



The Stute

Summer + Fall 2020
Semester Report



Letter from the Editor

Hi there! Thank you for taking the time to open The Stute's Semester Report for Fall 2020. I wanted to give a quick message before you read any further about what this report is and why we've put it together. Last year we put together two Alumni Newsletters at the end of each semester as a way of keeping Stute alumni connected to current members. This Semester Report serves that same purpose, but it has been expanded to be for all members of the Stevens community, regardless of involvement in The Stute or current student status.

My first order of business as the newly-elected Editor in Chief was to update our policies to reflect a goal of mine, which is to increase transparency between The Stute and readers. Our priority and our primary goal is to be a voice for students, to serve students, and to serve the community. In order to do that, there must be communication and honesty about how we operate.

Semester Reports are an initiative that I hope increases the connection between The Stute and the public. In the following pages you will find a brief overview of our Fall 2020 semester, including top articles, how we operated without print for the first time in Stute history, professional development, and much more. Whether you're a current Stute member, current Stevens student, faculty member, or part of Stevens alumni, I hope you find something valuable in this report. Thank you for reading The Stute and taking the time to understand our organization.

Sincerely,
Natalie Ann Todaro '22
Editor-in-Chief





Leadership

Executive Board



Natalie Todaro '22
Editor-in-Chief



Aleksandar Dimoski '22
Business Manager



Grace Miguel '22
Outreach Chair



Trevor Dameika '23
Managing Editor



Leigha Tierney '22
Secretary



Bemín Shaker '23
Digital Manager



Andrew Kinney '21
Layout Editor

Minor Board



Angelina Zaccaria '21
Head Copy Editor



Dylan James Moon '21
Science Editor



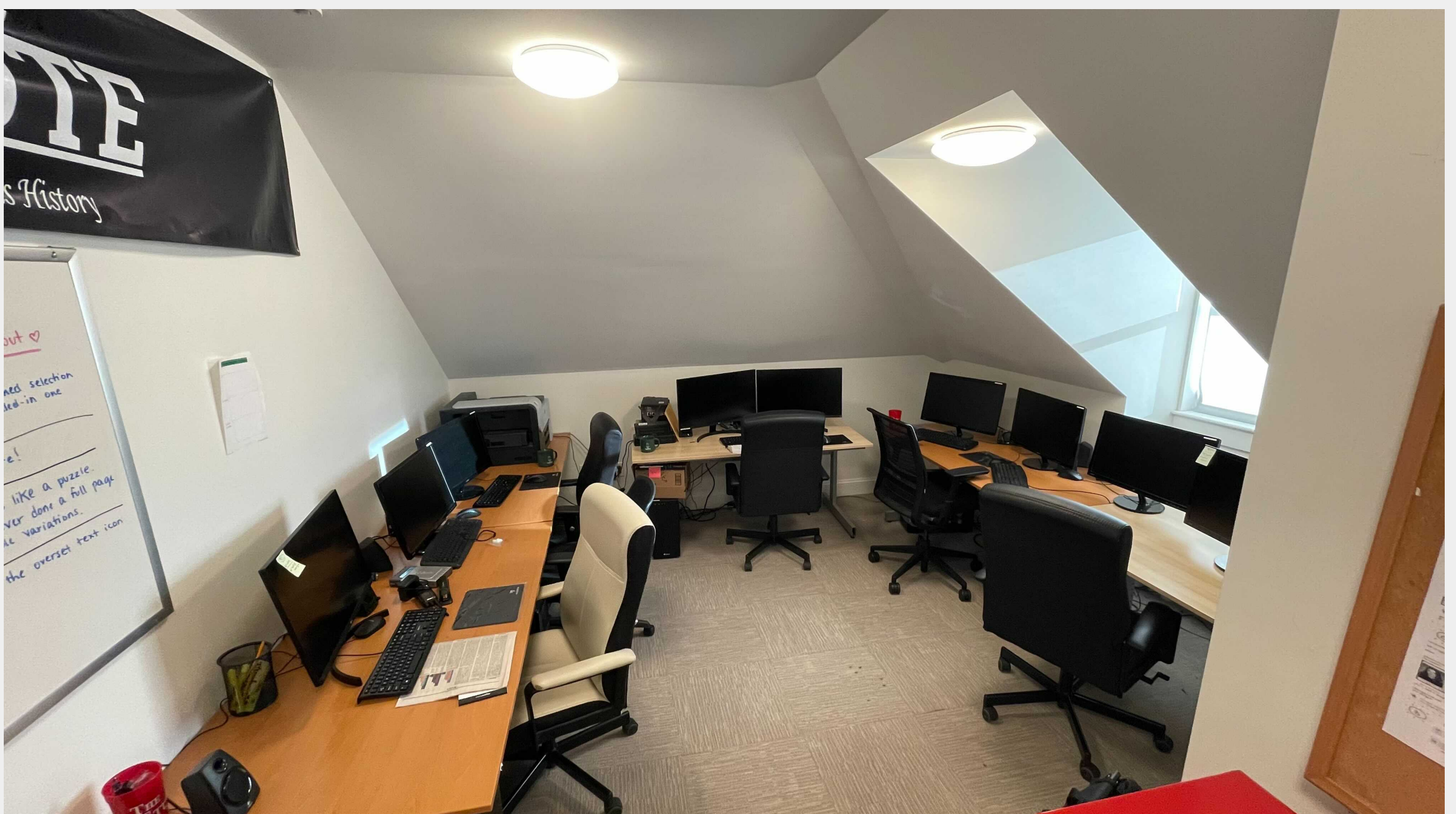
Sanjana Madhu '22
News Editor



Joana Fardad '22
Webmaster

New office in the Student Center

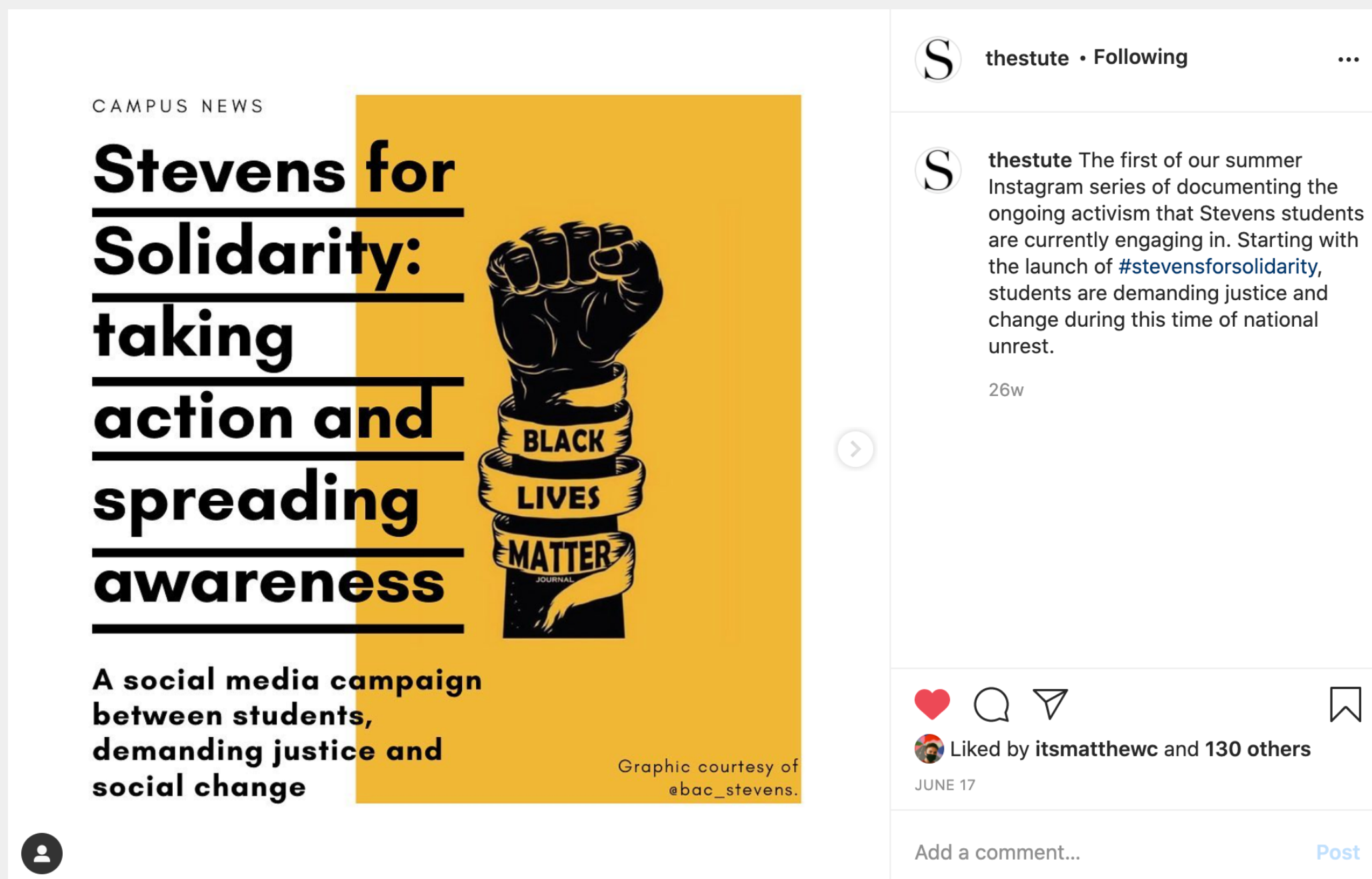
Over the 2019-20 winter break, we moved from our temporary office in the Howe Center to a more concrete space in the newly opened Student Center. This office in the Student Center will be our last office before we move to the University Towers which are currently in construction. Our office in the University Towers will be our official office for hopefully many years to come! Although we weren't able to work in this office this semester, we hope to get back to work in it as soon as possible.



