, or via the "Stevens Institute of Technology: Class of '77" page on Facebook.

If you plan to donate, don't forget the Class of 1977 endowment scholarship. If you can't find your way to it on the Stevens website, please contact the Alumni Office or any of the 1977 class officers (**Jeff Iapicco**, **Dawn Ortell**, or myself). Stay well and hopefully we'll see each other at Stevens in June.

— **Paul A. Porzio**, [eclectichours@cox.net](mailto:eclectichours@cox.net)

**'78** November 2021 — I heard from a couple of our classmates recently. **Mike McGuire** sent this update:

"My life in the synthetic organic chemistry lab started at Stevens in 1975 working for Professors Ajay Bose and Maghar Manhas. It continued in grad school in the Lou Hegedus Lab at Colorado State University until 1983. A job as a chemist at Smith, Kline and French in Philadelphia turned into a 36-year career as a laboratory API process chemist, chemistry group leader, chemistry manager and finally a company expert on API process chemistry and quality by design at GlaxoSmith-Kline. I led the chemistry development of one very successful drug and helped get many others to market. All good things must come to an end, and in 2019 I retired at age 62.

"In 2020 I went to work as director of continuous manufacturing for Continuity Pharma LLC in West Lafayette, Indiana. The mission of Continuity Pharma is to manufacture generic drugs that are in short supply in the United States. Most drugs sold in the U.S. are generic drugs and most of these drugs are manufactured outside of the U.S. Supply chain problems (such as those caused by the pandemic) can easily put patient access to life-saving drugs at risk.

"Most generic drugs are manufactured by chemistry routes which are several decades old. The routes are inefficient, dirty and expensive. The only way to manufacture these drugs in the U.S. is to come up with efficient, clean, short

manufacturing routes which don't require huge investments in infrastructure.

"At Continuity we are operating under a grant from DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) to develop continuous routes to some important generic drugs. The goal is to make significant quantities of drugs using machinery occupying a small physical footprint in a short time. This requires chemistry that is rapid and clean. I am proud to say we have made progress on several drugs by inventing new chemical technology. We are looking for some capable and interested team members to aid in our mission.

"My wife and I have split our time between an apartment in Lafayette, Indiana, and our family home in West Norriton, Pennsylvania. We enjoy the thrill of living downtown in a college town. I enjoy working in a chemistry lab again after years being exclusively a manager. I realize now I would like to work in chemistry until my health no longer allows it. Full-time retirement is not for me."

Ron Hosie sent in an update on the Class of 1978 Endowed Scholarship. The balance on the endowed fund is close to \$70,000. This has allowed the fund to award scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$2,500 each year for the past four or five years to a deserving student. This year's award went to Ashley Muliawan, from the graduating class of 2023 majoring in biology from Cape Charles, Virginia.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the class fund can designate their gift to Stevens to go to the Class of 1978 Endowed Scholarship Fund.

I traveled from our home in Tucson to New York/New Jersey to attend a nephew's wedding/first anniversary celebration in early October. (The actual wedding took place in 2020 during the COVID-19 lockdowns). While there I met up with Bob Fernandez. We had a great time catching up, and even had a FaceTime call with Greg Kovacs. Greg and Luann were preparing for the December wedding of their son, Scott. They recently learned their daughter Molly is expecting (due in June), so they are extremely busy. Bob and I also had the opportunity to spend some time in Hoboken, including a walk around Stevens. Although there have been many changes since 1978, they have done a great job preserving the character and beauty of the campus.

As a reminder, our 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion will be taking place in June 2023. If you have any ideas on activities for that weekend, please contact one of the class officers. — John T. Jarboe, [jjarboe1@comcast.net](mailto:jjarboe1@comcast.net)

**'80** November 2021 — Hello to all. The news I have to share with this submission is sparse and unfortunately very sad. With a heavy heart, I share with you the passing of classmate Eric Scholwin. The following is his obituary as published in the Worcester, Massachusetts, *Telegram*:

"Eric Walter Scholwin Sr., 63, passed Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at the Rose Monahan Hospice after a brief battle with cancer. He is preceded in death by his sister, Karen (Scholwin) Brefer as well as his parents and stepmother Patricia E. Nitschke, and stepson Adam Brennan.

"He was born and raised in New Rochelle, New York, the son of Walter B. Scholwin, a Citibank manager, and Erika K. (Soellner), a housewife. He leaves behind his wife Karin (Welus) Scholwin, his children Eric Jr. and his wife Andrea of Worcester, Jennifer Menon and her husband Praneet of Coventry, Vermont, his sons Joseph and Brian of Syracuse, New York, and Katelyn Bebo and husband Dakota, also of Syracuse, New York, and his stepson Corey Brennan with whom he lived.

"He leaves behind two grandchildren and another on the way (at least he knows his name), his sister Tricia Weisberg her husband Robert Weisberg of Lexington, Massachusetts. He leaves behind three beloved nieces and a nephew. He was an engineer through and through.

