

THE POWER OF STEVENS

OUR CAMPAIGN. OUR IMPACT.

CAMPAIGN NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS – SPRING 2020



Dear Alumni and Friends,

The global pandemic is a difficult time for every community, including ours at Stevens. Yet at a time like this, our resilience amazes and inspires me. I am grateful for the perseverance of our students, faculty, and staff as we have transitioned to a remote learning and work environment. Despite the dynamic and fast-changing situation, we continue to advance our mission of preparing the leaders of tomorrow and developing solutions to society's most pressing technological problems.

There are many reasons to be proud members of this community. In this newsletter issue, you will find stories about the new Gateway Academic Center, a planned gift that has created a legacy, and a faculty fellowship that supports research on the human brain. These are just a few of the many accomplishments that your philanthropy makes possible through *The Power of Stevens* campaign. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to strengthen and enrich Stevens.

While it may be some time before we come together again, our celebrations will continue throughout this year in recognition of our 150th anniversary. You can learn more about our distinguished history on our commemorative website, stevens150.com. Additionally, our faculty are making talks available online, including topics that have emerged because of the novel coronavirus, and others such as underwater robotics and the resilience of cyber-physical systems. See the webinars and lectures scheduled at stevens.edu/events.

I encourage you to remain engaged with Stevens. We continue to need you as partners, champions, and advocates, especially in these challenging times. This university has a bright future. The campus will become full again, and talented students and faculty will fill our classrooms and research labs. We will again gather for Commencement, Alumni Weekend, the Stevens Awards Gala, and many other events. Until then, please stay safe, and I wish you and your family health and wellness. We will get through this together.

Per aspera ad astra,

Nariman Farvardin
President

ABOVE LEFT: Trustee Olivia Schreiber '18 and 2019 Stevens Awards Gala honoree Bob Fiocco '58 M.S. '61 Sc.D. '64 celebrate the university's 150th anniversary.

ABOVE RIGHT: The new Gateway Academic Center has changed the face of campus.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2



Gateway Opens

Gina Addeo '86 and others toured their named spaces

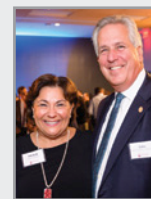
4



Planned Giving

Vivian Carr Hon. M.E. '81 created a legacy

6



Donor Spotlight

Michele and John Dearborn '79 M.Eng. '81

power.stevens.edu

A Great New Gateway

The Gateway Academic Center opened during the Fall 2019 semester and is making a big impact on campus.

Anchored by Gianforte Family Hall and South Hall, “Gateway” adds 10 smart classrooms, 13 advanced labs and 45 faculty offices, including a new home for the Department of Computer Science and lab space for the Center for Healthcare Innovation.

“Today, we have a showpiece, a modern state-of-the-art facility where faculty will draw inspiration and develop new innovations that will improve the human condition,” President Farvardin said. “Many generations of students will realize their potential here, and alumni will feel pride in the transformation of



their alma mater as a technology powerhouse.”

Donors to *The Power of Stevens* played a key role in making the vision of Gateway into a reality.

Their generosity provided the resources to make these critical lab, learning and lecture spaces available to the community, for generations to come.

Building Bulletin

STUDENT HOUSING AND UNIVERSITY CENTER UPDATES

As construction continues on the [Student Housing and University Center](#) project, alumni and friends are stepping up to support this bold endeavor.

Building on the lead of Carol and Richard Harries '58 and their gift to name the north residential tower, Karen and Steve Boswell C.E. '89 Ph.D. '91 Hon. D.Eng. '13 recently announced a gift to name the front patio of the university center. “The Student Housing and University Center will have all the amenities our world-class students deserve,” said Steve, chairman of the Board of Trustees. “Karen and I are proud



to contribute to this historic and transformational project that will propel our university to new heights.”

