

The Gavel

Stevens Institute of Technology Honor Board

Fall 2015 Issue

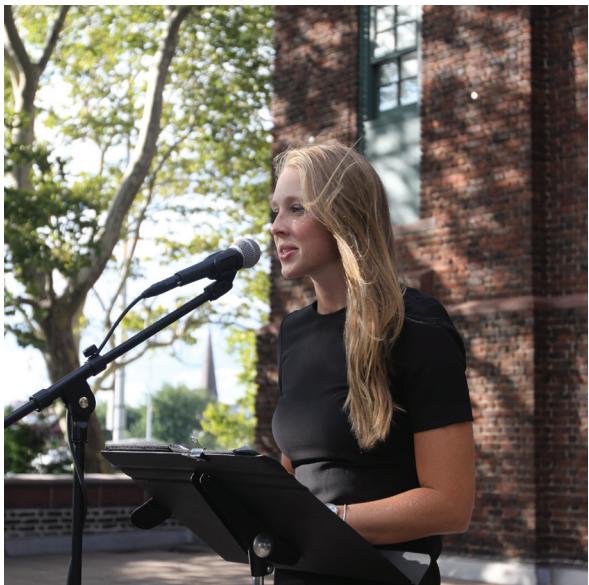
INTRODUCTIONS

The Stevens Honor Board is excited to present you with the inaugural issue of *The Gavel*, its very own e-newsletter.

The Honor Board has been tackling many new initiatives this year, and we've taken note that we've been neglecting our relationship with our alumni for far too long.

We hope that this newsletter will help fortify our relationship with you, as we have you to thank for setting precedence for the current board. We plan to send the newsletter twice a year, with a goal to have an issue sent out at the terminus of each semester. We do not have an Alumni Liaison program like other organizations; the responsibility for creating and seeing that the newsletters are sent out is now a responsibility of the Recording Secretary.

The Gavel will be used as a way to share changes that have been made, both internally amongst the Honor Board and externally with the rest of the Stevens community. Our board is full of many new ambitious members, and we anticipate much more as the spring semester approaches! We hope you enjoy the material that we have put together in this first issue of *The Gavel*. If you should have any comments or feedback, please feel inclined to email the Stevens Honor Board at honor@stevens.edu.



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The Honor Board has implemented a new logo that encourages the Honor System as one that is for the students, by the students.

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

The Stevens Honor System, established in 1908, over 100 years ago, is a defining characteristic of Stevens Institute of Technology. The Honor System is a unique representation of the innovation upon which our university is predicated. The completely student-run system is innovative because it was the first of its kind at an engineering college. Established in 1908, the Honor System has only grown in importance to the university and now serves as both a necessity to the validity of a Stevens' degree and a cherished tradition of the school. The Stevens Honor System commands honesty, integrity, respect, and courage from all students and equips students with these characteristics in anticipation of working in the professional world. In order for the Honor System to be successful, it is essential that each member of the Stevens community embrace the system. The professors, the students, the administration, the faculty, the staff; every member of the Stevens community must be knowledgeable of the Honor System and what it means to be a part of this great tradition.

However, as a publically dedicated member of the Honor Board and a student, I have had multiple experiences that blatantly undermine the Stevens Honor System. I have had faculty stand in front of a class and admit that they do not report academic dishonesty to the Honor Board. I have had members of the Stevens Community, both students and faculty, tell me that they do not support the Honor System. During an investigation, I even had a professor tell me that he will not listen to me because I am a student. I believe the root of the issue lies in the lack of understanding of the purpose of the Honor System and the role of the Honor Board. It is of the upmost importance that we, the Honor Board and the administration, address this issue immediately. As the administration, faculty, staff and students of Stevens, we all share one common goal: to protect the integrity of our institution.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elena J. Piper".

Elena J. Piper
Honor Board Chair

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Inception of the Stipulated Confession

This new variant of the regular confession allows the Honor Board to vote on an appropriate penalty and present the penalty to the accused student. Prior to the stipulated confession, a confession by an accused student could result in any range of penalty, which typically discouraged students from confessing to a violation. A stipulated confession penalty cannot be altered if the accused student chooses to sign the document. This has led to an increase in the number of confessions the Honor Board has received over the past year, thus allowing more cases to be closed quickly and increasing the percentage of cases ending in a sanction.