Thank you to Jon Brown '21 for photos!

Summer 2020

Normally, we cease production over the summer. However, this past summer a small group of Stute members worked together to cover important initiatives that were happening as a result of the surge in the Black Lives Matter Movement. This included reporting on a new group that formed this summer, Stevens for Solidarity, and reporting on a student-run fundraiser that raised over \$11,000. These were important and timely issues that we took time to cover.



CAMPUS NEWS

Stevens for Solidarity: taking action and spreading awareness

A social media campaign between students, demanding justice and social change

Graphic courtesy of @bac_stevens.

thestute • Following

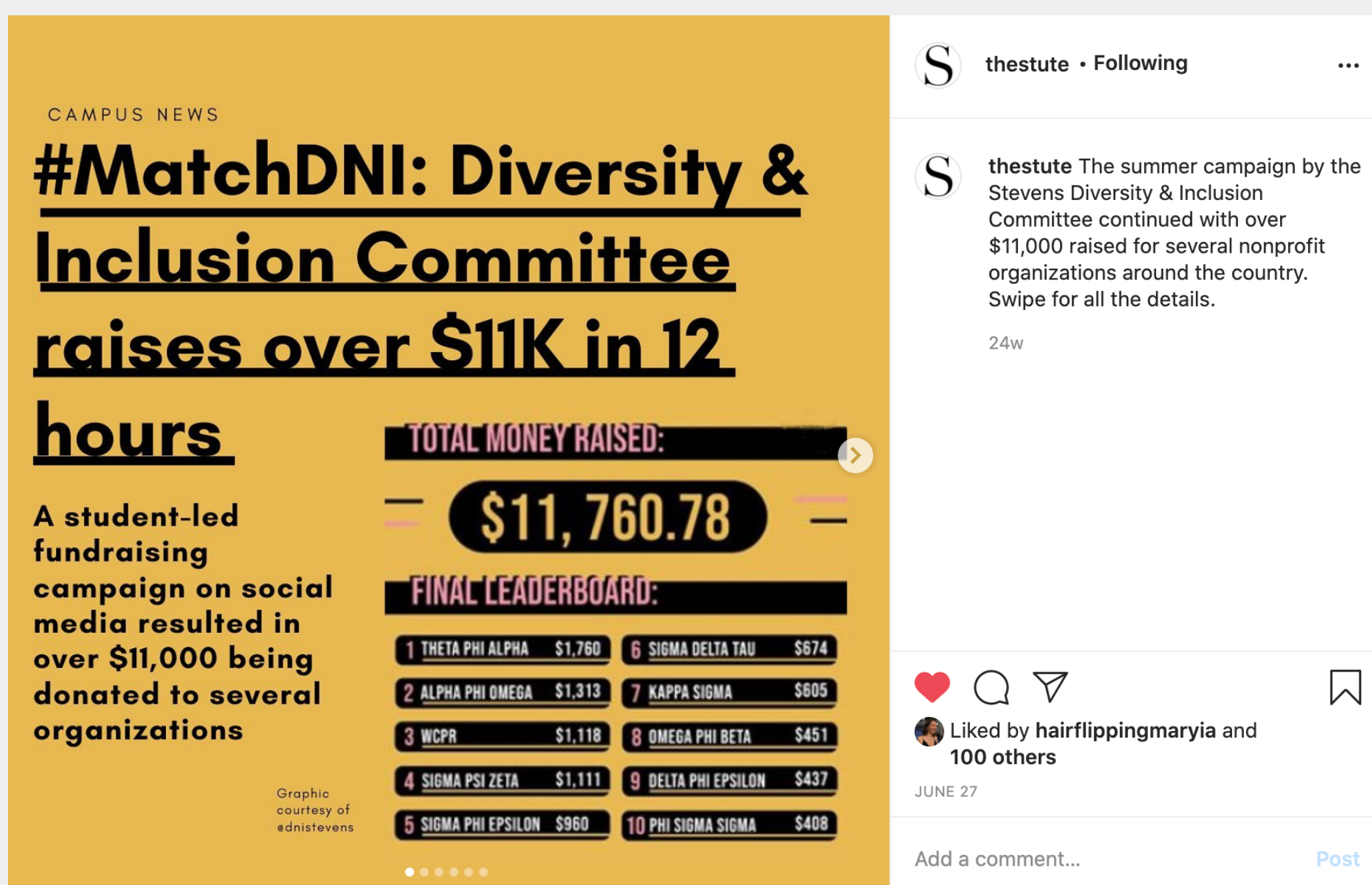
thestute The first of our summer Instagram series of documenting the ongoing activism that Stevens students are currently engaging in. Starting with the launch of #stevensforsolidarity, students are demanding justice and change during this time of national unrest.