"He worked as a QA software engineer at many companies over the years. Most recently at Keurig Dr. Pepper. He wasn't really an animal

guy, but he so enjoyed helping to build the trust of the newly rescued donkeys at Tomten Farm and Sanctuary. He was very proud to be a double red blood donor for the American Red Cross. Loved drones, trains, and computers, anything sci-fi, being a pilot, Pink Floyd and Trans-Siberian Orchestra. He loved anything about space and was beyond excited with all the new adventures of space travel. Always watching the launches of NASA, SpaceX and more. Eric loved the colors of the sunset. He will be missed greatly by those who loved him."

On behalf of the entire class, I extend our heartfelt sympathy to Karin and all of Eric's family and friends.

Although it seems that things in the world have improved, reports of new COVID variants are unsettling. We are unaware at this time of any Alumni Weekend 2022 plans. Keep an eye on your inboxes and join the "Stevens Institute of Technology '80" Facebook page for any updates.

It would be nice to hear from any or all of you. In an effort to make it easier to keep in touch, your submissions can be made directly online to: [stevens.edu/alumni/submitnews](https://stevens.edu/alumni/submitnews) or feel free to email me any time. High-resolution photos are also always welcome. Thanks in advance! Until next time, take care, stay healthy and stay safe!

— Kathy M. Burkholder McCarthy,  
[McCarthyKathy93@gmail.com](mailto:McCarthyKathy93@gmail.com)

Don't see your class log listed? Send an update to [alumni-log@stevens.edu](mailto:alumni-log@stevens.edu) or call 201-216-5161.



**1** Meeting up near Beverly Hills, California, last May, from left, were Tom Oser '82, Steve McKenna '80 and Marc Norman '81. **2** Jim Tosone '75, left (seen with Bob DeVito), plays bass guitar in this folk rock duo and mandolin guitar and Irish tenor banjo in a second duo. Read more in the '75 log.



**'81** November 2021 — As I write this log, Thanksgiving 2021 is history. Though the pandemic still persists, I will venture to say that many of us had more of an opportunity to be with family and friends this year. I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to more holiday cheer in the weeks to come.

I don't know if it is a coincidence of where we are in our life journey (we are all in our 60s now — can you believe it?!) or the effects of living through a pandemic, climate crisis and turbulent political times — but again I'll venture to say that many of us are focusing now more than ever on what is truly important in our lives. We would love to hear from you but understand that the Stevens log may not be a priority now.

I thought instead of sharing more from the officers (Dave, Tony and me), I'd share some statistics about our class and where we live these days. I enjoyed this and hope you will too.

#### Stevens Undergraduate Class of 1981

- Number of graduates in 1981: 290 (86.4% male, 13.6% female)
- Number of living alumni: 278
- Number of deceased alumni (as of November 2021): 12
- Where we live now:
  - United States: California, 21; Connecticut, 7; Delaware, 3; Florida, 23; Georgia, 2; Illinois, 4; Indiana, 2; Iowa, 1; Kentucky, 1; Maine, 1; Maryland, 2; Massachusetts, 15; Michigan, 3; Minnesota, 1; Missouri, 1; New Hampshire, 2; New Jersey, 102; New York, 17; North Carolina, 8; Ohio, 3; Oregon, 1; Pennsylvania, 17; South Carolina, 8; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 11; Virginia, 11; Washington, 1; Wisconsin, 2
  - International: Greece, 1; Iceland, 1; Netherlands Antilles, 1; Spain: 1

We have one sad piece of news to share.

Our classmate, **Dominick Cantore**, passed on November 21, 2021. Below is the obituary posted by the funeral parlor.

"Dominick Cantore, 65, passed over the transitory bridge on the morning of November 21, 2021, after a brief, but hard-fought illness, at his home in Tinton Falls, New Jersey.

"Born on New Year's Day in 1956 in Barletta, Italy, Dom moved with his family to Alsace-Lorraine, France where he and his family lived for 18 years until immigrating to Hoboken, New Jersey on June 11, 1973. He attended Hoboken High School where he graduated a year early and

received a full scholarship to Stevens Institute of Technology, earning a letter all four years in soccer and graduating near the top of his class.

"Receiving his engineering degree, he went on to become a world-renowned metallurgical expert, traveling the world as an ISO 9000/14000 quality control engineer. He spoke seven languages, was fluent in five and was known for his quick wit and extremely diverse intelligence. His expertise was instrumental in the widening of the Panama Canal, for which he received many awards and commendations. He traveled the world and lent his multi-level knowledge to many large companies."

For those considering sending us updates to add to the class log in *The Indicator*, here is a statement the school wants us to share with you. I posted it to our FB page too.

