

THE POWER OF STEVENS

OUR CAMPAIGN. OUR IMPACT.

CAMPAIGN NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS - WINTER 2019



Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am pleased to be writing to you as a proud alumnus, the chair of the Alumni and Development Committee of the Board of Trustees, and now as a co-chair of *The Power of Stevens* campaign.

As my fellow co-chairs Larry Babbio '66 and Sean Hanlon '80 would agree, the campaign is brimming with momentum toward its target of \$200 million during our sesquicentennial in 2020-21. Having passed \$170 million, we are well-positioned to reach our goal over the next two years. Additionally, we are pleased to report that our alumni participation rate, a strong indicator of alumni engagement, is more than one full point ahead of this time last year.

This issue has a two-page spread on our ambitious campus priority for the future: the University Center and Residence Halls, which will relocate nearly 1,000 students back to campus housing, where they can enjoy a true on-campus Castle Point experience. The University Center will add the amenities and activity spaces commensurate with a first-rate campus, benefitting students, faculty, alumni, and visitors. Of course, this is a critical element in our pursuit of student success, which you can read more about inside this issue.

I am also happy this issue introduces our new vice president for development and alumni engagement, Jennifer A. McDonough. Jennifer looks forward to meeting you at upcoming visits and events this spring. In the meantime, please enjoy our feature sharing more on her background and outlook on her new post on page 8. Jennifer's predecessor, Brodie Remington, deserves boundless credit for the campaign success to date and leading the development and alumni engagement team. We wish him and his wife, Sapienza, many years of good health and happiness in retirement.

The spring semester has begun, and our eager students have returned to class. Before we know it, the trees will bloom again across campus. Thank you for supporting the campaign and for making Castle Point come alive.

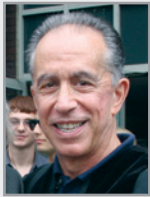

Per aspera ad astra,

John R. Dearborn '79 M.Eng. '81

ABOVE LEFT: A familiar spring scene along Wittpenn Walk.

ABOVE RIGHT: Arts supporter Joe Schneider '46, here with David Zimmerman '90 and Barbara Carames '03 M.S. '08, was honored at the 20th anniversary party for the *DeBaun Auditorium*.

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Brothers Saumil '91 (pictured) and Sachin Shah '89 succeeded after Stevens.

Succeeding in Stocks, Solar Boating, and Outer Space

Stevens students cross a threshold when they begin applying what they've learned in class toward a special goal, such as their senior design project or a collegiate competition. In three interesting projects this year – a soaring rocket ship, a sleek solar boat, and a celebrity stock-picking contest – talented students are blending faculty guidance, first-rate facilities, pivotal philanthropy, and their own ingenuity to showcase their skills and bring trophies home to Castle Point.

BIZ PICKINGS

Early in February, a student team finished in third-place in the 2018-19 CNBC Stock Draft, an annual, nine-month contest sponsored by the cable business network. Coinciding with the NFL's player draft in April, eight participants each picked three real-world stocks, with the goal of having the highest-rising portfolio by percentage on February 3, 2019, the date of Super Bowl LIII. Stevens was the only student team involved, pitted against former football players Eric Dickerson and Nick Lowery, Kevin O'Leary of *Shark Tank*, entrepreneur



Among Class of 2018 graduates who earned a degree in finance, 100% of those who stayed in the United States found a relevant job within six months, and at an average starting salary of \$74,200.



The Stevens team with Attila the Duck in the CNBC newsroom. From left: Madison Bertscha, Jim Doran, Madison Pasterchick, Daniel Aversano, Peyton Rieser, and Laura Murphy.

and television personality Bethenny Frankel, and other veteran investors.

During the televised draft, the Stevens team – Daniel Aversano '19, Madison Bertscha '20, Jim Doran '19, Laura Murphy '20, Madison Pasterchick '20, and Peyton Rieser '20 – picked Facebook with the first overall pick, followed by Disney and Sage Therapeutics in the second and third rounds. By the end of the competition, Lowery, a longtime kicker for the Kansas City Chiefs, won after picking Amazon, Goldman Sachs, and Advanced Micro Devices.

