

# THE POWER OF STEVENS

## OUR CAMPAIGN. OUR IMPACT.

CAMPAIGN NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS – FALL 2017



Dear alumni and friends,

The 2017-18 academic year has begun.

Right now at Castle Point, hundreds of freshmen are getting their bearings. They are shuffling along a scenic WittPenn Walk off to classrooms in the Babbio Center, Burchard, or another academic building – classrooms that have been renovated to accommodate 21st century learning. The freshmen are stepping into new research facilities like the advanced Hanlon Financial Systems Center or the impressive ABS Engineering Center, and they are getting a deeper look at how they can realize their academic potential at Stevens.

They are also meeting our excellent collection of faculty, some of whom are new to Stevens themselves, such as Jean Zu, our new dean of the Schaefer School of Engineering and Science, or Victor Luo, who joins the School of Business as the first-ever Fred Paulson '59 Assistant Professor of Finance. These professors join returning faculty who are exploring solutions to societal problems, like Kristyn Karl, Julie Pullen and Alex Wellerstein, who just received support from the Carnegie Corporation and the MacArthur Foundation to study nuclear terrorism; computer scientist Samantha Kleinberg, who this summer led Stevens in hosting the first-ever Time and Causality in the Sciences conference in the United States; or School of Business researcher Tal Ben-Zvi, a recipient of a Nicholson Foundation award who is investigating challenges to safety-net health facilities.

Our freshmen, as well as our sophomores and upperclassmen, and our faculty, both new and familiar, are here at Stevens because of their talent and hard work. They are also here, where they can achieve their best, thanks to the alumni and friends who make Castle Point an empowering environment. Whether you have supported scholarships and programs for student success, encouraged faculty excellence and worthwhile research, or supported our vibrant campus, you have had a valued impact. Thank you for contributing during *The Power of Stevens*, and we look forward to telling you more of the wonderful stories we expect to happen in 2017-18.

Sincerely,

Brodie Remington

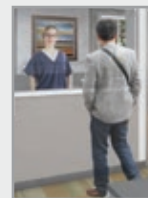
Vice President of Development and Alumni Engagement

**ABOVE LEFT:** During her career, Jean Zu has served as president of the Engineering Institute of Canada.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** With emeritus professor Ed Friedman, Kristyn Karl, Julie Pullen and Alex Wellerstein are researching nuclear terrorism.

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Stephen Boswell on building a better Stevens.

# CAL Coming on Strong

Like a quaint café or a quirky gallery giving a neighborhood charm, the eclectic [College of Arts and Letters](#)

has always added character to Stevens. And now, with new faculty, new facilities and pivotal philanthropy, the College is poised to thrive.

No matter their major, all Stevens students must take courses the College (CAL) offers in history, literature and other subjects. “CAL has always been an important part of the educational experience for Stevens students,” said dean Kelland Thomas. “Our curriculum prepares them to think critically, creatively and globally so they can address the grand challenges and exciting opportunities of our world.”

## A UNIQUE PROGRAM

CAL is distinct from liberal arts programs at other universities by being more integrated with science and technology. “We teach, research and create at the intersection of technology with the humanities, arts and social sciences,” Thomas said. Furthermore, a rich liberal arts program that complements its core scientific programs distinguishes Stevens from other engineering universities.

