

Celebrating 50 years of undergraduate women at Stevens



# Stevens SOCIETYPAGES

### **Letter from Leadership**

Dear Society Members.

I am thrilled to introduce this issue commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first women to enroll as Stevens



undergraduates in 1971. Through this special issue, you will see the presence of women at Stevens today is palpable and powerful.

Women fill leadership roles in student clubs, the faculty, the executive cabinet, and the Board of Trustees. We aspire to expand opportunities for women, and with resources like the Lore-EI Center for Women's Leadership and the willingness of alumnae to mentor the next generation, we are optimistic about the future.

Women also have a presence in *The Power of Stevens*, such as the leaders who are featured in this issue. If you have made a gift during the campaign – thank you! Please encourage your friends so they can add their names to this historic endeavor before it ends on June 30.

We hope to welcome alumni and friends back to Castle Point in the coming months. We have much to celebrate, including the campaign, the University Center Complex, and amazing women who blazed a trail for the ones leading the way today.

Sincerely

### Laura Lacchia Rose

Vice President, Development and Alumni Engagement

## **Legacy Reflections**

Vera Isgro Tice '82 remembers her first year of college in the late 1970s. Stevens had a good reputation, and the manicured lawns of Castle Point contrasted from gritty Hoboken. But only a few of her classmates were women.

Nevertheless, Vera formed bonds, studied hard, and met her future husband, Bill '81. "For much of my career, women in engineering have been the minority," Vera said. "The collegial environment at Stevens prepared me for the challenges I faced as I navigated being one of only a handful of women in R&D engineering, eventually moving into leadership and executive positions." Vera and Bill recently planned a gift and became members of the Stevens Legacy Society.



Bill '81 and Vera Isgro Tice '82

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My B.E. in electrical/computer engineering propelled me to an exciting and fulfilling career in healthcare technology innovation," Vera said. "I encourage you to think about what Stevens has brought to your life and consider joining the Stevens Legacy Society with a planned gift."

### **Legacy Groundbreakers**



The <u>University Center Complex</u> is scheduled to be completed next spring.

Spaces are filling up fast in the Stevens 150 Legacy Challenge! So far, members of the classes of 1965, 1966, 1967, 1971 and 1974 have made planned gifts with matching dollars to become "Groundbreakers" supporting the University Center Complex.

These members of the Stevens Legacy Society became Groundbreakers simply by documenting their planned gift for Stevens. There are still some matching dollars available for individuals who want to participate before the challenge is set to end on June 30. Visit the <u>Stevens 150 Legacy Challenge</u> page to learn more!





The <u>Gear Society</u> celebrates alumni who give at any level to Stevens year after year. Through their loyalty, Gear Society members are to Stevens what gears are to machines: they generate power.



Named for the university's co-founder, <u>Edwin A. Stevens</u>, the EAS Society is the annual gift club for alumni and friends who provide leadership-level support to Stevens. Members wear their lapel pin showing the famed Stevens family locomotive.



The six <u>Lifetime Giving Societies</u> (LGS) honor alumni and friends whose total lifetime giving to Stevens tops \$100,000, a special group of people who transform Stevens with their generosity. LGS members reach new levels as they increase their giving during their lifetime.



Just like Edwin's enduring gift, members of the <u>Stevens Legacy Society</u> have planned gifts for the university in their financial or estate plans, ensuring their legacy will have an impact far into the future.

# A Powerful Presence

Stevens women have come far since the trailblazing first undergraduate class

Fifty years after a handful of women blazed a new path to Castle Point, many more women are leading the way now as proud alumnae and members of the <u>Edwin A. Stevens Society</u>.

Dawn Ortell '77 came to Stevens two years after that first cohort and enjoyed a diverse career in chemical engineering, investment banking and women's healthcare. She has been an EAS Society member for more than 20 years, and she has served as a guest judge during the Ansary Entrepreneurship Competition at the Innovation Expo.



"Giving back is part of who I am," Dawn said.
"Only now, I can do so with charitable donations in addition to good works. Due to the great education I received, I had a wonderful career that enabled me to live a life that I could never have dreamed of. My desire is

to help the next generation with their education so they too can have amazing careers and give back to their communities in the future."