For Team Stevens, though Facebook was a bust given the tech company's data and privacy scandals, Disney compensated with a strong performance due to its new streaming service.

"All the stocks that were on the board were pretty stable companies," Bertscha said. "I think what we saw with Facebook, especially, was an opportunity for either a big turnaround,

positive or negative. Unfortunately, it was a negative one."

All six students are enrolled in the School of Business and have spent productive hours learning inside the Hanlon Financial Systems Center. They are all also involved in the SMIF (Student Managed Investment Fund), where they invest a donor-supported fund (currently valued at more than \$400,000) of the Stevens endowment in real stocks.

"With SMIF, we're always looking at new stocks to incorporate in our fund, and we know what to look for in a good selection," Murphy said. "We hear all these great pitches, which gives us a lot of perspective as we consider new investment ideas."

With so much practice, the students were naturals on camera. Aversano, Doran, and Murphy each said their participation in the stock draft came up during job interviews. Aversano has accepted a position as a fixed income analyst with PGIM, and Doran will work for Deutsche Bank.

Murphy is still looking for a job, though she has noted being noticed. “I walked into one interview, and the manager said, ‘Wow, I recognize you!’”

MAKING A SPLASH

Meanwhile, afloat on the Hudson, another team is using Stevens thinking to innovate and compete. Five seniors – Matthew Colacino '19, Tori Davis '19, Megan Hand '19, Justin Sitler '19, and Melanie Valentin '19, all mechanical engineering majors – are [designing a boat for the 2019 Solar Splash](#), an intercollegiate solar and electric boat regatta. They are following successful Stevens entries that won the Innovation Award in 2018 and the Outstanding Hull Design and Outstanding Rookie Team awards in 2017.

“The team two years ago started without any experience and ended up ready to compete,” said Michael DeLorme, a senior research associate at the Davidson Laboratory and the team’s faculty advisor. “Last year’s team carried that momentum, and the students this year are a talented group. They want to win the competition, and I’m confident in them.”



At the 2019 Solar Splash, Stevens will compete against Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, Columbia, and other schools.

There are two aspects to the competition: speed and endurance. The team is focusing on designing a propulsion system strong enough to generate 18 or 19 horsepower, with a related goal of reducing the boat’s weight.

“I’ve learned a lot of technical skills,” Sitler said. “Things like how to size motors for a required load, the relationship between the electrical and mechanical systems, and of course all of the calculations and theory behind naval design.”

The team is making extensive use of the historic Davidson Lab, which in addition to providing a first-rate testing tank, should inspire the students by evoking the proud Stevens legacy in maritime engineering. They have also gotten advice from members of the previous two teams.

“We have such a short timeframe to complete such a large project that there’s no time to slow down,” Davis said. “We’re managing so many intertwined tasks that rely on dedication from every single team member. This project has taught me how it feels to be part of a team that takes pride in its work and is determined to be successful.”

The 2019 Solar Splash will take place June 11-15 near Dayton, Ohio. As the students continue their design work, they will look to raise an estimated \$20,000 for materials and travel, and they are planning a crowdfunding campaign during the spring. →



From left to right: Tori Davis, Melanie Valentin, Matthew Colacino, Justin Sitler, and Megan Hand.



From left to right: Monica Traupmann, William Skwirut, Abraham Edens, Faris Ibrahim, Dakota Van Deursen, Nathan Tahbaz, Ben Iofel, and Thomas Flaherty.

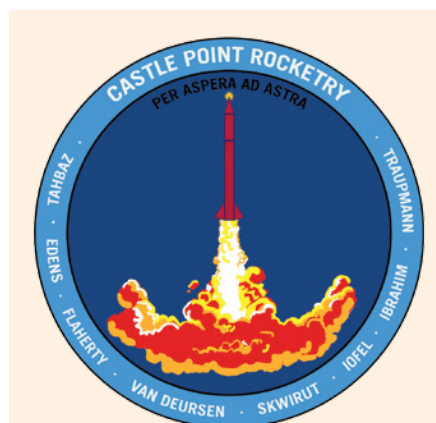
ROCKETING TO THE TOP

While their peers are competing on the trading floor and across the water, yet another savvy student team is aiming on breaking ground in outer space.