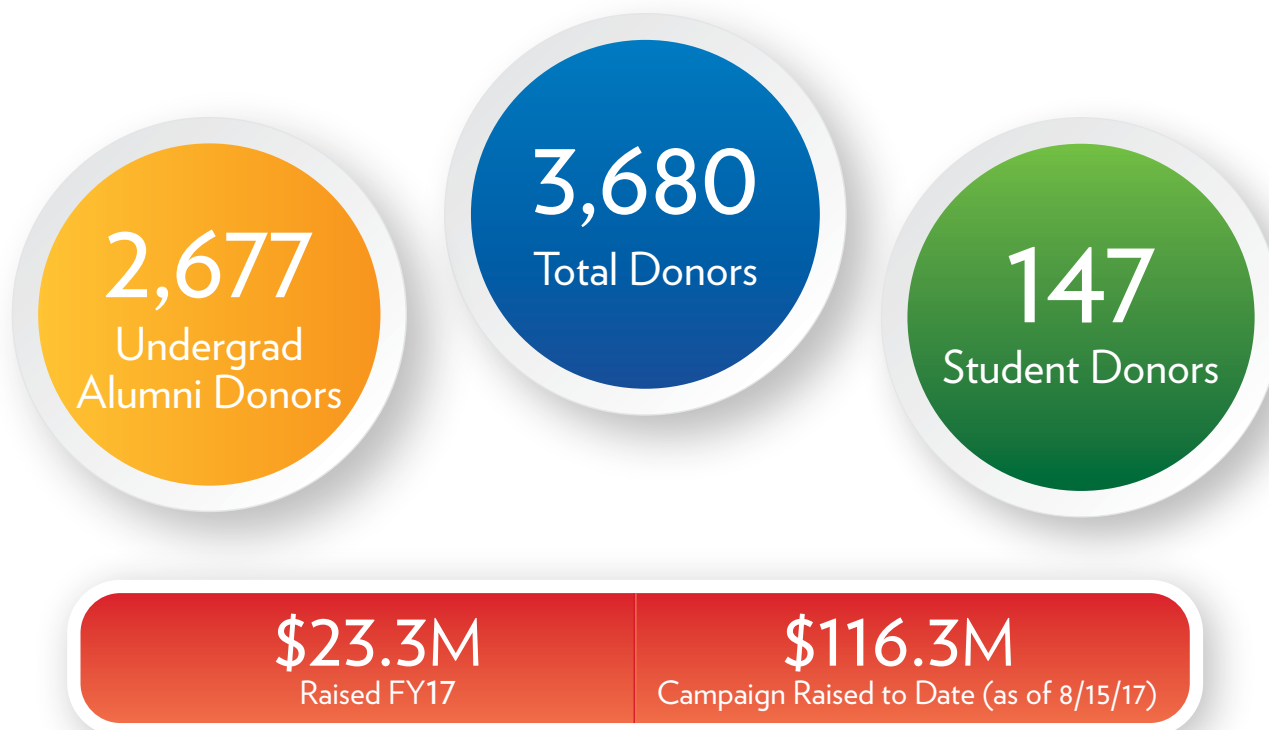
Heading into 2017-18, undergraduate CAL enrollment has increased 76% from the previous year, and 100% →



The College of Arts and Letters is on the cutting-edge of virtual reality research.

# Keeping Score

Stevens had another strong fundraising year in FY17, as we surge to a successful completion of *The Power of Stevens* campaign. See the stats, celebrate, and help us keep the momentum going into 2018!





*CAL traces its roots to the Department of Humanities created in 1928, evolving alongside the other three Stevens schools until becoming the College of Arts and Letters in 2007.*

of the College's Class of 2017 has found relevant employment or enrolled in graduate school. The College has hired excellent professors, such as computer scientist Michael Kowal, who will bolster CAL's initiative of Computing Across the Curriculum. CAL faculty publish papers and speak at international conferences, sharing their expertise in trending topics such as virtual reality and augmented reality, and during the past two years two professors have served as artist-in-residence at Bell Labs. The College is also benefitting from new facilities like the SCENE Lab (Sensory Computation, Experimental Narrative Environments), which enables creative research in spatial audio, ambisonics and other fields.

### **GIFTS FOR GROWTH**

CAL is also attracting notable philanthropic gifts, including from Yahoo, which recently donated 40 computer servers. "This gift demonstrates the increasing

computational focus of our work in the arts," Thomas said. "The cluster will be used for creative machine learning experiments, animation rendering, and experiments processing large data sets."

