

# Stevens

SUMMER 2018 ISSUE NO. 2

# SOCIETY

# PAGES

For Members of Giving Societies  
at Stevens Institute of Technology



**Castle Point  
POWER COUPLES**



**Mary Anne Cannon '86  
Launches Scholarship**



**STEVE BOSWELL  
CHAIRMAN OF  
THE BOARD**

# GET THE GLITZ

Pics from the Gala



**STEVENS**  
INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY  
THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY®



## Welcome to the second issue of the Stevens Society Pages!

We are so grateful to the members of our four giving societies – Gear, EAS, Legacy and Lifetime Giving. Your consistent and significant support has an impact on our talented students and faculty, and it shapes our thriving culture of philanthropy at Castle Point!

This issue, we've got stories about society members with long and fond ties to Stevens and a bold vision for its future success. We're featuring some lovely alumni couples, and we've got spectacular pics from the Stevens Awards Gala.

And, let's salute our cover man, Steve Boswell Ph.D. '89, who has been named chairman of the Board of Trustees. Congratulations to Steve, and happy reading to all!



The **Gear Society** 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, the **EAS Society** is the annual gift club for alumni and others who provide leadership support to Stevens. Spot members when they wear their John Bull pin showing the famed Stevens family locomotive.

The six **Lifetime Giving Societies (LGS)** honor the alumni and others 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 **Stevens Legacy Society** have planned gifts for the university in their financial or estate plans, ensuring their legacy will have an impact far into the future.

# For mom and dad, Mary Anne Cannon hits her mark

For **Mary Anne Cannon '86**, one was enough. "Stevens was the only school I applied to," she said during her speech at the annual Family and Individual Scholarship Lunch last fall. "I applied to one school, and I did one campus visit. Every time I come on campus now I vividly remember that visit. It was a fall day, and I clearly remember walking onto campus with my mother. And this is where she saw me, she saw me on this campus. That was her vision and her dream."

Mary Anne's parents, Teresa and Thomas, encouraged her to get a technical education, especially after her father earned his master's degree from Stevens.

***"You can imagine, in 1982, it wasn't the regular thing for young women to go off to engineering school. But my parents were both extremely encouraging for me to go to Stevens and get an engineering degree."***

After Stevens, Mary Anne built a successful career in the aerospace industry, thriving as a vice president at Pratt & Whitney. Mary Anne and her husband Dan give back to her alma mater as members of the Lifetime and EAS societies, and last year they established a scholarship named for her parents.

***"The education at Stevens builds such an awesome foundation for what you need to do in the working world and teaches you so much."***

So now, with the Thomas and Teresa Cannon Endowed Scholarship, one isn't enough for Mary Anne – she'll be supporting bright Stevens students year after year after year.

***"I'm really excited to have this scholarship and have it named after my parents, who have given me everything."***



## Happy New Year!

We're in the middle of summer, but also at the start of a new Stevens fiscal year. Remember to renew your Gear and EAS membership now with a new annual gift so you can continue to enjoy all the perks of society membership.

[stevens.edu/makeagift](https://stevens.edu/makeagift)

August To-Do:

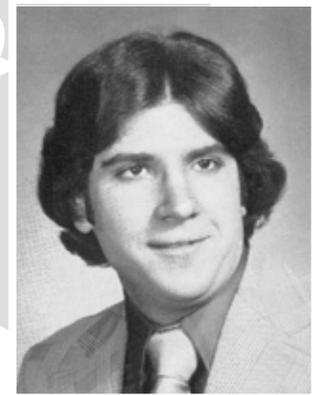
-Beach

-Fantasy Football Draft

-Gift to Stevens

# Guess the Gears...

These three Gear Society members have each given to Stevens for at least ten consecutive years. Got a guess who? See them these days on page 7!



## The grand, great, Class of '58

By now you've probably heard that we reached *The Power of Stevens* campaign goal of \$150 million, six months ahead of schedule, and that the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to continue towards a new goal of \$200 million through the university's 150th anniversary in 2020.



Classmates, then and always

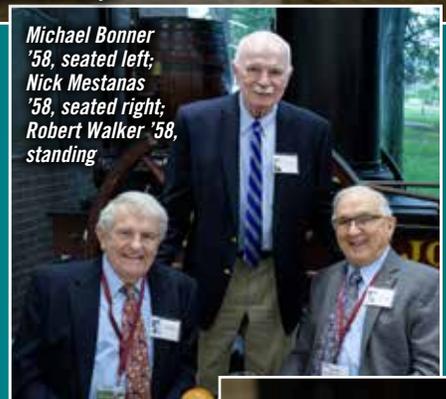


President Farvardin with Richard Harries '58

You should have also heard that we passed the \$150 million mark after a large gift from **Richard Harries '58** and his wife, Carol. While Richard's campaign gift will have a transformative impact on the future of Stevens, he has also made one more gift recently that harkens to the past and has a meaning of brotherhood.

