



June 16, 2016

To the Stevens Community,

I am delighted to announce that Dr. Christophe Pierre, Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois, has been selected as Stevens' next Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, effective September 1, 2016. Dr. Pierre succeeds Dr. George Korfiatis, who has served as Provost and University Vice President since December 2006.

Since 2011, Dr. Pierre has served as the chief academic officer of the University of Illinois, advising the President on matters of educational policy, academic programs, personnel actions, and capital and operating budgets and as the President's deputy. In these roles, he has been responsible for the coordination of academic planning and budgeting at the university, working closely with academic leaders on all three University of Illinois campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, and Springfield. He is also a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering on the Urbana-Champaign campus.

Prior to joining the University of Illinois, Dr. Pierre served as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at McGill University in Montreal, Canada from 2005 to 2011. He was also a Professor of Mechanical Engineering and held the Canada Research Chair in Structural Dynamics and Vibration. As Dean, he presided over a period of exceptional growth at McGill Engineering and led fundraising efforts that raised \$65 million for the Faculty of Engineering.

A graduate of France's École Centrale des Arts et Manufactures de Paris in 1982, Christophe Pierre received the Master of Science degree from Princeton University in 1984 and the Ph.D. from Duke University in 1985. He held various faculty and administrative positions at the University of Michigan, including Chair of the College of Engineering Curriculum Committee, Graduate Program Chair, and Associate Chair in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He served as Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Initiatives at the Rackham School of Graduate Studies from 1999 to 2005, and in 2002 he was named Stephen P. Timoshenko Collegiate Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Pierre is a leader in the fields of vibrations, structural dynamics, and nonlinear dynamics, where he is perhaps best recognized for pioneering research work on mode localization in disordered periodic structures. He has made seminal contributions in numerous areas of mechanical and aerospace engineering, including the dynamics of large-scale nonlinear structural systems, with application to complex aerospace and automotive structures. He elucidated the physical mechanism leading to high blade response in mistuned bladed disks, and his vibratory response prediction software has been licensed to the U.S. Air Force, NASA, and a number of jet engine manufacturers worldwide. Over the years he has received extensive research support from General Electric, NASA, General Motors, the National Science Foundation, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the U.S. Army, and Pratt & Whitney Canada, among other industry and government sponsors, and authored or co-authored more than 120 research articles for refereed journals.

In 2005 Christophe Pierre received the N.O. Myklestad Award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in recognition of his major innovative contribution to vibration localization. He has served as an Associate Editor for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Journal, the ASME Journal of Vibration and Acoustics, and the ASME Journal of Computational and Nonlinear Dynamics. He has also been a member of the Advisory Board of Nonlinear Dynamics and the Editorial Boards of ASME Applied Mechanics Reviews and the International Journal of Reliability and Safety. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Academy of Mechanics. In 2011 he received a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Kharkov Polytechnic Institute in Ukraine.

I am enormously excited that a scholar and academic of the caliber of Dr. Pierre will join Stevens as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. His exemplary record of achievement as a teacher, a scholar, an academic administrator and advocate for higher education will ensure that Stevens realizes its full potential in the years ahead. I am very much looking forward to working with Dr. Pierre.

At this time, I also wish to express my deep appreciation on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire Stevens community to Dr. George Korfiatis for his tireless effort and unwavering dedication to Stevens, particularly during his service as Provost over the last nine years. In his tenure as Provost, George has overseen a period of unprecedented growth at Stevens, especially in graduate education, and has nurtured the success of a number of important initiatives, including the multi-dimensional effort to create a supportive environment for innovation and entrepreneurship at Stevens. In the fall, I will host a reception for the entire university community to thank George for his service.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the members of the Provost Search Committee, chaired by Dr. Matthew Libera, for their excellent work in conducting a search that led to an outstanding result.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Christophe Pierre to Stevens and in thanking Dr. George Korfiatis for his service.

*Per aspera ad astra,*



Nariman Farvardin  
President