This summer, the Carnegie Corporation and the MacArthur Foundation began supporting [the work of professors Kristyn Karl and Alex Wellerstein](#), whose research on nuclear terrorism gives Stevens yet another notable area of expertise. "This is evidence of our increasing focus on building a healthy research culture at CAL," Thomas said. "Not only is this grant one of the largest ever awarded at CAL, it also highlights how our faculty initiate interdisciplinary research, with implications for big societal issues and problems."

### **ONLY THE BEGINNING**

With continued support, Thomas has bold plans for CAL's future growth,

including new degree opportunities in data science and the social sciences, increased interest in non-artistic knowledge domains, and increased graduate enrollment.

"Our recent growth is only the beginning," Thomas said. "Going forward, we will prepare students to be broad-based knowledge workers with strong computing and data analytics skills, who will drive data-informed decision making, ethical decision making, and decision making with a critical, global and creative mindset. We will continue to expand our focus on research, incentivizing research within CAL and hiring faculty who can grow our footprint on campus as an interdisciplinary research unit. And, we will continue to expand the profile of highly visible and public-facing creative and artistic activities."



*Visual arts & technology professor Nicholas O'Brien is eager to work on the Yahoo servers.*

# Stevens in Shape

At Stevens, student success means more than good grades and a great job after graduation; it means seeing young men and women enter adulthood with both a sound mind and body. With caring and effective programs, plus exciting plans for more, Stevens is promoting a campus culture of health and wellness.

“Many colleges are refocusing their health programs for modern students,” said Maggie Cuning, director of the [student health center](#).

“Our students work hard, taking difficult courses, and we help them succeed by helping them manage stress and related health factors. For us, a little care goes a long way.”

In addition to its health and wellness programming through the health



*With more students living on campus, a modern health center is a necessity.*

center, Stevens offers counseling and psychological services, and disability services. Students can meet with clinicians for short-term counseling, group therapy, urgent care sessions and workshops. Through the Office of Disability Services, students can secure housing accommodations and

have equal access to academic and other programs.

## ADVANCING ATHLETICS

A robust [athletics program](#) is another key part of health and wellness. Some 500 students play a varsity sport, while many others compete at the club or intramural level, and students, faculty and staff all use campus gyms to exercise or take yoga, spinning or other classes.

Recently, Stevens has renovated the Schaefer Athletic Center lobby and replaced the scoreboard at the DeBaun Athletic Field, used for field hockey, soccer and lacrosse. According to athletic director Russ Rogers, future projects involve securing funding for a state-of-the-art sports medicine facility, additional locker room space, and the renovation of Canavan Arena.

“We’re looking to install new bleachers, lighting and other fixtures,” Rogers said. “We use Canavan for basketball, volleyball and other sports, but we also use it for Convocation and the Innovation Expo, so renovating would really benefit the entire campus.” →



*The Schaefer Center has new paint, flooring and lighting, and a new Hall of Fame wall.*

## CASTLE POINT CONNECTIONS

### BUILDING A NEW HEALTH CENTER

Stevens will soon begin renovating the Pond House, at the Ninth Street campus entrance, into a full-service wellness center, co-locating services currently split between Jacobus Hall and the Howe Center. The center will be more convenient and private for students, serve as a central location to combat campus outbreaks, and allow easier ambulance access. The university is currently raising funds for the renovation, and further gifts would support additional staff and operational hours, enhanced programming, and services such as rapid testing, screenings, women's health and more.



*Community support will be critical for bringing the health center into being.*

“At the renovated Wellness Center at Pond House, Stevens will house its health, counseling and disability services in one location for the first time,” Cuning said. “This one-stop shop will have dedicated spaces for on-site health education and promotion, including workshops, programs and events, providing a holistic approach to student wellness on campus.”



Sand, surf and Stevens! In June, alumni and their families gathered at Jenkinson Inlet in Point Pleasant, New Jersey for the annual *It's a Shore Thing* barbecue beach bash. Nice to see some future Ducks having fun in the sun!



