



**STEVENS**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
PER ASPERA AD ASTRA

**Minutes of the Executive Committee  
Wesley J. Howe Center  
September 14, 2015**

**In Attendance:**

Alumni: Joe Schneider '46, Ken DeGraw '57, Leo Collins '59, Bruce Boylan '63, Dick Magee '63, Tom Moschello '63, Charlie Perruzzi '63, Peter Astor '64, Joe Weber '64, Marty Valerio '68, Roger Schatel '71, Enrique Blanco '72, George Johnston '72, Richard Cornell '73, Frank Roberto '76, Mary Doddy '80, Rick Steiner '87, Joe DiPompeo '98, Dave Manhas '88, Bill Martin '89, Jim Szipszky '89, Jeffrey Capone '91, Mary Gaspar-Hillenbrand '92, James Western '05, Helen Demir '08, Keith Cassidy '09, George Blazeski '10, Victoria Blazeski '11, Tino Ivezaj '15

Staff: Melissa Fuest, Emma Hamm, Loretta Brissette, Neddie Ramadan

**Call to Order:**

SAA President Joe DiPompeo '98 called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

**Guest Speaker:**

Bob Maffia, Vice President for Facilities and Campus Operations, gave an update about various building projects taking place on campus including the Gateway Complex. He also addressed parking concerns and Stevens' sustainability initiatives.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of the June 26, 2015, meeting of the Executive Committee were approved.

*Motion: Approval of June 26, 2015, minutes. Motion made - Victoria Blazeski '11 – and seconded – Joe Weber '64; motion carried.*

**AVP Annoucement:**

Joe DiPompeo '98 began his report by announcing that Melissa Fuest has been named the Assistant Vice President for Alumni Engagement & Annual Giving and Executive Director of the Stevens Alumni Association.

Appointment of SAA Executive Secretary.

*Motion: Motion for the appointment of Melissa Fuest as SAA Executive Secretary. Motion made—Dick Magee*

*'63—and seconded—Dave Manhas '88;  
motion passed.*

### President's Report:

Joe DiPompeo '98 stated the purpose of the Association: The Stevens Alumni Association is formed to establish, maintain, and cultivate among its members a sentiment of regard for one another and of attachments to Stevens Institute of Technology, and to promote in every way the interests of the institute.

Joe first outlined the goals of the SAA: (1) Enhance Stevens' reputation as a truly world-class, student-centric research university (2) Seamless interaction and partnership between the university and the Stevens Alumni Association (3) Create a state-of-the-art alumni program to better serve our community (4) Examine the governance, policies, procedures, and volunteer opportunities in an effort to modernize, align with industry-best practices, and, most importantly, serve the needs and aspirations of the entire Stevens alumni body (5) Seek new and innovative avenues to allow for broad-based alumni interaction, taking into consideration the time constraints many of us feel in the modern world (6) Examine the current benefits we offer to alumni and explore new programs and opportunities that will support all alumni, no matter how recently or long ago they left Castle Point.

Joe then introduced the new officers: First Vice President: Victoria Velasco '04, Second Vice President: Dave Manhas '88 '90 '92, and Treasurer: Wayne Monsees '71 '78.

Joe encouraged SAA members to attend upcoming events including Homecoming and Oktoberfest on October 2-3 and the President's Distinguished Lecture Series on October 7.

### Ad Hoc Constitution Committee:

Leo Collins '59 '64, Chair of the Ad Hoc Constitution Committee, reviewed the committee's purpose and goals.

The committee organized in August to examine the SAA Constitution and Bylaws with an eye towards: (1) preserving the mission of the SAA for future generations (2) Strengthening the bond between that of the university and the association to meet our common objectives (3) Allowing for the development of best-practices for alumni engagement.

Why now? (1) More diverse alumni population (e.g., engineering, technology, business, systems, the arts, and more) (2) Evermore alumni living across the country and around the world (3) Broad base of younger alumni seeking new ways to be involved.

Key questions to be addressed: (1) Is the SAA structured/focused/organized/flexible enough to adapt to and take advantage of the new challenges and new opportunities the university faces? (2) Is the current SAA capable of attracting a broader alumni base in an effort to sustain and strengthen into the future? (3) Are we maximizing the ability to apply the collective resources available at Stevens and of the alumni to satisfy our shared objectives?

Our guiding lights: (1) The BWF consultant report (2) Experience Committee Representatives (3) Deep look at other approaches by aspirant and similar universities (4) Reviews by alumni, the university, as well as external sources.

Leo shared the list of committee members which spans all decades. Others are continuing to be added to subcommittees.

What to expect: (1) Subcommittees to address the core aspects of the Constitution and Bylaws (e.g., governance, nominations, etc.) (2) Regular reports to the SAA Executive Committee and Council (3) Multiple reviews by various constituents from the alumni and university (4) A preliminary recommendation by the end of the fiscal year (June)

Leo encouraged people to be involved by asking questions and engaging with the committee. Feedback throughout the process is welcome.

