



September 24, 2013

Dear Parents,

As your daughter or son embarks on a new academic year at Stevens, it is my pleasure to update you on some exciting developments on campus.

**Admissions Successes:** We continue to exceed our own prior records in attracting the nation's best and brightest students. Our [incoming Class of 2017](#) is the largest and most academically talented in our history! A record 719 new undergraduate students joined us from 29 U.S. states and 13 countries—including 30 percent women and 13 percent underrepresented minorities—and the average SAT score of the new class is ten points higher than last year's class. We have made deliberate efforts to provide every tool available to help our students succeed, and statistics are confirming that these efforts are having an impact: Stevens' first-year retention rate has reached an all-time high of 96 percent!

**Return on Investment:** The national conversation about higher education has increasingly focused on affordability, access, and value. I am pleased to report that Stevens was recently ranked #3 in the nation in mid-career salaries, by [PayScale's 2013-2014 College Salary Report](#), a story that has been picked up in the national media by [The New York Times](#), [CNN/Money](#) and [CNBC](#). In addition, Stevens has reduced the rate of tuition increase to 3 percent over the last two years. My recent letter to the editor in [The Star Ledger](#) describes Stevens' commitment to providing an excellent return on investment for our students.

**Standout Students:** Our talented student body continually fills us with pride. One of the most public triumphs by Stevens students was the completion of [Ecohabit](#), a highly-innovative, net-zero energy "smart house" designed and constructed for the U.S. Department of Energy's prestigious Solar Decathlon competition, which will ultimately be donated to California State University San Marcos to live on as a veterans center. In addition, our vibrant student-athlete population was selected from more than 300 Division I, II and III programs for the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Jostens' Institution of the Year award, recognizing the highest standards of collegiate academics and athletic performance.

**Relevant Research:** I am proud to announce that six members of the Stevens community, including two students, will be honored at the [2013 New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame](#) (NJHoF), recognizing their contributions to innovation in the state! Also during the last year, Stevens researchers were issued four patents, and we saw the commercialization of a new Stevens technology. The launch of the Center for Healthcare Innovation (CHI), focused on advancing medical technology and improving healthcare delivery, also stands out among our many exciting research developments of the past year.

**New Leadership:** There are many new faces on campus contributing to our advancement and adding energy, excitement and momentum to our university community. In particular, alumna Virginia Ruesterholz '83, a longtime executive at Verizon, was elected as the university's [first female chairman of the Stevens Board of Trustees](#). We have also been expanding our faculty roster and building a new team of administrative and academic leaders.

**Investing in Our Future:** [A record fundraising year](#), including \$26.3 million in gifts and a \$10 million lead gift to a new Academic Gateway Complex, has enabled investment in our living and learning spaces, new faculty, and student scholarships. We also received \$7.25 million from the State of New Jersey for substantial upgrades to our new IT infrastructure and technological capabilities.

As you can see, it has truly been a phenomenal year at Stevens. I look forward to keeping you informed about Stevens' progress, and I hope to see you on campus sometime soon!

*Per aspera ad astra,*



Nariman Farvardin  
President