The eight-person, interdisciplinary **Castle Point Rocketry** team – Abraham Edens '19, Thomas Flaherty '19, Faris Ibrahim '19, Benjamin Iofel '19, William Skwirut '19, Nathan Tahbaz '19, Monica Traupmann '19, and Dakota Van Deursen '19 – is one of several collegiate teams around the world working on projects to surpass the Karman Line, an imaginary line 100 kilometers from the Earth's surface that is considered the boundary between the planet's atmosphere and outer space. A team from the University of Southern California achieved the current collegiate altitude record of 43.9km in 2017.

Though the competition to reach the Karman Line is informal, the results could be historic.

“We’re all passionate about spaceflight and believe that the future of accessible space travel is within reach,” said Traupmann. “By leveraging existing technologies to drive down production costs and simplify construction, we can show



Just like the pros at NASA, Castle Point Rocketry has a mission patch.

that space is attainable to universities on a rapid and affordable platform.”

The team is building a 15-foot carbon fiber and aluminum rocket capable of putting an 8-kilogram payload into space. The proposed rocket will include a 3D-printed, Inconel-718 engine and injector, designed by the team, as well as a pressure-fed propulsion system. The rocket is also designed to be recoverable through a drogue-chute and parachute system that should allow a relatively safe descent to earth.

The team also found a final testing site with a fitting name: Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. They will attempt to reach the Karman Line, named for the Hungarian-American physicist Theodore von Karman, on June 19, 2019.

The team has estimated it will cost \$100,000 to research and design their rocket and another \$100,000 to build it. So far, they have raised more than \$130,000, including over \$30,000 from some 400 individual donors, and the rest from industry sponsors such as Northrop Grumman, L3, and Aerojet Rocketdyne. President Farvardin, members of the Board of Trustees, and numerous others from the community are excited supporters of this record-breaking project.

“I think it’s a neat idea,” said Joe Weber '64. “The experience from working on a project like this is why Stevens alumni value their education.”

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To learn more about supporting these and other student projects, contact the Office of Development at development@stevens.edu.

Heffes Passes Torch Through Scholarship

After a long career at the famed Bell Labs, the late Harry Heffes came to Stevens to teach. He did that and much more, including mentoring generations of students, earning admiration from his colleagues, and inspiring an endowed scholarship.

As his fellow professor Kevin Ryan remembers, Heffes entered academia with a sense of duty. “He told me he had a desire to pass on what he knew to the next generation,” Ryan said. “It’s like the torchbearer statue on our campus – Harry felt it was his turn.”

Heffes was born in 1939 and grew up in Brooklyn, and though the Dodgers ruled his borough, young Harry was ambitious and rooted for the better Yankees. He graduated from New York’s City College and earned a doctorate from New York University. He worked at Bell for 28 years, including to develop technology for NASA’s Apollo program. He was an

expert in queuing theory and VoIP networks, and he was elected as a lifetime fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Ryan met Heffes in 1986 when he was a doctoral student and Heffes led the Electrical and Computer Engineering department. “I had asked him to be my dissertation advisor,” Ryan said. “Our relationship started as professor-student, then advisor-student, and then we became friends.”

Ryan, who now teaches at Stevens in the School of Business, watched how Heffes connected in the classroom. “Harry cared for his students, and his students cared for him. He had a lot of charisma, and he was very dedicated to teaching. He was demanding, but fair.”

Heffes, who received the Outstanding Teacher Award in 2007 and 2012, was proud of Stevens. Ryan recalls him during an academic conference describing Stevens to a colleague as



Here is Harry Heffes, receiving one of his two teaching awards with Anita Lang, the retired longtime executive director of the Stevens Alumni Association.

a small, technology-centric school in the Northeast that is dedicated to student success. “Harry felt that Stevens was a place where, if a student came here and wanted to work, they were surrounded with the people and resources to make that happen.”

