



STEVENS
INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY
THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY®

**150 Years of Meeting Challenges, Finding Solutions —
and Embracing the Future**

The Stevens Indicator, Spring/Summer 2021

At this extraordinary time in our university's 150-year history and as our country emerges from the global coronavirus pandemic, I am both grateful for the community that is Stevens and optimistic about our future.

We will never forget the serious challenges of the recent past that have directly affected so many among us. We have met these challenges with the signature qualities of Stevens: resiliency, ingenuity, and a persistent drive to solve problems. Like our extraordinary alumni, many of whom have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 battle, our community has truly exemplified our university's motto, *Per aspera ad astra*. We have worked to find solutions to novel problems while maintaining our focus on providing a stellar technological education for our students and conducting pioneering research, both in our laboratories and remotely.

This moment will also be remembered as a part of our university's history — you will see it documented on the timeline that accompanies this special, expanded sesquicentennial issue of [*The Indicator*](#). This issue both honors the past and looks forward to the future. Founded in 1870 as the first college of mechanical engineering in the U.S., Stevens continues to celebrate this significant milestone through the 2020-21 academic year. Although we kicked off our celebration in February 2020 with Founder's Day events, our planned activities were scaled back significantly due to COVID-19 restrictions. I am hopeful that the continued vaccine availability across the country and the world will enable us to plan a joyous, in-person celebration soon.

Despite a year of pandemic-related challenges, there is much good news to share from Castle Point. First and foremost, the measures we have taken to promote a safe and healthy campus have been working, with campus positivity rates relatively low to date. And, in spite of a global pandemic, enrollment is higher than at any point in university history. Sponsored research awards are also at an all-time high, and our faculty are tackling important problems of global significance. Construction of the University Center Complex, the largest construction project in Stevens' history, is progressing apace, and this magnificent new campus hub is set to open in spring 2022. And, thanks to the pride, participation, and generosity of so many alumni and friends, we have made incredible progress in our \$200 million comprehensive campaign, *The Power of Stevens*. Across nearly all areas of the university, Stevens has made substantial progress on our 10-year strategic plan (now in Year 9, see stevens.edu/strategy), and we are preparing for our next plan, which will span 2022-2032. Indeed, Stevens is prepared to continue its steep upward trajectory post-pandemic.

In the context of this unprecedented year and in honor of our sesquicentennial anniversary, the theme of this special issue of *The Indicator* is certainly fitting and inspiring. This issue explores various “frontiers” — inflection points where we have stood at the precipice of uncharted territory and chosen to persevere. It looks at Stevens’ history and our current momentum — from research, innovation, and infrastructure to the very personal challenges confronted by some of our alumni. The Stevens story is best told through its people — our alumni who have made their mark in a wide variety of industries; our faculty who have inspired generations of students and developed innovations that have advanced the frontiers of knowledge; our administration and staff, who dedicate themselves to strengthening Stevens for our students; and importantly, our students, who are the hope and the promise of the future.

You will meet extraordinary people in this issue, like the late James Braxton ’37 Hon. D. Eng. ’87, the second Black student to graduate from Stevens and an innovator in affordable and equitable housing in Chicago who marched with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; some inspiring members of the first class of women, who are marking the 50th anniversary of the admission of undergraduate women to Stevens; faculty from across the university who are tackling some of the world’s greatest challenges; outstanding students who are fulfilling their promise at Stevens; and young alumni who are already making a positive impact on the world.

In these pages, you will also witness the amazing physical transformation of the Stevens campus over the decades, as well as changes in our university’s hometown of Hoboken. We salute our benefactors whose generosity helps to ensure a stellar technological education for generations of students. And we consider the future of Stevens, and of higher education itself. (For additional stories that celebrate our university’s past, present, and bright future, please visit **Stevens150.com.**)

I want to personally thank each member of our remarkable Stevens community and extend my profound appreciation for your support and for your response to an unparalleled set of challenges. I wish each of you good health and good fortune, and I look forward to seeing you on campus in the near future.

Per aspera ad astra,



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