Standardized Honor System Section in Syllabi

One of the easiest ways to educate the entire Stevens community is through a medium which already exists, the course syllabus. Each course is required to have a syllabus for the semester; this syllabus should contain accurate information on the Stevens Honor System and course expectations regarding the Honor System. Through our classes and investigations, the Honor Board found that this information was frequently lacking in most syllabi. Over the past semester, the Honor Board worked with the Center for Faculty Advancement to create a template with accurate information on the Honor System and appropriate details for professors to include (regarding exam room conditions, collaboration on assignments, et cetera).

Increased focus on Professionalism

Honor Board members are elected by the student body and are representative of the university. With this in mind, both the executive board and the Board's advisors Dean Deborah Berkley and Dean Kristie Damell thought it would be beneficial to hold a retreat to receive personalized training. After new members were elected onto the Honor Board this past September, Dean Damell worked with old and new members alike to discuss proper interviewing techniques and professionalism.

Rebranding the Honor System

Over the years, it appears that the terms "Honor Board" and "Honor System" have become synonymous. From the beginning of the semester, the Honor Board was determined to change the way that students, faculty and staff perceive the Stevens Honor System. Both the Outreach and Events Committees, led by Yasha Binyamin and Danielle Fischer, have worked hard to encourage students to take pride in the system that helps nourish proud, capable, and responsible students. Thanks to Dean Damell, the Honor System now has its own logo, a symbol with which all students can associate. The Honor Board also reorganized its method of education during Orientation Week. The standard "Honor System Presentation" included new case studies that demonstrated different honor system violations as well as poll-the-audience questions to encourage audience participation. In addition, the Orientation Leaders did an excellent job of showing off instances of academic misconduct in their College101 Talks. New students had the opportunity to engage in conversation regarding academic integrity with their Orientation Leaders after these skits were performed. Finally, each new Stevens student was sworn into the Honor System prior to starting classes; previously, students were not officially sworn in until Convocation.

***"The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he would never be found out."* - Thomas Babington Macaulay**



BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The current Honor Board actively discusses its governing documents, especially the Bylaws. In both the Spring and Fall 2015 semesters, several noteworthy changes to the Bylaws have been made. The amendments summaries are listed below:

- Every accused student is now assigned a “Procedural Advisor” (abbreviated as PA), which is a member of the Honor Board tasked with explaining procedures and policies to the student. This position existed previously, but under the name “Defense Advocate.”
- When an accused student wants to re-schedule a meeting with the Honor Board, the student has 72 hours after being notified to submit documentation of their excuse. The only allowed excuses are: medical emergencies; time conflicts with an employment or a Stevens athletics competition; being off-campus and unable to make it onto University grounds; or any reason that the Dean of Undergraduate Academics has deemed valid.
- The definition of confidential information was amended to allow for the Honor Board’s release of anonymized statistics and case information, provided such information cannot identify the students involved in any way.
- The number of seats on the Honor Board was increased significantly. The freshman class has six open seats for the fall semester, with two additional seats open in the following spring semester. Ten seats are now allocated for the sophomore, junior, and senior classes, bringing the maximum capacity of the Honor Board to a total of 48 members.

PHOTO GALLERY





Olivia Schreiber
Chemical Biology
Recording Secretary



Elena Piper
Quantitative Finance
Chair



Shane Arlington
Chemical Engineering
+ Science, Technology & Society
Vice-Chair



Janelle Welkie
Chemical Biology
Corresponding Secretary



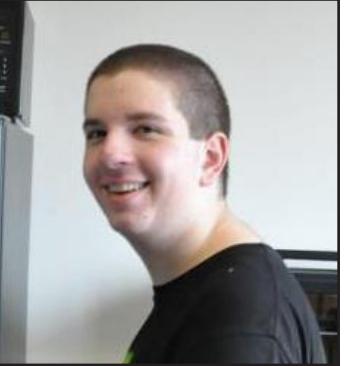
Yasha Binyamin
Engineering Management
Outreach Committee Chair