After he passed away in 2016 at age 77, Heffes’ family cemented his legacy by establishing the Professor Harry Heffes Endowed Scholarship.

“This scholarship is an enduring legacy his family is passing on,” Ryan said. “I know Harry would be deeply touched. It’s an acknowledgement of how much Stevens meant to him, and how important it was for him to pass the torch.”

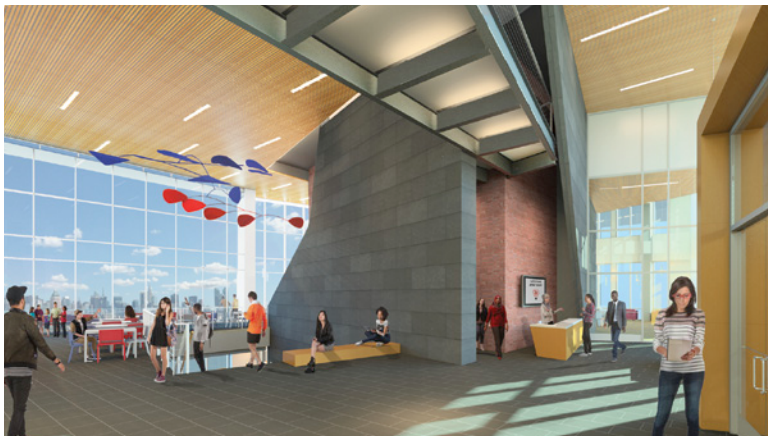


In 2017, Kevin Ryan Ph.D. '96 received his second Alexander Crombie Humphreys Distinguished Teaching Award.

A vibrant campus priority

UNIVERSITY CENTER AND RESIDENCE HALLS

The planned University Center and Residence Halls, projected to open in 2021, will make Stevens feel and function larger than its boundaries suggest, rejuvenating Castle Point into a modern campus for students.



THE UNIVERSITY CENTER

The University Center will become the heart of campus life, with a diverse and versatile interior offering upgraded spaces for student groups, plus new venues for conferences, alumni reunions, and other events.

Planned amenities include a fitness center, movement studio, game room, broadcast studio, convenience store, diverse restaurants, an upscale dining space, and much more.

THE RESIDENCE HALLS

Currently, hundreds of students live in university-leased housing throughout Hoboken. Relocating these students on campus will save them time for studying, bonding, and pursuing extracurricular opportunities. Plus, living at Castle Point, and waking up daily to inspiring skyline views, will give students a memorable experience and foster stronger ties to their alma mater.



One residence hall will be named in honor of Richard F. Harries '58, who in 2018 committed the largest bequest in Stevens history.

GOING GREEN

With a featured plaza, plus several patios and terraces, the University Center will create outdoor spaces for events and other networking and socializing opportunities.

Built with healthy materials for better indoor air quality, the buildings will feature green roofs and rain gardens for stormwater management, plus renewable energy choices for a carbon-offset footprint.



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

The University Center and Residence Halls will be the largest and most ambitious building project in Stevens history. Every dollar contributed will enable the university to invest more in enhancing the student experience.

Donors who invest in this transformational project are energized by the future of Stevens as are the many alumni, friends, corporations, and foundations generously supporting scholarships, faculty excellence, research, and other capital projects.

STAY TUNED

We'll keep you updated on this transformational project in future issues of *The Power of Stevens* campaign newsletter and other university communications.



Meet the New Vice President



Jennifer A. McDonough brings more than 35 years of fundraising and alumni relations experience incorporating strategic consulting work across the country and two prior vice president positions.

WHAT WERE YOUR PRIMARY REASONS FOR SEEKING THIS LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENT AT STEVENS?