**"By submitting class log information and photos to The Stevens Indicator, you acknowledge that they may be reproduced wholly or in part in the printed magazine, published in the online version of The Stevens Indicator, and/or shared via Stevens Alumni Association and/or institutional social media channels/webpages."**

Again, we would love to hear from you. You can send me an email and we will include it in future logs. Consider joining us on Class of '81 Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/693301087948890>

May this holiday season and the coming year, 2022, bring you and your loved ones much joy and health to enjoy all that life has to offer. Stay well my friends. — **Gloria M. Ron-Fornes**, [gmforne@gmail.com](mailto:gmforne@gmail.com)

**'82** November 2021 — I would like to introduce our newly elected Class of 1982 officers:

President **Esfandiar Zafar**, Vice President **Vin D'Agostino** and myself, **Dan Roman**, your new class secretary.

We would like to thank **Erich Seber** for his many years as secretary and his past contributions to the class log.

You may have seen our official bios when the election announcement went around this past summer, but here is a little bit of personal information on each of us. Esfandiar moved to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1985 and has lived there ever since. He has been working for both Vanderbilt University and its Medical Center and is currently an executive director for VUMC IT. He and his wife of 31 years, Parinaz, have a daughter who works for Deloitte and a son in his last year at Northeastern.

I (Dan) have been in Northern New Jersey my whole life and have been living in Denville, New Jersey, with my wife Karen for the past 20 years. After spending 30 years at multiple telecom equipment manufacturers and high-tech companies in New Jersey, I am currently a product compliance manager for Colgate-Palmolive at its global technical center in Piscataway, New Jersey.

Vin is in the San Francisco Bay Area running his own consulting company. I hope to have some personal information from him in the next class log.

The first major task of our five-year term is to prepare for, and get you excited about, our upcoming reunion. Soon, we will return to Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey,



Meeting at McSorley's in New York City back in August were, from left, Paul Li '79, Ray Carr '82, Marcel Simon '78, Dan Roman '82 and Bill Tevald '82. Read more in the '82 log.

to commemorate 40 years since our graduation! Save June 3-4, 2022, on your calendars and make plans for a 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion filled with memories, renewed friendships and celebration.

In looking at the alumni directory on the Stevens website, it appears the school has lost track of a lot of us. If you are in contact with classmates that the school has lost contact with, let them know. You can see who the Stevens Alumni Association has contact information for by looking in the alumni directory. And if someone told you about or shared *The Indicator* with you and you did not receive one yourself, get in contact with the Alumni Office.

For some recent news, I managed to meet up with a few Stevens friends in August. Paul Li '79 was on an around-the-world trip and stopped in New Jersey for a visit. A group of us, including Ray Carr, Bill Tevald, Marcel Simon '78 and myself (pictured), met at an old haunt in New York City for lunch. We visited the Stevens campus that afternoon in the middle of freshmen orientation and shared a few stories of the old days with the new kids. We then met up with Jack Callahan '79 for dinner in Hoboken. Paul's home base is in Thailand, and he is retired, so as the world opened up when vaccinations were more available, he decided to do some traveling. Retirement sounds wonderful, especially if you can do it like Paul. I marvel at the pictures and food from around the world.

Speaking of retirement, our class is hitting that retirement-age point in our lives. It sounds like Esfandiar and Vin will still be working for a while. My wife is retired, and I am getting ready! We have a piece of property in Cody, Wyoming, and are currently working with an architect to design a retirement home that we hope to move into in the next couple of years.

I can report that Jeff Stevens retired from HP almost two years ago and is in Texas. Ray Carr is still in New Jersey and will be retired from Picatinny Arsenal by the time this log is published. I spoke with Tom Oser this past spring, and it sounds like he is having too much fun working to retire any time soon.

I wonder how many of us have already retired or are planning to retire soon, and where we will settle. How long do you plan on working — will you ever stop? Share your status with me so I will have something to put in the log! You can submit an entry using the form on the alumni website or send me an update. — Daniel Roman; n2mfc@alumni.stevens.edu



**1** Enjoying an alumni gathering in the Albany, New York, area last summer, from left, were Debi Motler '86, Pat Barno '86, Stanley Kocsis M.Eng. '11, Paul Selzam '82 and Pat and Bill Newman '75. **2** The Classes of '85 and '86 reunited virtually for Alumni Weekend 2021 last spring. **3** Class of '87 and '88 friends reunited this past fall, taking in a Boston College football game.



## '87

November 2021 — Here's an update from Joe Berberian.

"The ITK crew held their annual fall outing in Hampton Beach, New Hampshire. This is our tenth year of doing these. What started out as four of us going to a game at Notre Dame in 2012 has evolved into this! We spent the weekend catching up and enjoying a Saturday afternoon of tailgating and football at Boston College. Attending, in photo above from left: Ruppert Russoniello, Ray Burghard, Dan Musiniski, Joe Berberian, Chris Abbott '88, Bill Novak, Ed Dorsey '88 and John Fleming." — Debi Motler; dmot419@gmail.com



Brian Thorpe and I had a lovely video chat earlier this year. It was so nice to catch up with him and hear about his life in North Carolina, his career and family. Here's what he sent along as a follow-up:

"It has been about ten years since I wrote an update for *The Indicator*. Life is good ... even with the impacts of living in this COVID environment. I wish the best to everyone as we all cope and especially to those on the frontlines and/or who have themselves/loved ones who have contracted the virus.