# Business School Boosting

Five years ago, Gregory Prastacos came to Stevens with an ambitious vision. As a dean, he wanted to transform a niche program in technology management into a business school capable of meeting the technology-driven demands of tomorrow's workplace – the [Stevens School of Business](#). Alongside top-notch faculty, Prastacos has put that vision into action. And now he has plans for even more growth, with the support of donors to the Dean's Fund for the School of Business.

## BUSINESS IS BOOMING

Since gaining accreditation in 2015 from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the Stevens School of Business has won the respect of *U.S. News & World Report* and other expert publications. In its 2017 rankings, *U.S. News*

listed Stevens among the top 100 business programs and number one for graduate employment, with its online MBA tops in New Jersey. Furthermore, *The Financial Engineer* has consistently rated the School's graduate programs in business analytics, management, and financial engineering among the best in the nation.

The School of Business teaches cutting-edge technical skills and leverages Castle Point's choice location to help students land promising jobs and internships in finance, consulting, IT and technology management, on Wall Street and beyond. Within six months, every member of the undergraduate Class of 2016 who majored in business secured employment or graduate placement, at salaries substantially higher than the national average.



*Before coming to Stevens, Gregory Prastacos taught for 30 years at Athens University of Economics and Business.*

There is even more success to share. From 2012 to 2016, freshman applications rose 151%; the School has added impressive professors and launched new degree programs; and the Hanlon Financial Systems Center — including its two trading floor labs — is an industry respected hub for research and teaching into finance, applied analytics and data-driven decision making.

“We are adding new and engaging academic programs,” Prastacos said, “further enriching the student experience, embracing new research challenges, and, most importantly, ensuring that technology and innovation are at the heart of all we do.”

## A VERSATILE TOOL

The Dean's Fund is a robust and versatile tool for Prastacos to drive projects forward, discover opportunities, and open doors for students and faculty. The scope →



*During his career, Fred Paulson, seen here with his granddaughter Rebecca, worked as an executive with Becton Dickinson and other medical device companies.*

of impact is broad: the Dean's Fund supports student opportunities for competitions, technology boot camps and international experiences; enables the hiring of accomplished educators to grow new programs and bring innovative perspectives into the classroom; expands the School's online offerings to allow for more flexibility within the curriculum; ensures its library of software and

databases has the latest iterations; develops advanced labs to enhance learning and research potential; and builds study areas that create collaborative environments for students engaged in addressing real-world problems.

Alumni and friends impressed with the School's progress and interested in its future are supporting the Dean's

Fund. "I think they are very talented and very dynamic," said Fred Paulson '59, who made a leadership-level gift to the School in January. "They've hired good people. They're getting good people, and I think their direction is full of potential."

## SAVE THE DATE *for these exciting upcoming events!*

Saturday,  
APRIL 14, 2018

### Stevens Awards Gala



Join us at The Plaza Hotel for the fifth Stevens Awards Gala, as we honor the remarkably accomplished alumni and friends of Stevens. Slip into your tuxedos and evening gowns and show your pride in Stevens on this most special night. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities will be available in 2018. For updates, please visit [stevens.edu/awardsgala](http://stevens.edu/awardsgala).

Friday, JUNE 1 –  
Sunday, JUNE 3, 2018

### Alumni Weekend Red & Gray Days



Return to Castle Point for our annual celebration of all of our wonderful alumni. If you graduated in a year ending in a 3 or 8, we're celebrating your class anniversary in 2018! And, as is tradition, our affinity groups will be hosting alumni gatherings, too! For more information, please visit [stevens.edu/alumniweekend](http://stevens.edu/alumniweekend).

## Donor Spotlight

### STEPHEN T. BOSWELL C.E. '89, PH.D. '91, HON.D.ENG. '13

“I believe what we do every single day makes somebody’s life better.”