First and foremost was the university's mission, one which has endured for nearly 150 years and is as relevant and consequential today as it was in 1870. Additionally, I was captivated by its aspirations, upward trajectory evidenced by its record of many significant and quantifiable achievements, and the opportunity to work for and with a dynamic and highly accomplished president as well as with an expansive and diverse team of very committed and talented internal and volunteer leaders.

WHAT UNIVERSITY PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS INTEREST YOU?

It is really the comprehensive scope of the university's vision as codified in the current strategic plan, *The Future. Ours to Create.*, "charting a course for Stevens to become a premier, student-centric, technological

research university" and the related campaign priorities supporting student success, faculty excellence, and a vibrant campus. And, as stated by President Farvardin in the Strategic Plan Midpoint Update, "focus and discipline to our long-standing, core emphasis on STEM fields, areas that became increasingly recognized by society as integral to a better future both for our country and for graduates."

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED SO FAR OF STEVENS HISTORY THAT INTERESTS YOU?

It is evident that the university's distinguished past is replete with many noteworthy accomplishments. It is the personification of these accomplishments by the university's more than 40,000 dedicated alumni working across diverse fields and generations and representing extraordinary knowledge, innovation, impact, and leadership that is

equivalently compelling. Additionally, I resonate both professionally and personally with the university's motto, *Per aspera ad astra*, "through adversity to the stars."

OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICE, WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?

In all sincerity, I am looking forward to the many opportunities this position will afford to learn more about engineering and science, systems thinking, business, and the humanities through purposeful engagement with the university's deans, faculty, and students within its distinguished schools and college as well as its myriad research endeavors addressing society's most pressing challenges. On a more personal level, I am an arts enthusiast and am looking forward to the short ferry ride into Manhattan to enjoy one of the best environments in the world for the visual and performing arts!

Please join us

STEVENS AWARDS

Gala

Saturday
April 6, 2019

The Plaza Hotel
New York, NY

To learn more about this year's honorees, please visit stevens.edu/awardsgala

A Tale of Two Charlies

Some years ago, Charles “Chuck” Rusowicz ’69 was a promising student working his way through school when some unfortunate events led to him losing his job, having to spend weeks in a hospital, and worrying about whether he could stay enrolled and complete his degree. But the support he received from the Stevens community put him back on track, and in gratitude, he is now giving back.

During the winter of his sophomore year, Rusowicz was held up and severely injured at his night-job at a gas station, forcing him to endure an arduous rehab, and to face mounting tuition and medical bills, all while falling behind on his classwork. Fortunately though, Rusowicz found help from another Charles.

“My ability to continue at Stevens was fading,” Rusowicz said. “Dean Charles Perruzzi came to the rescue by providing me with a scholarship and student loan to cover my remaining undergraduate years.”

Perruzzi, who graduated from Stevens in 1963, was then the dean of student life (or in those days, “the dean of men”).

Rusowicz’s professors and classmates also helped him catch up on his coursework during his recovery. And, he was able to get a new job with physics professor George Yevick, which started as a summer internship on a nuclear fusion experiments project, titled Project Chalice, and extended into a graduate research position, which enabled Rusowicz to earn a master’s degree in electrical engineering in 1971.

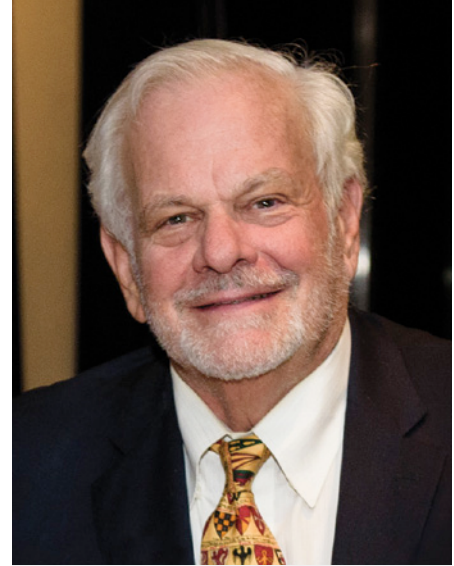


As a commuter student, Chuck Rusowicz was greeted every morning by the aroma of Maxwell House coffee, the challenge of Hoboken’s alternate-side parking, and a great view of New York City, where he witnessed the 1965 NYC blackout years before he applied for a job at Con Edison.