"After graduating, my wife, Donna, and I lived in

New York for five years and then relocated to North Carolina, where we have lived since. We are very proud of our two children: Devin, 24, graduated UNCW last year and he was fortunate to secure a job with Lenovo just prior to hiring freezes, and Siobhan, 20, will be graduating UNCW this coming summer. When Siobhan left for college, we enjoyed an empty nest for exactly 22 hours before Donna brought home Tito, our yellow Labrador, who is absolutely spoiled rotten by always having us home.

"We all love to travel and are so looking forward to being able to do so again in the near future. In the meantime, we are lucky to have a place at the beach (just two hours away), and we spent many months there the past two years (as did some of our favorite neighbors/friends!). We are missing the regular beach volleyball games, but we enjoy playing frisbee with Tito every day the weather permits. At least the dog is in good shape.

"On the career front, I spent seven years as an ASIC designer, then moved from development into semiconductor sales, with the last ten years at Broadcom.

"Thanks again for the opportunity to reach out to the Class of '89. Hang in there everybody, and we will be back to enjoying travel, live music

events, Super Bowls and more before you know it. Be smart."

Have the guest room ready for me this summer, Brian ... I'm actually serious.

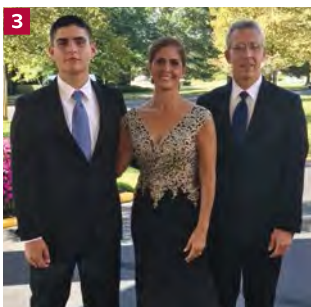
I tapped another of my Stevens besties, sorority sister **Francine Colabella Merken**, for an update, which she graciously agreed to.

"After graduating, I went to work for Merck and never left. Thankfully, I haven't been doing the same thing all this time. I've had several career changes over the years that have kept things fresh and interesting. For the past few years, I've been doing mostly program- and project management-related work. I'm still living and working out of New Jersey, but I've been very fortunate to have been able to do a lot of travel (both for work and personally) and hopefully more to come. **Paul Merken '88** and I celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. *[Dawn's note: Great wedding!]* Paul has been retired the past few years and is now mostly working on his golf game! Our son, Jake, is a freshman at Penn State University. We're still getting adjusted to the empty nest and looking forward to having him home again in a few weeks for winter break. It was great connecting with so many folks at the 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion,

and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again at the 35<sup>th</sup>!"

On a sad note, it was with great sorrow to hear of classmate **Andrew Papazian's** passing. **Pete Cassotis** emailed me with the news and wrote this beautiful obituary, "I write this with a heavy heart regarding the passing of our fellow classmate, Andrew Papazian, in June 2021 due to complications of COVID-19. He was a Stevens resident for only one semester, then commuted the rest of his four years. While at Stevens, he would position his car for optimum take-off to leave campus. He graduated with a degree in civil engineering and started his long career with the New York State Department of Transportation right after college until his passing. He left behind a wife and two children.

"Andrew loved baseball, basketball and the Jersey Shore. Fishing there was one of his passions; he was never afraid to get up early to catch flounder or go crabbing down in Neptune at his grandma's. He always extended an open invitation to friends to hang out for the day. Sadly, his twin brother Chris, passed away only two days later. For those who knew them both, they were as close as two brothers can be and had each other's backs



**1** Douglas Koch '89 was recently named president of the Northeast Digital Learning Association. He is associate director of teaching and learning at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. **2** Andrew Papazian '89 passed away last June; a moving tribute appears in the '89 log. **3** Francine Colabella Merken '89, with husband Paul Merken '88 and their son, Jake. Catch up with Francine in the '89 log. **4** Donna and Brian Thorpe '89, with Tito, at the North Carolina shore. Read more from Brian in the '89 log. **5** Becky Seitzmeyer '95 with her son, Samuel, pictured in 2019. (The fall '21 *Indicator* incorrectly stated that the photo was from 2011.) **6** Lillian Chu Zawislak '04 and Josh Zawislak '06 with their sons Xavier, 8, and Porter, 5. Read more about Lillian and Josh on page 24.



until the end. On behalf of our class, our deepest sympathies to their families.”