Additionally, Stevens received gifts from the late Charles J. Kovarik '55

and Harold E. Williams, Class of 1900. They are among the first “Groundbreakers” – a group of early donors who support, to quote Richard Harries, “this shining symbol of Stevens today and tomorrow.”

▼ **ROSA AND JOHN H. HOVEY '57 STAIRCASE**

The Hoveys were early believers in the strategic impact Gateway could have, and they made one of the first gifts to support the project. Now, whether for casual gatherings on a daily basis, or for featured events, the Rosa and John H. Hovey '57 Staircase will become a prominent spot on campus.



▲ **GINA M. ADDEO '86 LECTURE HALL**

"It is an enormous honor for me to have this classroom named after me. My sincerest wish is that your time at Stevens is as fulfilling as my time was. What you will take away from your time at Stevens will last you a lifetime. Per aspera ad astra." –Gina Addeo '86

▶ **CYNTHIA S. AND J. SCOTT SWENSEN '74 CLASSROOM**

"I believe the skills I picked up at Stevens enabled me to have a successful business career. When the Gateway Academic Center was announced, I talked to my wife, and she was on board that we ought to share some of our wealth and help this fabulous building become a reality." –Scott Swensen '74, member of the Board of Trustees



▲ **FRANK T. BATTISTA '54 CYBER SECURITY LAB**

"I'm very proud to have graduated from Stevens. My education opened doors, and in my career, even my Stevens class ring opened doors. Now, I've contributed a lab to the Gateway Academic Center to keep my connection to Stevens going in perpetuity." –Frank T. Battista '54



ADDITIONAL NAMED SPACES

Tutoring room named for Kathleen M. and William S. Blazowski '68 M.Eng. '69 Ph.D. '71

Lab named for Betty and William J. Canavan '44

Claudia A. and Thomas A. Corcoran '67 Reception Hall

Michele Z. and John R. Dearborn '79 M.Eng. '81 Classroom

Grace and Kenneth DeBaun '49 Gallery

Tutoring room named for Frank M. Fawzi '84 M.M.S. '87

George A. Hebrank '24 Lounge

Estelle Ives Zahn and Loyal T. Ives '28 Lecture Hall

John A. Schepisi, Esq. '65 and Peggy Schepisi Classroom

Mary Jane and Frank J. Semcer, Sr. '65 Center for Healthcare Innovation

Radio Waves, Philanthropic Ways

As science says, radio waves can travel light years into outer space. In their own way, planned gifts can also have a far reach. The late Vivian Carr Hon. M.E. '81 understood both of those principles. After breaking ground for women in radio, she left a large bequest for Stevens, ensuring her legacy will endure into the future.

Born in 1925, Carr earned an engineering certificate from Stevens during World War II, when more women began filling industrial jobs. Though many of those women stayed home in peacetime, Carr launched a four-decade career and rose to leadership positions at Bell Labs and AT&T.

Carr was a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and a director of the Engineers Club of New York. She was also the first female member and officer of the Radio Club of America (RCA), founded in 1909. Having joined in 1973, Carr served as president from 2011-12, and as president-emeritus



Vivian Carr Hon. M.E. '81

thereafter. In 2014, the RCA named the Vivian A. Carr Award after her, established to recognize outstanding achievements by women in the telecom industry.

Mary Ann Weitnauer, a professor at Georgia Tech who received the Carr Award in 2017, reflected on its

significance. “When I was a graduate student and a junior professor in the communications and networking area, Bell Labs was considered the most prestigious place to be,” Weitnauer said. “Strong women in that area were and still are relatively rare. That Vivian Carr rose to senior executive at Bell Labs and to president of the Radio Club of America is extremely impressive. I was honored to receive the award in her name.”

Carr earned a degree in engineering economics from Iowa State in 1973, and Stevens recognized her in 1981 with an honorary master’s degree. She showed her appreciation for Stevens by supporting scholarships, especially for students involved with WCPR, the campus radio station. “Vivian was friendly and welcoming,” said Mike Bocchinfuso '08, who met Carr when he received a scholarship in her name. “WCPR is a staple of Stevens, and it was great that our club could connect with a radio trailblazer like Vivian.”