Danielle Fischer
Engineering Management
Events Committee Chair



Dylan Boyle
Electrical Engineering
Web Chair



Tyler Romeo
Computer Science
Governance Chair



Michayla Ben-Ezra
Chemical Engineering
General Member



Jhustin Scarlett
Biomedical Engineering
General Member



Mark Liotta
Biomedical Engineering
General Member



Tessie Urtubia
Electrical Engineering
General Member

MEET OUR MEMBERS

This past semester has brought many changes, especially with the increase in overall membership! The Stevens Honor Board doubled in size after one election period, as per Bylaw Amendments made in the early part of the semester. Currently, the Honor Board consists of nine seniors, seven juniors, five sophomores, and six freshmen.



Jeff Huber
Electrical Engineering
General Member



Paige Brown
Chemical Engineering
General Member



Allyson Clark
Mechanical Engineering
General Member



Emily Fea
Business and Technology
General Member



Theodoros Rizos
Electrical Engineering
General Member



Gabrielle McCormack
Software Engineering
General Member



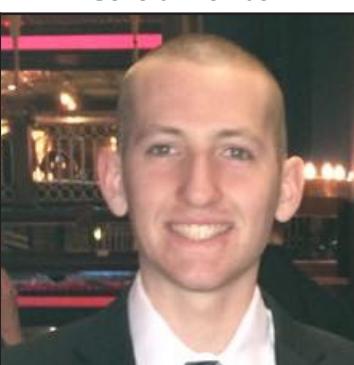
Darby DeStefano
Biomedical Engineering
General Member



Akshay Sampath
Electrical Engineering
General Member



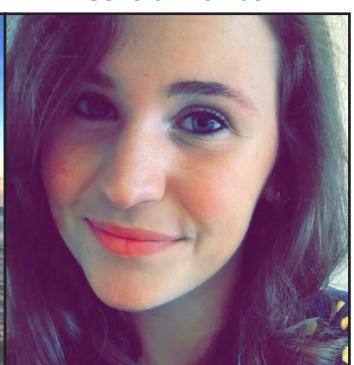
Michelle Pasquale
Electrical Engineering
General Member



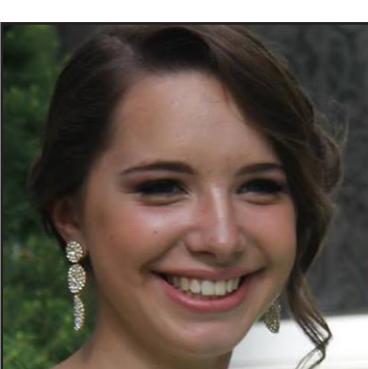
Brian McNamara
Chemical Engineering + Bio-medical Engineering
General Member



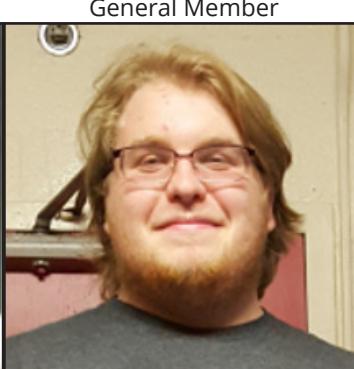
Carlos Dissenha
Music and Technology
General Member



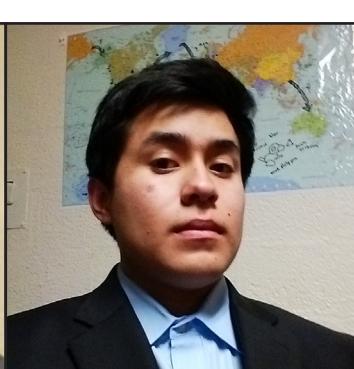
Lisa Mengotto
Chemical Biology
General Member



Maryia Spiridonava
Civil Engineering
General Member



Jack Kraszewski
Computer Science
General Member



Jonathan Eugenio
Physics
General Member