Richard challenged his classmates to join the Stevens Legacy Society, which they could do simply by pledging a bequest for the university in their estate plan. If ten 1958 grads joined, including himself, Richard would give \$10,000 to the Class of 1958 Endowed Scholarship, which the university would then match through a challenge fund established by donors to inspire others to give to Stevens.

Typical of Stevens alumni, the class did not shrink from the challenge. Nine had joined the SLS before Alumni Weekend in June, and at their 60th reunion dinner, **Roger Bond** announced he would be the tenth. The next day, Richard honored his commitment by putting a check in the hands of President Farvardin, who in turn saw that the university honored its own commitment.



Michael Bonner '58, seated left; Nick Mestanas '58, seated right; Robert Walker '58, standing



Roger Bond '58

Congrats and thanks to the grand, great, Class of 1958!



▲ The honorees, l-r: (seated) Sean Hanlon '80, Vikki Hazelwood Ph.D. '07, Marty Valerio '68, Sachin Shah '89, Dianne McKeever '00, Marques Brownlee '15, (standing) Ken Venner '84, John Newton '71, Frank Semcer '65, Steve Boswell Ph.D. '89 – see their bios at [stevens.edu/awardsgala](http://stevens.edu/awardsgala)



◀ The gala inspires students who attend, thanks to guests and others who sponsor their tickets

▼ In addition to his award for entrepreneurship, we celebrated Steve Boswell as the new chairman of the Board of Trustees

## Society members at the fifth STEVENS AWARDS GALA

Now this is high society. On April 14, over 400 alumni and friends gathered at the historic Plaza Hotel in New York to dine, dance and honor ten special Stevens awardees. Emcee Chris Cimino of WNBC entertained the audience in between inspiring speeches from honorees who've succeeded in business, engineering, biomedicine, academia, media and more. And in rousing closing remarks about the thriving state of Stevens, President Farvardin assured us that, like the song, we ain't seen nothin' yet!

▼ Emcee Chris Cimino



▲ School of Business dean Gregory Prastacos and Marques Brownlee

◀ Tony-nominated singer and dancer Tony Yazbeck regaled the crowd

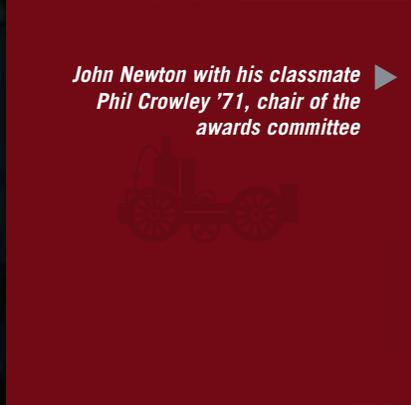




▲ *Everyone loves Frank Semcer*



◀ *Alumni Association president Vicky Velasco '04 and her guest, Phillip Suttmiller*



▶ *John Newton with his classmate Phil Crowley '71, chair of the awards committee*



◀ *Ken Venner with his wife Debbie, aunt Betty, and father Edward '56*



▶ *The Farvardins are always a charming pair*

◀ *Jerry Granato '75 and his wife Judy*



◀ *Trustee John Dearborn '79 and his wife Michelle*



▶ *Sean Hanlon is an icon for Stevens business students*

# Castle Point Power Couples

**From Fred and Ginger to Gisele and Tom, we love fun couples, especially those from Stevens. Like stars arm-in-arm on the red carpet, these philanthropic Castle Point pairs are simply sizzling!**

**Virginia (Mahoney) '83 Hon. D.Eng. '08 and Kevin Ruesterholz '83**  
*Gear, EAS, Lifetime, Legacy*

Everyone is welcome at Stevens because of these two and the charming admissions center they gifted for campus. "We love this place," Virginia said. "It's given us so much, and we want to give back and we want others to have the journey we had." Kevin agrees. "I was lucky enough to meet my best friend and my partner for life here, so to be able to give back to Stevens makes us very happy and very proud."

**Dianne (Smith) '90 M.Eng. '91 and Jim Szipszky '89 M.Eng. '92**  
*Gear, EAS, Lifetime, Legacy*

Jim has helped connect dozens of students to internships and careers at ExxonMobil and highlighted the importance of using the company's generous matching gifts program. Meanwhile, Dianne has been nurturing the revitalized Lore-El Center for Women's Leadership, including sponsoring a guest lecture series. "Jim and I are delighted to support the Lore-El Center and specifically the Women's Leadership Conference. We encourage other alumni to support the Lore-El Center or the initiative of their choice at Stevens!"

