



Reflections on My First Year at Stevens *The Stevens Indicator, Spring 2012*

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As I write to you, the academic year has ended, and I'm about to mark my first anniversary as Stevens' president. It has been a remarkable year at the Institute and for myself and my family, and I would like to share some reflections on these past 12 months with you.

Most importantly, I want to thank you again for the warm welcome I've received from you this past year, as I've met many of you all over the country, from Massachusetts to Washington, D.C., from New York to Georgia, from Florida to Texas and California, and all over New Jersey. I continue to meet more alumni on a daily basis, and if I can't see you in person, I welcome phone calls or emails to hear your ideas, your concerns and your dreams for Stevens.

I have much good news to report about this past year. As you read in a previous *Indicator*, we welcomed the most academically talented freshman class in Stevens history this past fall. I'm proud to report that the incoming freshman class for Fall 2012 looks to be even stronger academically. We also anticipate a slightly larger incoming class next year—both positive developments for the future of Stevens.

In other good news, Stevens recently received a top ranking from *Bloomberg BusinessWeek* in its annual ranking of colleges and universities based on Return on Investment. Stevens was ranked 23rd in the country for its 30-year net ROI, up from 31st place last year. As you know, a Stevens education continues to bring its alumni successful careers, and the chance for a good life. More recently, *Wall Street and Technology* selected Stevens as one of 10 schools identified by corporate executives as their favorite schools for computer science and engineering talent.

This spring, we held the Stevens Innovation Expo, which featured important research by our faculty and students, with more than 90 senior design projects on exhibit. It was a memorable day, and so rewarding to review the excellent and cutting-edge research by our talented students and faculty.

We also took a giant leap forward this spring in offering our students a world-class education in financial systems. In April, Stevens launched the Financial Systems Center (FSC), a state-of-the-art financial research and teaching facility with an inter-disciplinary focus on financial systems, software engineering and cybersecurity. At the heart of this facility is the Hanlon Financial Systems Lab, a generous gift of Sean Hanlon '80, that resembles a Wall Street trading room and uses the latest technologies. We enjoyed a full day of activities to launch the FSC, with several hundred people returning to campus for the event, and about 250 people attending a delightful evening at the Waldorf Astoria with our financial world alumni. I expect that the FSC will become the place that Wall Street goes to when faced with complex financial problems it can't solve alone, and Stevens is grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in this area. And in May, Stevens launched yet a second significant program, its Business Intelligence & Analytics master's degree program—one of the first programs of its kind in the country.

I want to thank you for your generosity to Stevens this year and for making a difference in the lives of so many students. As of May 2012, we exceeded our annual fundraising goal and had raised \$10 million. Through the generosity of alumni, we are able to give scholarships to talented students who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend this fine university. A generous gift from Ayesha and Sandeep Mathrani '83 also helped fund a much stronger tutoring program on campus. As our alumni continue to support Stevens, our Development Office has been providing you with clearer, more transparent scholarship reports and published its first Record of Philanthropy in almost five years.

During my inauguration last October, I pledged to work with the community to take Stevens to greater heights of achievement and distinction. Now I feel that we are well on our way in this journey. So, stayed tuned—and please stay engaged. The future of Stevens is brighter with you in it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Farvardin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nariman Farvardin
President, Stevens Institute of Technology