Isabel Espina '87 feels the same. She is a vice president at WorkMarket, a company within ADP, one of the largest providers of human resource services. In addition to her membership in the EAS Society, Isabel serves on the advisory board of the Charles V. Schaefer, Jr. School of Engineering and Science.

"A Stevens education has been the cornerstone to my successful career in technology," Isabel said. "I am excited by Stevens' mission and want to give back in every way I can to ensure the success of future generations as innovators and disruptors."

Support from women like
Dawn and Isabel has shaped
Stevens for recent graduates
like Lauren Brown '19.
Lauren graduated from the
School of Business and now
works for UBS, specializing
in information security. She
is a member of the young
alumni council at the School
of Business, and one of the
youngest members of the EAS
Society.

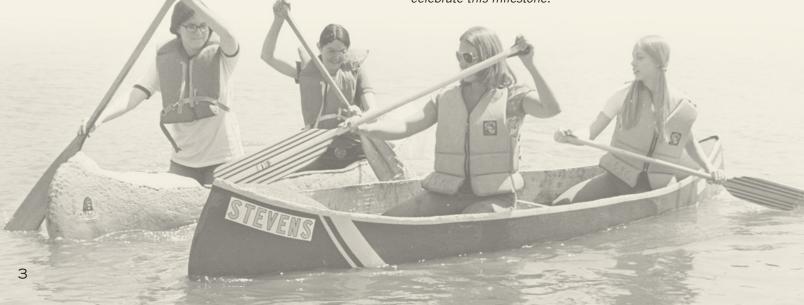


"When I reflect on my time at Stevens," Lauren said, "I cherish the memories of meaningful relationships I have made, my experiences, the lessons I learned, and the professors who have had an influence on my personal and professional life. I give back to Stevens with gratitude."



Learn more of the proud history of Stevens women by bookmarking the <u>Women</u> at Stevens website. Read alumnae stories and share

your own, and stay tuned to the calendar for events that celebrate this milestone.



# Gina M. Addeo '86 Lecture Hall

In 2019, Gina Addeo '86 toured the classroom she established inside the new Gateway Academic Center.

# A Lifetime of Impact

### Gina Addeo is one of the most generous donors in Stevens history

Before she attended Stevens, Gina Addeo '86 learned how power flows by helping her family's electrical contracting company, ADCO.

"I was lucky," Gina recalls. "I always liked math and science, and my family owned an electrical company, so it was a natural progression for me to study electrical engineering."

In the Phi Sigma Sigma house, she found camaraderie and teamwork. "The night before a test, we were up all night trying to figure out the questions. We always pitched in together."

Gina has been a pioneer for women in the building trades. She became the first woman to earn a master electrician's license in New York City and the first female president of the New York chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association. She chairs the board at ADCO and is president and owner of her own firm, GMA Electrical.

Throughout her career, Gina has facilitated power in buildings across the five boroughs and beyond. Now, she is creating a new kind of spark by supporting *The Power of Stevens* campaign.

Earlier in the campaign, she established the Gina M. Addeo '86 Lecture Hall in the Gateway Academic Center. In 2021, Gina furthered her legacy by establishing the Gina Addeo '86 Commons East inside the University Center Complex, set to open in 2022. Adjacent to the main entrance, this large space will offer dining and lounge seating plus striking views of Manhattan for thousands to enjoy.

Gina's gifts for Castle Point, as well as many other gifts she has made annually, place her within the Kenneth W. DeBaun '49 Society of the Lifetime Giving Societies. She is in rare company among roughly three dozen donors in all of Stevens history.

Gina sums up her Stevens experience as giving her a lifetime calling card. "In my career, if I told people I was from Stevens, they expected a good result, like they knew I had already proved myself. When people hear Stevens, they put faith in you."

To learn more about supporting the University Center Complex, contact Sarah Wells at sarah.wells@stevens.edu or 201-216-8295.



This rendering shows all the activity that will happen throughout the Gina Addeo '86 Commons East after the University Center Complex is completed next spring.

# STEVENS GOAL DAY OF GIVING 2021

# One Stevens. One Goal.

### Day of Giving '21 was a smashing success

This year, Day of Giving was such an extravaganza, it took up two boxes on the calendar.