That’s the care Stephen Boswell – president of a prolific engineering firm, patriarch of a prodigious family, and stalwart trustee of Stevens – puts into his job, one that helps people across the country drive, ride, work and play.

Boswell leads Boswell Engineering, a company his grandfather David started in 1924. Though he already had degrees in biology from NYU and William Paterson, he believed he needed an engineering degree before taking over the family business. After visiting Castle Point, he chose Stevens over other top schools.

“I picked Stevens because of the people I met. The dean and the head of the civil engineering department convinced me that this was a good place to go, that they were people from whom I could learn.”

Boswell Engineering serves municipal, county, state and federal clients along the mid-Atlantic and as far away as Minnesota, Arkansas and even Hawaii. Private sector clients include both industrial concerns and the largest developers in the country.

In the tristate area, Boswell has worked on major roads such as the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway, and Route 287 in New York from Rockland through Westchester County, across the Tappan Zee Bridge. “We do a tremendous amount of work on the Parkway. We’ve done many of the interchanges, we do a large number of the paving jobs, and it’s a great roadway.”



*Stephen Boswell spoke at the 2014 Convocation.*

The firm provides the full spectrum of civil and environmental engineering, including both design and construction supervision. Areas of specialization include transportation, structural, water, wastewater and underwater engineering, surveying, permit acquisition, site remediation, private development, and GIS services. Projects include the Lautenberg Rail Station in Secaucus, inspection of many of the Port Authority’s waterfront structures, paving at Newark airport, and the design and construction supervision of the Sinatra Park waterfront in Hoboken.

One of Boswell’s favorite projects solved a problem and saved a company in Newark. “A company that made pigments couldn’t get their wastewater down to an acceptable level, and they were getting fined by the sewerage authority. We came up with something no one else had thought of doing, and we saved 300 jobs with the company still in business today.”

When he was younger, Boswell spent his summers working for the

family business, then under his father, Howard, and uncle, David. After spending a few years teaching, working in pharmaceutical and industrial sales, and even starting a software company in California, he returned in the mid-1980s and now leads the firm alongside his brothers, Bruce and Kevin, both engineers and vice presidents.

Boswell’s daughter, Kristen, also worked for the company as project manager before becoming a full-time mom. She is the first fourth-generation licensed engineer in New Jersey. “The most important thing passed down to each generation has been a work ethic – if you want something, it’s up to you to work hard enough to get it.”

Alongside his work and family, Boswell, who received the 2004 Schaefer Entrepreneur Award, has served Stevens as a trustee since 2000. “Right now the state of Stevens is the best in my 17 years. The most tangible result you can look at is how our kids do after they graduate. They all get jobs or go to graduate school. They get the desired outcome →



they're looking for, and then if you look at their mid-range salaries, we're one of the top in the country. You look at the return on investment, we're one of the top in the country."

Boswell is a member of all four philanthropic societies, including the Edwin A. Stevens Society, a 25+ year member of the Gear Society for annual giving, the Legacy Society for planned gifts, and the Lifetime Giving Society, of which he is a member of the Kenneth DeBaun '49 level, the most generous donors in Stevens' history.

He has supported a family scholarship, campus facilities, athletics, and programs promoting ethics and innovation in the School



*Boswell is the vice chair of the Board of Trustees and serves on the facilities, investment, and executive committees.*

of Business. "The first reason I like supporting Stevens is I see an immediate result of those dollars. When I fund something, it gets built. Second, I think the future of the

country is in STEM, and we're really good at it here. Stevens has the engineering side and the business side, both of which I think are critical to our nation going forward."

He also supports Stevens to help the family business, as it approaches the beginning of its second century in operation. "I'm in the engineering field and need good engineers. We hire a lot of kids who go to Stevens, and they're very good employees. I want a school that can produce those engineers, and I want to be part of making Stevens even better than it's always been."