“Working as a recently graduated engineer with a group of young physicists on Project Chalice is reminiscent of *The Big Bang Theory* television show,” Rusowicz said. “Professor Yevick, or ‘Jumping George’ as we students knew him, was just as enthusiastic and energetic back at Project Chalice as he was when he was ‘on stage’ during his lectures.”

After Stevens, Rusowicz built a successful career at Con Edison. Now retired, he and his wife, Janet, recently established a term scholarship to help students who may be facing situations that could cause them to drop out. The scholarship is named in recognition of Perruzzi, and with a preference for physics students, in honor of Professor Yevick.

“If it were not for these two fine men,” Rusowicz said, “my wife and I would



Charlie Perruzzi ’63 M.S. ’66, still a presence at Castle Point events, helped many students during his time as a dean. He was also instrumental in creating the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program (STEP) for students from underserved backgrounds.

never have our present quality of life. Stevens doesn’t just educate its students, it is a moral supporter of its extended family.”

■ ■ ■

The gift from Charles and Janet Rusowicz matches the goal of the recently-created Impact Assistance Scholarship Fund, which supports students at risk of losing their enrollment due to illness, family tragedy, financial loss, or other setback. For more information on contributing to this fund, please email the Office of Development at development@stevens.edu.

Donor Spotlight

SACHIN N. SHAH '89 M.S. '93 SAUMIL N. SHAH '91 MTM '00 MBA '08

The Shah brothers – Sachin '89 and Saumil '91 – have learned a lot over the years, from their industrious parents, each other, and their alma mater. And now they're teaching what they know to a new generation of the family finding their way at Stevens.

The brothers were born in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, in northwest India, and moved to the United States during the early 1970s. Having settled first in Jersey City and then North Bergen, the brothers' father, Niranjan, worked foremost as a pharmacist, and their mother, Vilas, a lawyer in India, built a new career in IT.

"Our dad worked multiple jobs," Saumil said. "Our mom worked several jobs, and then she went to night school. My brother and I grew up learning from the focus and dedication our parents had, of immigrants doing whatever was necessary."

"Another important thing," Sachin added, "is that our parents had a mutual admiration for each other. There was never a second guess of mom working and being an equal in the household."

The brothers were sons of immigrants yet grew up as typical American kids do, playing a lot of sports. Sachin was adept at math and science, and his parents suggested he apply to Stevens since it had a good reputation and he could save money commuting. But he didn't need pushing. "I applied early decision and worked hard to make it happen," Sachin said. "I was accepted early, and so I never applied to any other school."



Sachin and Saumil Shah visited campus to move in Saumil's daughter, Serena '21.

Sachin majored in electrical engineering and played baseball all four years. "At Stevens there's a concept of continuous improvement," Sachin said about what he learned on campus. "In engineering you're building a bridge or you're building a computer, but you're always looking to build the next best bridge, or the next bigger bridge, or the next faster computer. You're never done, so chuck it, solve it, fix it, and move on to the next thing. I think that's a lifelong skill and really important."

Saumil arrived at Stevens two years later, partly based on his brother's strong recommendation. He too majored in electrical engineering, and he played lacrosse, was a brother in Delta Tau Delta, and served as president of Khoda and the Student Council.

He also learned similar thinking skills. "Exceptional would be an

understatement," Saumil said of his time at Stevens. "The curriculum is so challenging here that you're not going to ace everything, but if you think about your ability to stumble, yet not completely fail, it builds confidence. Another thing, because Stevens is a small campus, you get to know a lot of people, so you also develop socially and develop leadership skills. There are many different opportunities in a small community to contribute in multiple ways."