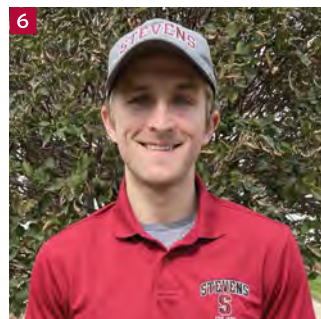
This was such heartbreaking news. Our thoughts are with you and the Papazian family. These are unparalleled times, friends. Connections are more important now than ever before. Take good care.  
— Dawn M. Madak; dawnmadak@me.com

**'06** November 2021 — Brad Miller PE was recently promoted to department manager of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), Traffic, and Electrical Engineering, for Michael Baker International's New Jersey operation. Brad also was elected as the 2022 treasurer for the executive board of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Metropolitan Section of New York and New Jersey. — Elizabeth A. Bakarich; ebakarich@gmail.com

**'11** November 2021 — Arik Zeevy is the women's tennis head coach at Stevens and reports that the men's and women's tennis teams recently hosted an alumni mixed-doubles event that was a huge success. See a photo from the event near this class log!

Victoria (Tori) O'Connor Blazeski recently launched her new business, Philosophy Porch Coaching LLC. The purpose of the business is to assist people with achieving a greater level of joy and a deeper sense of purpose in all areas of life. In addition, Tori assists with startup and small business consulting, as well as personal and professional coaching. Tori is a trained life purpose coach, having completed the Dharma Coaching Institute course in 2021.

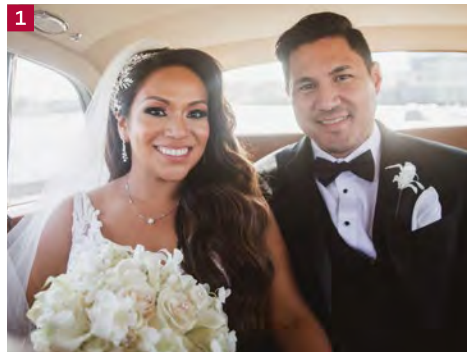
Marc Weisi and his business partner, Gonzalo Trenosky M.Eng. '11, have co-founded Maple Capital Partners, a multifamily real estate private equity firm that recently acquired a 32-unit complex in Louisville, Kentucky. Marc, who has been investing since 2016, has worked for ten years as a portfolio manager with UBS, where he oversees the investment of billions in client assets. He is a longtime mentor with the TRUE Mentors program in Hudson County, New Jersey. Gonzalo is a Licensed Professional Engineer and a former partner with MFS Consulting Engineers & Surveyors, with offices in New Jersey, New York and Puerto Rico. He and his wife have two daughters. — Rick A. Leung; rleung89@gmail.com; Erin M. McDonnell; erin.mcdonne@gmail.com



**1** Victoria (Tori) O'Connor Blazeski '11 recently launched a new business, Philosophy Porch Coaching LLC. Catch up with Tori in the 2011 log. **2** Marissa Moses Brock '99 with husband Demetrius and their children Jacqueline, Charles and Cole. Read more about Marissa on page 12. **3** Marc Weisi '11, pictured at center, has co-founded Maple Capital Partners, a multifamily real estate private equity firm, with business partner, Gonzalo Trenosky M.Eng. '11, seen in photo #5. **4** Brad Miller '06 M.Eng. '06 has been promoted to department manager of Intelligent Transportation Systems, Traffic, and Electrical Engineering, for Michael Baker International's New Jersey operation. **5** Gonzalo Trenosky M.Eng. '11 **6** Ryan Linder, son of Bill Linder '74, has been named head strength & conditioning coach for the Stevens Ducks. Read more in the '74 log. **7** Arik Zeevy '11, head coach of the Stevens women's tennis team, with participants at an alumni mixed-doubles event hosted by the women's and men's teams.



**'14** December 6, 2021 — Sylvana Azana '14, M.Eng. '14 married Daniel Serrano on September 18, 2021, on Long Island at The Piermont in Babylon, New York. Other Stevens alumni in attendance included bridesmaids Ruby Romero '14, Shirley Hurtado '13 and maid of honor Stefannye Barragan '14, all of whom the bride met through the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program (STEP). Read more about Sylvana's experience at Stevens on page 22. — Eric Noll; [ericalexandernoll@gmail.com](mailto:ericalexandernoll@gmail.com)



**'17** November 29, 2021 — Hi, all. The Class of 2017 is excitedly looking forward to returning to campus for our fifth class reunion in June of 2022 during Alumni Weekend. If you're interested in helping the planning team, please reach out to Angelo Shambilides, Richie LoGatto or Jacob Vanderbilt. You can also send us a message at [StevensClassOf2017@gmail.com](mailto:StevensClassOf2017@gmail.com). We're open to all input on how we can make this reunion a success, and we will be sharing more details about this event soon!



Christina Sciarra and Branimir Kain wed this past August and shared a wonderful photo from their big day and this update, from Branimir. "My wife and I met in our first class at Stevens. We have a big group of family and friends who have gone to Stevens: my mom, Christina's mom and dad, her aunt, her uncle, both of my younger sisters, and various other friends and family. This past August, Christina and I got married." At their wedding: More than 30 Stevens people, including several generations of Stevens alumni and current students. — Angelo Shambilides; [angeloshambilides@gmail.com](mailto:angeloshambilides@gmail.com)

**1** Sylvana Azana '14, M.Eng. '14 married Daniel Serrano on September 18, 2021, in Long Island, New York. **2** Sylvana with her maid of honor, Stefannye Barragan '14 M.Eng. '15, and **3** dancing with her bridesmaids. Read more in the 2014 log.