**Maria (Ramirez) '89 and Hermes O. Gonzalez '89 M.S. '95**  
*Gear, EAS*

Maria and Hermes are notable supporters of the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program. "It was the summer of 1984," Hermes said, "and the STEP program was the "Bridge" to our lifelong inseparable love journey together. Since our first date we have been holding hands ever since. We have two beautiful, smart, wonderful children, we have traveled the world, and we look forward to many more memories to be made, always remembering Stevens as our place where we found each other and fell in love."

**Cindy Chin '05 M.S. '05 and Josh Levine '05 M.S. '05**  
*Gear, EAS*

Josh works in technology for the financial services industry, and Cindy is the assistant provost for administration and finance at Stevens. As she puts it, they met after an unusual circumstance: "...when our professor didn't show up for the first day of class freshmen year. It wasn't until early sophomore year that we started dating and the rest is history. We got engaged on Castle Point in December 2007, were married in June 2009 in New Jersey, and welcomed our daughter, Charlotte, in 2016."

**Ashley (Tomasura) '15 and Chase Greenberg '15**  
*Gear, EAS*

Ashley was attending another college when her boyfriend Chase encouraged her to transfer to Stevens because it had a better business school. Both now work in finance and have begun giving regularly to their alma mater. "If we didn't go to Stevens," Ashley said, "I don't think we would have had the same opportunities. We have the ability to give back right now, so why not do what someone else did for us?"



# ...Guess the Gears

Here's Fred Paulson '59, who retired as an executive in the medical device industry, Frank Roberto '76, who works for ExxonMobil in Houston, and Beth (Farrell) Pallone '88, a digital director with the U.S. Tennis Association. Thanks to them for giving to Stevens every year!



Beth Pallone '88



Fred Paulson '59



Frank Roberto '76

## SOCIETY PAGES

# Q&A

At Alumni Weekend 2018, **Jennifer Hsiao '03** received the Harold R. Fee '20 Alumni Achievement Award. A product manager for Educational Testing Service, she and her husband, Michael Prikriil '02, are loyal members of the Gear Society.

### How has Stevens helped you succeed?

*Stevens opened the doors of opportunity by providing us with courses that strengthened our critical thinking and problem-solving skills in a cooperative environment. It has a strong network of people, from the students, to the alumni, to the staff, and there is support from that community while you're on campus and even after you graduate. Coming out of Stevens I felt prepared for any career path I decided to choose. Even though I am in the education industry, the technical background I carry has been extremely important in the work I do.*

### What motivates you to give to Stevens every year?

*All of us are in different places of our lives and yet Stevens still exists (and we're certainly reminded by mailings like this). It's neat to talk to current students who are in a place we once were, looking to soak up what knowledge they can and then to apply it once they leave, and I enjoy being a part of the process to continue that cycle.*

### What excites you about the future of Stevens?

*It's great to see the expansion of programs on campus. The students coming out of Stevens are looking to be change agents ready to take on the challenges of globalization, and the school has been adapting and is strategically poised for long-term success.*



## See you next time!

We hope you enjoyed this second edition of the **STEVENS SOCIETY PAGES!**

Beyond the personal satisfaction of giving to help deserving students and innovative faculty, alumni and others who join a Stevens society maintain a meaningful connection to the university and to their fellow society members. Plus, by attending events like the Celebration of Philanthropy, they get to make new friends across the societies, engage with current students, receive updates from university leadership and hear different perspectives on supporting Stevens.

Many Stevens alumni and friends are members of more than one society – some even all four! If you ever have any questions about renewing your annual membership or joining a new society, contact your devoted society stewards:

**Gear:** Desiree Burke  
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201-216-5712

**EAS:** Dawn da Silva  
ddasilva@stevens.edu  
201-216-5521

**Lifetime:** Gilian Brannan  
gbrannan@stevens.edu  
201-216-5243

**Legacy:** Michael Governor  
mgoverno@stevens.edu  
201-216-8967

**Thanks for being so generous and supporting Stevens!**



# See your society friends at these upcoming events!



**STEP 50<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY**  
*Cocktails  
in Babbio Atrium,  
Dinner in Bissinger*



**DEBAUN  
AUDITORIUM 20<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION**  
*DeBaun Auditorium*



**LEADHERSHIP  
CONFERENCE**  
*Babbio Center*



**CELEBRATION OF  
PHILANTHROPY  
DINNER**  
*Bissinger Room*



**PRESIDENT'S  
DISTINGUISHED  
LECTURE  
SERIES**  
*DeBaun Auditorium*

Get answers at [events@stevens.edu](mailto:events@stevens.edu)

**Stevens**  
**society PAGES**

[stevens.edu/alumni](http://stevens.edu/alumni)

[power.stevens.edu](http://power.stevens.edu)

[facebook.com/stevens.alumni](https://facebook.com/stevens.alumni)



*The Class of 1983 at Alumni Weekend*