Since graduating, the Shah brothers have built successful careers. Saumil, who earned a master's in technology management in 2000 and an MBA in 2008 from Stevens, previously served as a Stevens young alumni trustee and is now based in Milwaukee as the director of global business development for Rockwell Automation. Sachin, who also earned a graduate degree in technology management from Stevens in 1993, is the CEO of AIG's business in the Asia Pacific region. In 2018, at the fifth annual Stevens Awards Gala, Sachin received the International Achievement Award, and is a current member of the School of Business Board of Advisors.

Though the brothers live continents apart, they are still close. "We know each other well, back to coming to this country," Saumil said. "It was the four of us, and with our parents working multiple jobs, our mom doing night school plus working, it was my brother and me, and so he and I became very close."

Sachin has always admired Saumil's friendliness. "There was a lot to learn

around him with social skills and his ability to talk to anybody, to approach anybody. I do that a thousand times better today than I did, and a lot of that is really from watching him.”

“I admire his intelligence,” Saumil responded. “His resilience, his open mindedness. Probably the biggest thing that’s impacted me in my life is his constant confidence in me. His constant confidence in who I was, and even to this day, his constant reinforcement of who I can be.”

Both Sachin and Saumil have families, and their parents, now retired and living in Florida, often visit their sons and grandchildren. All three generations are close, and the brothers are teaching their kids what they learned from their parents.

“We continue to have high expectations,” Saumil said. “A strong work ethic is a clear expectation. That hasn’t changed from my parents to the way I raise my kids. I’m sure my brother echoes that as well.”

“Yes,” Sachin agreed. “You have no right to ask for luck if you’re not willing to work hard. If you’re willing to work hard, there’s a chance you’ll get good luck. That’s been instilled by both of our parents, and we’re hitting our kids with it constantly.”

The lessons are sticking. Saumil’s daughter Serena enrolled at Stevens in 2017, and she is majoring in Business & Technology and played on the soccer team her freshman year.

“My first year at Stevens went well,” Serena said. “The transition to college was challenging, but I was blessed



Sachin, pictured here with his parents, his daughter Avika, his niece Serena and Saumil's wife Aparna, described his 2018 International Achievement Award as “equally a recognition of my family and of Stevens, and how these two things shaped my life and career.”

to be supported and surrounded by wonderful teammates and coaches, and good friends. From my experience already, I am confident that the life lessons I learn as a student and athlete at Stevens will prepare me for my future.”

“I’m excited for my daughter,” said Saumil, who volunteers on the Parents Council. “If she has 25% of the experience I had at Stevens, I couldn’t be more ecstatic. I love that she’s building a technology foundation but can focus on finance. And I’ve encouraged her to take advantage of the facilities, the professors, and all the access she’ll have through the Hanlon lab. The investment and development I’ve seen in the business curriculum is exciting for me, as an alum and now as the parent of a student.”

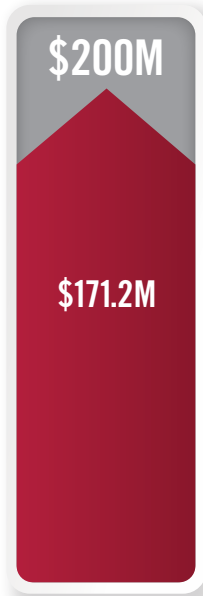
Serena is now joined by her cousin, Sachin’s son Jaisal ’22, who like his father got accepted on an early decision and is now studying Business & Technology.

“I’m proud of my son and happy he is attending Stevens,” said Sachin, who also is a member of the Parents Council. “Not many schools can claim what Stevens has in location and history. The campus was always wonderful, but now with all of the capital improvements, compared to a lot of other schools that might be three or four thousand students, Stevens punches above its weight.”



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THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY®

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



power.stevens.edu

CASTLE POINT CONNECTIONS

STEP celebrates the Big 5-0! Alumni who participated in the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program say it was critical in helping them master challenging courses and embrace the Castle Point experience. Last fall, **STEP alumni gathered** to honor the program founded in 1968, and to celebrate their shared efforts in endowing the STEP scholarship.