**'20** August 2020 — Quantitative finance graduate Sam Coumans '20 had the rare opportunity to volunteer at the UEFA Euro 2020 European Championships in the host city of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, despite the tournament being postponed from 2020 in light of COVID-19.

Sam, son of Katy O'Malley Coumans '80, grew up in the Netherlands and was able to return to the country for the first time in over ten years. He got the "insider" view of this important tournament, including close brushes with Dutch soccer stars of the past. As Sam is a most passionate soccer fan, this was the opportunity of a lifetime! While there, he also got to visit family and friends, including his grade school classmates and members of his childhood soccer

team. He also had the chance to meet up with foreign exchange students from Belgium and the Netherlands who were on campus at Stevens in fall 2019. Sam is presently an analyst at ING Bank in New York City that is, coincidentally, the head sponsor of the Dutch National Soccer Team. — Alexander Murtagh; [amurtagh@stevens.edu](mailto:amurtagh@stevens.edu)

**'21** November 2021 — Congratulations, Class of 2021! We've had our ups and downs, challenges and triumphs — but we've finally made it to the "real world!" Or, at least, the no-longer-an-undergrad-at-Stevens-and-may-be-doing-one-of-way-too-many-things-to-count world. Either way, we are now all on our way to defining the



◀ A moment from the Beer Tasting at Alumni Weekend 2021.

rest of our careers and lives! And as you do, know that we as your class officers and the rest of the Stevens community are cheering you on.

These logs are meant to be filled with the accomplishments of our entire class, so don't be shy in sharing your momentous events in life, whether they be a promotion at work, the completion of an amazing project, your marriage or the remodeling of your basement! For this first log, we would like to take a moment and introduce ourselves, but we look forward to featuring all of you in the near future!

#### President - Jen Searing

*Degree:* B.S. in Quantitative Finance, minor in Music & Technology

*On-Campus Activities:* Admissions ambassador, Stevens School of Business student ambassador (executive board member), Gear and Triangle leadership honor society (president), Greek life (Theta Phi Alpha sisterhood Development and wellness chair, Panhellenic Council delegate, philanthropy chair, apparel chair), Lore-El Women's Leadership Programs, Newman Catholic (secretary, media chair), Order of Omega Greek leadership honor society (scholarship

chair), peer leader and adviser, Pinnacle student alumni committee, Pinnacle planning committee, President's Ensemble Select Choir, Stevens Choir (social media chair, section leader), Stevens Dramatic Society, Stevens Orchestra (social media chair), Stevens Women in Business (professional chair, president), tour guide, Undergraduate Student Advisory Board.

*What I'm Up to Now:* Risk & compliance intern at Protiviti and pursuing M.S. in business intelligence & analytics at Stevens.

*Favorite Stevens Memory:* I loved living in the Lore-El Center for Women's Leadership and getting to spend time with so many incredible and inspiring women from whom I was not only able to get homework help and advice, but also just hang out and watch movies with.

*Fun Fact:* I love to sing and was in six different music groups during my time at Stevens.

#### Vice President - Hailey Tanner

*Degree:* B.E., chemical engineering, minor in biochemical engineering

*On-Campus Activities:* I partook in multiple research experiences as an undergraduate. I studied the behavior of grafted magnetic nanoparticles

and thermal stiffening in professor Pinar Akcora's lab, and neurodegenerative disease pathologies in professor Johannes Weickenmeier's lab. Some of my extracurriculars included serving as the vice president of student interests for the Student Government Association and Peer Leader Coordinator (PLC) for the Peer Leader program. I was also an Academic Support Center tutor, a Senior Week Committee co-chair and a Commencement Committee member. Other organizations I belonged to at Stevens include Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society, Omega Chi Epsilon chemical engineering honor society, Gear & Triangle leadership honor society, Women's Club Soccer, and RedShift, a creative publication. I was honored as Rising Leader of the Year in 2019, Student Leader of the Year in 2020 and received the Podolsky Award in 2021.

*What I'm Up to Now:* Pursuing a Ph.D. in chemical and biological engineering at Princeton University.

*Favorite Stevens Memory:* Going to the Founder's Day Ball with my friends!

*Fun Fact:* I love drawing and oil painting!

Don't see your class log listed? Send an update to [alumni-log@stevens.edu](mailto:alumni-log@stevens.edu) or call 201-216-5161.



