



May 2, 2016

To the Stevens Community,

Last week, I commended many members of the Stevens community who contributed to the success of the 2016 Innovation Expo and cited the event as an exemplar of our strategic priority, "Through Collaboration, Impact." Today, I am pleased to again congratulate the faculty, staff and students who represented Stevens in producing an extraordinary event in collaboration with Nokia Bell Labs, called, The Shannon Effect. This event demonstrated a number of our strategic priorities, including, "Strengthened Reputation, Increased Prestige."

The centennial of the birth of Dr. Claude Shannon, a mathematician, electrical engineer, and cryptographer known as "the father of information theory," was celebrated last week with a two-day conference organized by Nokia Bell Labs. The Shannon Effect, the culmination of the conference, was an artistic performance of The Human Digital Orchestra, an ensemble in which the movement of humans in digital space creates a multimedia sensory artist experience. The Shannon Effect was planned and executed as a collaboration between Stevens and Bell Labs.

This significant achievement would not have been possible without the contributions of Rob Harari, Industry Associate Professor of Music and Technology at Stevens, who served as artistic director, and performers Andy Brick, Director of the Stevens Music and Technology program and Aysegul Durakoglu, Teaching Associate Professor, Music and Technology, along with many other faculty and students in the College of Arts and Letters.

I enjoyed the evening in the company of a number of luminaries from the corporate world and academe, including Eric Schmidt, Executive Chairman of Alphabet Inc. (formerly Google); Irwin Jacobs, founding chairman and CEO Emeritus of Qualcomm; Robert Metcalfe, inventor of Ethernet and founder of 3Com Corp.; and Robert Gallagher, retired MIT professor known for his invention of low density parity check codes, a dominant capacity-approaching coding technique in information theory today. I was enormously proud that the Stevens name, along with the work of its faculty, students and staff, was so prominent in this extremely prestigious event.

The Shannon Effect and the Human Digital Orchestra are further examples of the tremendous progress Stevens is making in becoming a premier, student-centric university. I extend my gratitude and congratulations to Professors Harari, Brick and Durakoglu, and all who played a part in this marvelous event.

Per aspera ad astra,

Nariman Farvardin
President