## Carnegie, Ansary, Weston and the Gang

In the summer of '67, the Beatles released their famous song about getting a little help from friends. Fifty years later, Stevens could croon about its own friends – individuals, corporations and foundations who, though they aren't alumni, still believe in the Stevens mission and feel a generous affection for Castle Point.

### WHY FRIENDS GIVE

Friends support Stevens for many reasons. They might value engineering education, just like Andrew Carnegie a century ago, who was so impressed by Stevens graduates that he donated the Carnegie building on campus. Or, they might give in honor of a colleague, like in 1929 when General

Electric co-founder Samuel Insull acquired and gave to Stevens the historic books on Leonardo da Vinci his late friend John Lieb, Class of 1880, had collected. Or, like Gloria Heath, they give because they remember what Stevens meant to a cherished relative, her brother Royal Heath '43.

In recent years especially, friends of Stevens have had a major and transformative impact. Start with scholarships. Through its 3:1 [matching gifts](#) program, ExxonMobil, a prime employer of Stevens alumni for decades, contributes to several individual and class funds, plus the comprehensive Stevens Scholarship Fund. Meanwhile, the Hearst Foundation gives annual scholarships



*The family of the late Harold Kruger '52 enjoyed Alumni Weekend 2017 when they came to fulfill his estate plan.*

through STEP, the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program for diverse students. Arthur Imperatore, who grew up in Depression-era Hudson County before launching the NY Waterway ferry, never went to college but still supports scholarships at his hometown school. Josh Weston, →



*The ABS Engineering Center represents one of the strongest partnerships Stevens has with an industry leader.*

the retired chairman of ADP, whose friendship with Stevens dates to his friendship with the university's fifth president, Ken Rogers, gave the gift that launched the Pinnacle Scholars program.

"Any worthwhile institution ought to know where it wants to be in the future," Weston said. "If you've got a plan, you ought to take it seriously and have programs in place to deliver. One piece of the overall plan is Pinnacle...particularly aimed at the most promising students, and I'm glad to help them."

Friends are also supporting faculty and their research. The Branfman Family Foundation has given awards to George McConnell for his potentially groundbreaking work using deep brain stimulation to mitigate Parkinson's and other neurological and psychiatric disorders. Proctor & Gamble has given to the Highly Filled Materials Institute, whose research impacts biomedicine, batteries, packaging and other industries. Wiley Publishing, PNC and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation are all supporters

of CIESE, the Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education. Kay Ciganovic, the great-great-granddaughter of the second Stevens president, Alexander Crombie Humphreys, has contributed to the endowed chair in her ancestor's name, filled by William Rouse, director of the Center for Complex Systems & Enterprises.

Friends have also made campus a more vibrant place, and even expanded it. The Stevens Venture Center in downtown Hoboken operates with the support of local businessman Greg Dell'Aquila. On campus, the American Bureau of Shipping funded the impressive ABS Engineering Center, stocked with three naval and civil engineering labs plus collaborative spaces for students and faculty.

"Over the years, ABS and Stevens have been aligned with a mutual purpose of fostering learning and advancing innovation for the next generation of leaders," said ABS chairman Christopher Wiernicki.

"The ABS Engineering Center provides an environment both for learning the various engineering disciplines and for looking ahead toward new technologies that could transform the marine industry."

Then there's the annual Innovation Expo, thriving with friendly support. Companies like General Dynamics are investing in challenging student senior design projects. Tom Scholl, a DC-area entrepreneur who knows President Farvardin from the latter's days at the University of Maryland, has since become a Stevens trustee and supports the Expo's keynote lecture on entrepreneurship. For the past two years, the Ansary family has donated the prize money in the student pitch competition, and will be doing so again in 2018.

"The taking of an idea and commercializing it – it's great to see a university that embraces that," said Jeff Ansary. "But oftentimes, universities don't have enough funding to continually support students' entrepreneurial efforts, so funding to ensure that these projects continue to thrive is important."