With her husband John, Carr retired to the Jersey Shore and enjoyed animals, gardening and bridge until she passed at age 92 in 2018. Her last gift to Stevens, through her estate, will now enable a new generation of students to make their own far-reaching waves.

“Vivian was a gifted woman with a multitude of accomplishments,” said her friend Pat Schneider. “She had a pioneering spirit and successfully broke glass ceilings. She would be happy to see that her generosity will support students pursuing higher education in technological fields.”



Generations of alumni from WCPR gathered for Alumni Weekend in 2019.

Mechanics of the Mind

There's a lot of talk these days about infusing human-like intelligence into the machines we use. But what if we looked at brains and machines from another perspective? What are the possibilities when a talented researcher explores the mechanical aspects of the human brain?

Professor Johannes Weickenmeier is leading research on the mechanical behavior of the central nervous system. At Stevens, he is a member of the Center for Neuromechanics – the first of its kind in the nation. Neuromechanics is an emerging interdisciplinary field that seeks to understand the function, structure and health of the human brain.

"I'm a mechanical engineer by background," Weickenmeier said. "There are mathematical and physics-based tools we can apply to biological problems like Alzheimer's or Parkinson's. Mechanical engineering can help uncover some of the mechanisms behind the progression of these diseases throughout the brain. For example, I look at a lot of medical imaging that I get from doctors. I'm trying to develop tools to understand the changes you can observe in someone's brain over a longer period of time, based on some physics-driven model."

Weickenmeier and his colleagues are expanding understanding of diseases that have the potential to affect more than 12 million Americans within the next 30 years. Their work, recently published in *Physical Review Letters*, may identify the starting points and pathways of toxic proteins that cause neurodegenerative diseases. "Toxic proteins are seeded in distinct brain regions depending on the diseases,"



Professor Johannes Weickenmeier earned his doctorate from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology.

Weickenmeier said. "Their spread across the brain – and therefore the symptoms they produce – is dictated by the connective pathways available to them."

Weickenmeier came to Stevens in 2018 following a research fellowship at Stanford. "Stevens is a very collegial space where individuals can shine," he said. "That is definitely the reason

why I chose to come here. I saw the ability to have an impact. The school is very supportive of growing a strong research program."

For his research potential, Weickenmeier has been awarded the Frank Semcer, Sr. '65 Fellowship, which provides resources for faculty to employ doctoral student assistants. With his wife, Mary Jane, Semcer established the fellowship after making gifts to support scholarships and bio-tissue engineering within the Semcer Center for Healthcare Innovation.

Although Weickenmeier was recently awarded a prestigious and competitive grant from the National Institutes of Health, he finds further meaning in the Semcers' gift. "It is incredibly personal," Weickenmeier said. "I think it creates a connection to society, to see that there are people who are interested and want to support this type of work. It is wonderful validation, and a spectacular opportunity."



Frank Semcer '65 (center) and his family toured the Mary Jane and Frank J. Semcer, Sr. '65 Center for Healthcare Innovation inside the Gateway Academic Center.

Donor Spotlight

MICHELE AND JOHN DEARBORN '79 M.ENG. '81

“First you learn, then you earn, and then return.” That’s the philanthropic mantra that Michele and John Dearborn live by. After working across the globe, they are now giving back to Stevens as a place that shaped their way.

The charming couple has had a long romance. “We actually met in kindergarten,” John recalls. “We started dating during our sophomore year when Michele was attending Holy Family Academy in Bayonne, and I was a student at St. Peter’s Prep in Jersey City.”

Following high school, they maintained a long-distance relationship while John studied at Stevens and Michele was at Georgetown. “Part of my memory of those days,” Michele said, “is visiting John at Stevens and being impressed with the students and the technical environment right across from New York City. It was all very cool.”