### Treasurer's Report:

Melissa Fuest updated those in attendance on the Alumni Office budget:

<b>Initial Investment</b>	<b>\$ 172,942.38</b>
<b>Thru Prior QTR - As of March 31, 2015</b>	<b>\$ 1,192.32</b>
Dividends	\$ 1,192.32
Deposits	\$ -
<b>Withdrawals</b>	
<i>Share Price Range Last QTR</i>	<i>\$61.97 - \$62.37</i>
<b>This QTR - As of June 30, 2015</b>	
Dividends	\$ 1,242.48
Deposits	\$ -
<b>Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$ (5,000.00)</b>
<i>Share Price Range</i>	<i>\$60.83 - \$62.29</i>
<b>Current Value</b>	<b>\$ 171,069.71</b>

### Committee Reports:

**Classes:** Dick Magee '63 and George Johnston '72 updated the SAA on the activities in the past and those planned for the current fiscal year. **Activities during 2014-2015:** Focused on Classes '1 and '6 (2016 reunion classes) (1) Completed Elections for 1956, 1961, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 2001, 2006, 2011 - Full Slate of Officers (President, VP, Secretary and Fund Captain) (2) Class of 1966 Reunion Efforts Underway (elections to be held at the reunion) (3) Classes 1991 and 1996 are Missing Fund Captain Nominees - Committee is working to identify candidates for these positions - Elections will be held this fall. **Activities for 2015-2016:** (1) Focus on Classes '2 and '7 (2017 reunion classes) (2) Expand Classes Committee to Six Members (each will be the liaison to 2 classes) (3) Assign Decade Representatives to Work Developing a Slate of Officers for Specific Classes (4) Begin Contacting Officers of Record in November - December 2015.

**Affinity Clubs:** Keith Cassidy '09 highlighted the key initiatives of affinity groups: (1) Enhance networking opportunities for alumni - host a minimum of two Stevens on the Street activities - first one is scheduled for October 7 immediately following the President's Distinguished Lecture Series (2) Host a minimum of five affinity student/alumni gatherings (3) Support and promote student / alumni affinity gatherings at Alumni Weekend.

**Communications:** Charlie Peruzzi '63 shared the results from a survey done this past spring: March 31, 2015: Spring 2015 Stevens Indicator Reader Survey launched - 17,832 alumni were surveyed, with 1,190 total respondents — a 6.7% response rate. Who responded: 75.4% identified themselves as undergraduate alumni and 46.6 % as graduate alumni. 31.4 % of respondents were age 50-61; 31.2% age 65 and older; 16.5% age 35-49; 17.1% age 25-34; and 3.8% under age 25. The classes of the 1980s and 1970s had the greatest response rate. Followed by the 2000s, 2010s, and 1960s.

Charlie also shared the response highlights. Response Highlights: When asked in what format they would prefer to read the magazine, 49.3% said print only, 32.1% said both print and online and 18.6% said online only. Regarding interest in new Indicator content, readers showed the most interest in shorter, quick-read articles and photo-driven stories. Overall, readers showed the least interest in advertisements. Regarding interest in current Indicator content, respondents showed the greatest interest (very interested or interested) in reading about: (1) New technologies, with a Stevens connection (2) Scientific discovery, with Stevens connection (3) University accomplishments and recognitions (4) Class Logs (5) Campus facilities and growth, and energy, with a Stevens connection. Overall satisfaction with the magazine is very good. (More than 70%)

**Scholarship:** Marty Valerio '68 reported that there were 26 who submitted applications for the SAA Legacy Term Scholarship. 10 scholarships will be awarded at a ceremony taking place during the November 9, Stevens Alumni Association Meeting.

### Interim Executive Director's Report:

Melissa Fuest highlighted the FY15 achievements: (1) 18% alumni participation (up 10.4%); (2) Increase in GOLD Participation (up 25.5%); (3) Increase in Student Giving (up 116%); (4) Increase in Alumni Weekend Attendance (up 18%); (5) Competed Budget Organization; (6) Approved and hired for new position.

Melissa also shared the FY16 Initiatives: (1) 19% Undergraduate Alumni Participation (500 GOLD Donors); (2) 450 Graduate Donors; (3) 635 Edwin A. Stevens Society Donors; (4) Launch Loyalty Society; (5) 1,540 Alumni Participants ~50% make a gift; (6) Develop multiple "micro-volunteer" opportunities in partnership with other campus departments; (7) Increase networking engagement opportunities - Stevens on the Street, ExxonMobil (and other corporations), Office of Innovation and entrepreneurship.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and was passed unanimously.

*Motion: To adjourn the meeting.  
Motion made and seconded; motion carried.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Monday November 9, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Fuest  
Assistant Vice President for Alumni Engagement & Annual Giving  
and Executive Director of the Stevens Alumni Association