Christina Sciarra '17 and Branimir Kain '17 wed last summer, with multiple Stevens alumni in attendance. Back row from left: Rusty Clark '17, Kyle Walton '16, Alex Gurski '16, Lilly Razzaghi '18, Richard (Rick) Housely '17, Anthony Setola '17, Robert McFeeley '89, Michael Langford '18, Craig O'Dell '17, Yolanda (Nick) Weiner '94, Vlad Conrat '17, James Budries '18, Emily Singleton '18, Alex Bhuse '18, Zach Caldarola '18, Cory Weidman '17, Vincenzo Manfredi '18, Paul Sciarra '82, Michael Fowler '82. Front row, from left: Ayal Ciobotaru '17, Meredith Manfredi '18, Sydni (Horner) Ciobotaru '18, Rebecca Youngman '18, Brigit Kain '22, Terez Lebron '17, Lauren McTigue '18, Branimir '17 and Christina Kain '17, Alenka Kain '91, Olivia Kain '25, Judith (VanDecker) Sciarra '82, Jamie (Pignataro) Hovick '82, Amy DiGeralmo '18. Gino Sciorilli '82 (not pictured) also attended.



**1** Sam Coumans '20 volunteered with the UEFA Euro 2020 European Championships in Amsterdam; he grew up in the Netherlands. **2** Sam Coumans, third from left, meets up in Amsterdam with foreign exchange students from Belgium and the Netherlands who attended Stevens in fall 2019. Read more about Sam in the 2020 log. **3** Kiera (Sheridan) Schaefer and Nathan Schaefer, both Class of 2019, were married on October 30, 2021.



**Secretary - Sarah Bertussi M.Eng. '21**

*Degree:* M.Eng. in mechanical engineering, concentrating in robotics and control; B.E. in mechanical engineering, minor in computer engineering

*On-Campus Activities:* *The Link* (editor in chief), Gear and Triangle (secretary), Pi Tau Sigma, Tau Beta Pi, Society of Women Engineers (K-12 outreach co-chair, STARTS founder), Archery Club Team, Senior Week Committee.

*What I'm Up to Now:* Working as a controls engineer at Barry Wehmiller Design Group.

*Favorite Stevens Memory:* During finals one year, my friends and I took over one of the empty large lecture halls and had a large group study session. Even though most of us were not in the same classes, it was a lot of fun using the white boards and projector to help study! Most of us also enjoy baking, so there was a large supply of cookies and other goodies, too!

*Fun Fact:* I enjoy crafting, especially cross stitching. The largest cross stitch I've made is about 16"x 20" and is a replica of the Thomas Kinkade painting, "New Day at the Cinderella Castle."

**Fund Captain - Morgan Gruskin**

*Degree:* B.E. in environmental engineering, minor in pre-law and public policy.

*On-Campus Activities:* SAVE (Stevens Environmental Club, fundraising chair and president), Phi Sigma Sigma sorority (parents chair and panel delegate), Society of Women Engineers (STARTS Committee), Senior Week Committee (co-chair).

*What I'm Up to Now:* Working for PepsiCo as an R&D associate engineer for the water processing & technology team and pursuing a master's in environmental engineering at Stevens.

*Favorite Stevens Memory:* My favorite Stevens memory is sitting in Pierce on election night my freshman year (fall 2016) and watching the election results being displayed in real time on the Empire State Building. As each state started to post their results, the Empire State Building would flash different colors (blue for Democrat and red for Republican). The crowd watching in Pierce would go wild to show support for their respective parties. Honestly, I was just happy sitting there with friends, eating pizza and listening to the heated debates over who would win.

*Fun Fact:* One year for Halloween, I was the plastic Maxwell House Coffee can because I was proud of my father. He was on the team that designed and commercialized this package, earning eight patents. — Sarah Bertussi; bertussi@yahoo.com

# Clubs



**DC Alumni Gathering:** The Stevens Washington, D.C. Alumni Club, led by Kendra Appleheimer '12, hosted a happy hour at Courthaus Social in Arlington, Virginia, in October. Stevens First Lady Hoveida Farvardin made a special guest appearance!



**Wisconsin:** The Stevens Wisconsin alumni came together for their annual gathering at the Estabrook Beer Garden, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in September.



**Central Florida:** The Central Florida Alumni Club, led by Eric M. Monte '93, Danielle DeFeo '15, John Pinto '83 and Alex Sacharoff '79, hosted a picnic in the park in Orlando, Florida, in early November.

**Delt Reunion:** Delta Tau Delta fraternity attending their annual reunion in December (see photo on page 6) included: John Dalton '60, Dave Manhas '88, Dick Shainin '72, Joe Camobreco '73, Steve Stalgaitis '73, Pavan Mehta '89, John Cherrey '88, Al Ward '71, Steve Feller '70, John Takakjian '74, Reiner Kuhr '72, Ed Eichhorn '69, Rick DiLouie '74, Joe DeVito '74, Rick Roscitt '73, Mark LaRosa '93, Gerry Crispin '69, John Rizzuto '89, Mickey Cortese '73, Joe Garvey '71, Frank Boenning '98, John Surguy '90, Frank Bell '91, Ludwig Randazzo, Jr. '91, Robert Lewis '69, Dave Benzce '70, Robert Byrne '74, Eric Cortese '14, Don Baxter '65, Tom Nathanson '74, Chris Ciabattone '12, Doug Schramm '72 and Joseph A. Llano '01.