### **MORE THAN MONEY**

Friends of Stevens are also giving more than gifts. Many serve on university boards like the President's Leadership Council or the School of Business Board of Advisors, offering their experience, insight and industry connections in helping Stevens make strategic decisions and introduce students and faculty to new opportunities. Indeed, just like that song from the '60s, Stevens is getting by – and going farther – with help from its loyal and generous friends.

## Donor Spotlight

### ENRIQUE BLANCO '72 MMS '76



*Year after year, and in many ways, Enrique Blanco supports his alma mater.*

Enrique Blanco has lived, worked and traveled all over the world, yet he still feels like he has a home at Castle Point. He came back to campus during Alumni Weekend 2017 to receive the Stevens Alumni Award.

Enrique has served his alma mater as a member of the university Board of Trustees and as president of the Stevens Alumni Association (SAA) from 2005 to 2007. He continues serving as a voter on the SAA executive committee, as a volunteer of the Ad Astra Task Force, and as a 20-year supporter in the Gear Society.

“I want to be involved in helping others, and I want to give back,” Enrique said. “I enjoyed Stevens. I like the way things are and the way things have remained, and I want to keep that going.”

He was born in Cuba and lived in Chile, Brazil and Jamaica before immigrating permanently to the United States in 1967. He wanted to study engineering and chose Stevens among several top colleges. As a student, he was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Latin American Club.

“I picked Stevens because of its size, because it was a smaller school

where the professors knew the students. And I was very impressed by the students. They were there to learn.”

After earning his degree in mechanical engineering, and later an MMS in management science, Enrique began his 35-year career with Colgate-Palmolive, retiring as associate director of engineering. He led projects that built soap plants in Thailand, Malaysia, New Zealand, Guatemala, Panama, South Africa and Turkey. He won one of the company’s most prestigious awards for leading a project that saved millions in operating costs.

“Stevens prepared me well for my career. I got a real engineering degree, not just in mechanical or chemical, but one where I studied everything. Coupled with my degree in management science, I was able to coordinate all the different disciplines in the engineering profession.”

Even though he was busy working, Enrique returned to Stevens often to attend job fairs and recruit students for Colgate-Palmolive. Now retired, he still comes to campus for events such as the annual Celebration of Philanthropy, the SAA holiday party, and the President’s Distinguished Lecture Series.

Enrique has also carried his devotion to service far beyond Stevens. He is a grand knight in the Knights of Columbus, and he volunteers for the pastoral care department of Hackensack University Medical Center and at the Woodcrest Nursing Home in New Milford, New Jersey, where he visits the infirm and

elderly and offers companionship, communion and prayers. He is a lector and baptismal instructor at the Church of the Ascension, and he also volunteers for food pantries and serves food to the homeless.

“A lot of these people don’t have anyone who visits them. When I visit, I can see in their eyes that they feel somebody cares for them. It gives them hope and something to look forward to.”



*Enrique enjoyed spending Alumni Weekend 2017 on campus with his family.*

With his family, Enrique believes in living a vibrant life. He and his wife, Mary, have two sons, Enrique and Eric '00, and four grandchildren. He and Mary enjoy sailing on three or four cruises a year, including a festive one beginning next December.

“Our sons and their wives and our grandchildren are all coming. First we’re going to celebrate the New Year, then we’re going to celebrate our 45th anniversary, and then we’re going to celebrate Eric’s 40th birthday. I’m calling it our celebration cruise.”

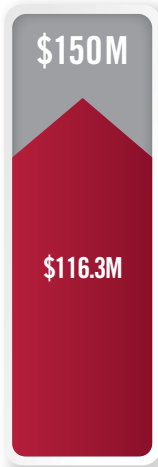


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**CASTLE POINT CONNECTIONS**

The Southern California Alumni Club visited the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles in June. After a scrumptious lunch at Drago Ristorante, the group took a guided tour of the museum's stock of Ferraris, Bugattis, and even a DeLorean.