More than 1,000 alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students made gifts from noon on April 21 to 11:59pm on April 22, tripling the goal of 300 donors and raising \$575,000. The theme this year was *One Stevens. One Goal.*, echoing *The Power of Stevens* campaign tagline, *Our Campaign. Our Impact.* 



As part of the senior week committee, Lauren Sciano '21 helped promote Day of Giving on social media.

On the Day of Giving website, visitors found a counter for the number of contributors and dollars raised, a map showing where donors live in the world, stories of impact, and a virtual wall where donors could share their reasons for participating.

There were matching challenges, where a small number of alumni and friends offered additional funds to inspire others. The biggest, the One Stevens challenge, had a pool of \$150,000 to match every gift dollar-for-dollar up to \$150. Other challenges raised support for the STEP (Stevens

Technical Enrichment Program), Stevens Dramatic Society scholarships, and the summer pre-college program.

With her fellow trustees Frank Semcer '65 and Tom Corcoran '67, Lisa Mascolo '82 co-funded the One Stevens challenge. "The world needs thoughtful, intentional leaders of diverse backgrounds who understand how to harness the power of technology for good," Lisa said about her inspiration for funding the challenge. "Stevens is committed to educating and developing these leaders, and I am committed to helping Stevens."

Dozens of individuals volunteered to be official Day of Giving champions for engaging their classmates and friends. Each champion received a tool kit, including T-shirts, and several champions shared pictures on social media.

Donors could give to nearly every area of the university, including scholarships, athletics, the arts, study abroad, the Samuel C. Williams Library, the Lore-El Center for Women's Leadership, the four academic colleges, the Stevens Fund, the Stevens Rises Relief Fund and more.



Lisa Mascolo '82

By participating in Day of Giving, many alumni renewed their membership in the <u>Gear Society</u>, and several made leadership gifts to renew membership in or join the Edwin A. Stevens Society.

Day of Giving '21 will have a far-reaching impact on Stevens ahead of the next academic year. Then, stay tuned for '22 – only some 300 calendar boxes to mark before the next Day of Giving!

Did you miss joining in the Day of Giving, or are you looking to make your final gift to The Power of Stevens campaign? Not to worry! There is still time to add to your impact by visiting <a href="stevens.edu/makeagift">stevens.edu/makeagift</a> and selecting a priority most meaningful to you.



President Farvardin joined the Development and Alumni Engagement team for a virtual pep rally on Day of Giving.

# A Campaign for the Ages

The Power of Stevens campaign will conclude on June 30. Thank you to all the alumni and friends who have come together to push toward the \$200 million goal! See stories about the campaign's widespread impact at power.stevens.edu.

There is still time, and a need, for individuals to add their names to this transformational endeavor and contribute toward the goal. If you have already made your campaign gift, please check with your classmates and friends and encourage them to join you.

The Power of Stevens campaign is the largest in Stevens history – and is powering the university's shining future!

The campaign had a public launch in 2016 with a dazzling display.



### Thank you for being a member of the Stevens societies!

We want to hear from you! Please contact the liaisons below to learn more or to find out ways you can get involved.



### **GEAR SOCIETY**

Matt Gwin
matthew.gwin@stevens.edu
201-216-3346

"Alumni from all walks of life can join the Gear Society. By giving every year, these members are making contributions to provide today's students a Stevens experience."



### **EDWIN A. STEVENS SOCIETY**

Jennifer Wasser jennifer.wasser@stevens.edu 201-341-2710

"I enjoy working with EAS Society Chairs Maria Ramirez-Gonzalez '89 and Seth Kirschner '18 to create opportunities for enriching connections among EAS members and Stevens."



### LIFETIME GIVING SOCIETIES

Ann Leporati
ann.leporati@stevens.edu
201-216-3665

"As the new steward of the Lifetime Giving Societies, I am excited to continue building relationships with Stevens' most extraordinary donors."



### STEVENS LEGACY SOCIETY

Michael Governor michael.governor@stevens.edu 201-216-8967

"The Stevens Legacy Society is comprised of people with profound connections to Stevens. The generosity of these alumni and friends, as well as their connections, endures far into the future."