**Southern California:** The Stevens Southern California Alumni Club, led by Kirit Sarvaiya '97, hosted a brunch at Off Vine in Los Angeles, in September.



**Albany, New York:** Alumni from the Greater Albany, New York, area met for dinner at the Olde Bryan Inn in Saratoga Springs, New York, in September.

# Uncertain Beginnings

Olivia Schreiber '18 reflects on her remote start to medical school during the COVID-19 pandemic



**O**n February 13, 2020, I was sitting in the lobby of a medical school, wearing my all-black business formal, anxiously awaiting the receptionist to give me the cue to head up to the interview room. I had done this just the week prior at Cooper Medical School in Camden, New Jersey, which was at this point my top choice. If I got in, I would be receiving a call today, precisely during the interview I was currently attending.

With just a few minutes to spare, I looked down and saw my phone ringing. Someone with a Camden, New Jersey, area code was calling. I excused myself to the bathroom, and on the other line was Dr. William Kocher, dean of admissions at Cooper Medical School. As I heard, "We're excited to offer you admission to Cooper Medical School," the tears began to flow. My career in medicine was about to begin.

I had heard about this strange SARS-CoV-2 virus on the news, but like most of us, I had little knowledge of what would unravel over the next two years. All that I could focus on was beginning my medical career that August. February became March, the lockdown came, the death toll rose, and I couldn't go one day without saying "COVID-19." There was so much uncertainty and a lot of fear. I signed a lease in Philadelphia in June, thinking that by August, COVID-19 might have calmed so that we might start in person. By August 1, it was decided that the Cooper Medical School Class of 2024 would begin virtually.

It was, undoubtedly, the right choice to have us students start virtually, but at the time, it was so disheartening. I had envisioned this grand entrance into medicine, with all the pomp and circumstance. I wanted to have my parents come watch me take my Hippocratic oath and receive my white coat, but instead they watched this ritual over YouTube, my smile shielded behind a black polyester mask.

I spent most of my first year in my dad's old office at home, rare-

ly spending any time at my Philadelphia apartment. I became accustomed to the routine of logging into Webex by 8 a.m. every day. My mom would bring down coffee. I slowly learned my classmates' names from the small spaces they took up on Zoom calls. I'd close my laptop around 6 p.m. every day, rarely leaving the house.

The fortune and privilege I experienced and continue to benefit from made my pandemic experience tolerable. No one in my family became ill. I had access to WiFi and a soft bed at night. I had health insurance. However, it is the loneliness that I remember.

When I think about what got me through a challenging first year of medical school, it wasn't the regimen I forced myself into. It wasn't the mid-afternoon exercise breaks or long walks in the park behind my childhood home. It was the FaceTime calls with Johanna and Erica, my best friends from Stevens. We would call every few weeks to check in on one another. Sure, we'd discuss the case counts, but eventually we would end up doubled-over with laughter as we remembered our sophomore year in the River Terrace apartments. We looked through old pictures from freshman year, the Founder's Day Ball and graduation. Their laughter and these memories kept me going when my school material became more difficult and the end to COVID remained nowhere in sight.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed many important lessons, some that we humans continue to ignore. And even now that classes are in person, I continue to fall back on the rich experiences and lifelong friends I made at Stevens when I struggle to adjust to this "new normal." So I say, pick up the phone. Send that email to your old Stevens friend. You might be surprised at the warmth and light it will bring to you even in the darkest of days. ❖ — *Olivia Schreiber '18*

*Olivia Schreiber is an MD candidate at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University in Camden, New Jersey.*

# 1 STEVENS GOAL

DAY OF GIVING 2022

On April 6–April 7, the Stevens community — across the globe and spanning generations — will come together as one.

Show your Stevens spirit and support your favorite causes at Castle Point! When the Day of Giving '22 website goes live this spring, you'll be able to give for scholarships, study spaces, athletics, women's programming and more. Last year, more than 1,000 alumni, students, parents, faculty and friends participated, having a direct impact with their own generosity and unlocking matching funds for the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program, Stevens Dramatic Society scholarships and pre-college scholarships.

Start your Day of Giving early by following the Stevens Alumni Association:

[facebook.com/stevens.alumni](https://www.facebook.com/stevens.alumni)  
[instagram.com/stevensalumni](https://www.instagram.com/stevensalumni)

Stay tuned for updates as the community gathers for *One Stevens. One Goal.*



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# A Look Inside



# Leader in a Hard Hat

Martin Downs '04 M.S. '05 built the foundation for his career in civil engineering while at Stevens. Now, as president of J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, he's helping interns and co-op students from his alma mater do the same. **Read more on page 28.**

Photo: Danielle Richards