John enrolled at Stevens thinking he would become a physician, but as he learned more about engineering, his goals shifted. “I happened to meet a professor in physics, of all departments, who got me involved doing research connecting physics with chemical engineering,” John remembers. “This got me thinking about a career that was more research and development oriented.”

John earned a master’s degree in chemical engineering, with a thesis in extensional rheology and polymers. “I graduated with a deep understanding as to why things worked in the chemical engineering



Michele and John Dearborn '79 M.Eng. '81 toured the Gateway Academic Center with their son Christopher.

field,” he said. “I understood *why* a pipe or vessel needed to be designed a certain way, whereas some of the other engineers I worked with later in my career knew better *how* to go to the tables and design that system.” To complement his technical degrees, John earned an MBA from New York University.

John’s technical knowledge, business acumen and strong work ethic led to an extraordinary career that spanned the chemicals, plastics and energy industries. His roles included R&D, sales, marketing, licensing, finance and executive leadership. John worked for Union Carbide, Dow and SABIC, overseeing operations in North and South America, Africa, the Middle East, India and Asia. He retired as a senior vice president with Williams Energy, and he continues to consult for several businesses.

During the height of his career, John and Michele weren’t able to fit in much involvement with Stevens, but they did try to stay connected with some faculty and alumni from Castle Point. It was after he and Michele moved back to the United States that John visited campus and reignited his engagement. “I recall stepping onto campus and feeling compelled to give back because so much of what Michele and I have achieved is rooted in my Stevens education,” John said.

Michele agrees about the impact of a Stevens education. “I always admired the analytical thought process and problem-solving capabilities of a Stevens graduate,” she said. “And I’m very impressed with alumni I have met who have careers in science and technology, positively contributing to the way we all live.”

CASTLE POINT CONNECTIONS

In December, more than 200 alumni and friends toured the new Gateway Academic Center. They heard rousing speeches, dined in Corcoran Hall and welcomed this impressive new facility to Castle Point.

Michele and John increased their involvement at first by hosting gatherings for Stevens alumni and supporters at their home and by contributing to some special needs identified by the university. John's involvement has grown over time. In 2012, he became a member of the Board of Trustees and last year joined the executive committee of the Stevens Alumni Association. A hallmark of their legacy is the Michele Z. and John R. Dearborn '79 M.Eng. '81 Classroom inside the new Gateway Academic Center.

"Stevens is undoubtedly on a pathway of excellence in delivering unparalleled student outcomes," John said. "A journey to which I am delighted to contribute."

These days, Michele and John are focused on what might follow their successful careers. They enjoy spending time with their family, plus cooking, photography, travel and golf. Now that they have reached the return phase of their three-step journey, Michele and John are excited to watch a new generation of students start to learn and earn.

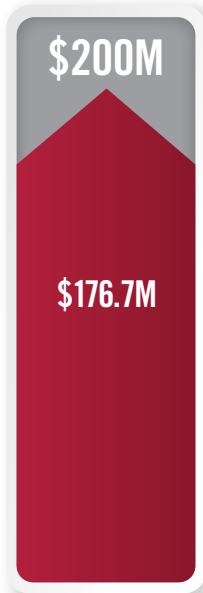
"You may not know all you need now," John imagines telling students, "but with a Stevens education you'll be able to figure it out. Find something you believe in, that you're extraordinarily passionate about, and follow that passion."





STEVENS
 INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY
 THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY®

Office of Development and Alumni Engagement
 Stevens Institute of Technology
 1 Castle Point Terrace
 Hoboken, NJ 07030



power.stevens.edu

CASTLE POINT CONNECTIONS

Launching the sesquicentennial, alumni and friends joined faculty and staff for a soiree celebrating Founder's Day in February. Inside the Samuel C. Williams Library, guests toured exhibits showcasing Stevens history, and heard visiting dignitaries read official proclamations congratulating the university on an impactful first 150 years.