26w

Liked by itsmatthewc and 130 others

JUNE 17

Add a comment... Post



CAMPUS NEWS

#MatchDNI: Diversity & Inclusion Committee raises over \$11K in 12 hours

A student-led fundraising campaign on social media resulted in over \$11,000 being donated to several organizations

Graphic courtesy of @adnistevens

TOTAL MONEY RAISED:

\$11,760.78

FINAL LEADERBOARD:

1 THETA PHI ALPHA \$1,760	6 SIGMA DELTA TAU \$674
2 ALPHA PHI OMEGA \$1,313	7 KAPPA SIGMA \$605
3 WCPR \$1,118	8 OMEGA PHI BETA \$451
4 SIGMA PSI ZETA \$1,111	9 DELTA PHI EPSILON \$437
5 SIGMA PHI EPSILON \$960	10 PHI SIGMA SIGMA \$408

thestute • Following

thestute The summer campaign by the Stevens Diversity & Inclusion Committee continued with over \$11,000 raised for several nonprofit organizations around the country. Swipe for all the details.

24w

Liked by hairflippingmaryia and 100 others

JUNE 27

Add a comment... Post

Fall 2020: High Impact Stories

A look at some of the most significant pieces of this past semester, based on page views, reception, and magnitude of event

"SGA President, Vice President of Operations, and Vice President of Academic Affairs resign"

"SGA continues work on restructure"

"Ever since the majority of the Cabinet of the Student Government Association (SGA) stepped down in October, the SGA has been planning out the logistics of what a restructured SGA would entail. Currently, the structure that is set to be implemented is called the "Three-Pillar Model" and will have three main bodies."

"SGA sends proposal to the Provost in favor of pass/fail grading policy"

"On November 10, the Student Government Association (SGA) sent a proposal to the Provost, explaining reasons why an Optional Pass/Fail (P/F) grading policy should be implemented for this semester."

"Hoboken condemns large oil companies to combat climate change"

"On Wednesday, September 2, Bhalla announced that the City of Hoboken would be filing a lawsuit against ExxonMobil, other large oil distribution companies, and the American Petroleum Institute."

"A conversation with Tej Patel, new Vice President for IT and CIO"

"At the end of 2019, the Stevens community bid farewell to its long-standing Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer (CIO), Dr. David Dodd. Following an interim period of eight months, Stevens officially welcomes Tej Patel to fill these vacancies."

COVID-19 Coverage

[COVID-19 category on our website](#)

Statistics

Total website views: approx. 23,323



Most viewed pieces of the semester:

Inktober in peril? - 3,918 views

By Pooja Rajadurai | Opinion — The Doodling Duck (F20)

SGA President, Vice President of Operations, and Vice President of Academic Affairs resign - 1,533 views

By Natalie Todaro and Andrew Kinney | Campus News (F20)

Piskies Suspended - 1,097 views

By Off Center | Opinion — Off The Press (F20)

The best NYC streetwear brands - 895 views

By Daniel Kang | Opinion — Passion For Fashion (S19)

I was the real life Emily in Paris - 793 views

By Melissa Kosar | Opinion — Passion For Fashion (F20)

How social media ruined dating - 723 views

By Julia Wierzbicki | Mind of a Freshman (S20)

SGA sends proposal to the Provost in favor of pass/fail grading policy - 564 views

By Natalie Todaro | Campus News (F20)

Anti Social Social Club not in style - 512 views

By Daniel Kang | Opinion — Passion For Fashion (F18)

The geopolitical case for Vietnam - 491 views

By Liam McMurtry | Opinion — Heard It On The Street (F20)

"Cases continue to spike on campus as fraternity faces suspension for breaking COVID-19 rules" — 327 views

By Joana Fardad | Campus and University News (F20)

Special Issues and Features

Election Season Feature

Guides to help readers navigate the 2020 election season

- ***"Voting 101: A guide to navigating the 2020 presidential election"***
- ***"Voting 101: Know your rights"***
- ***"Historic voter turnout for the 2020 Presidential Election"***

[Link to Election 2020 category on our website](#)

Latinx Heritage Month Feature

Highlighting the history of cultural organizations at Stevens supporting students of Latin heritage

[Link to featured article by Grace Miguel](#)

Halloween Special Issue

A collection of scary stories, poems, science articles, and satire pieces all dedicated to the spookiest time of year

[Link to Halloween category on our website](#)



New Shared Google Drive Folder

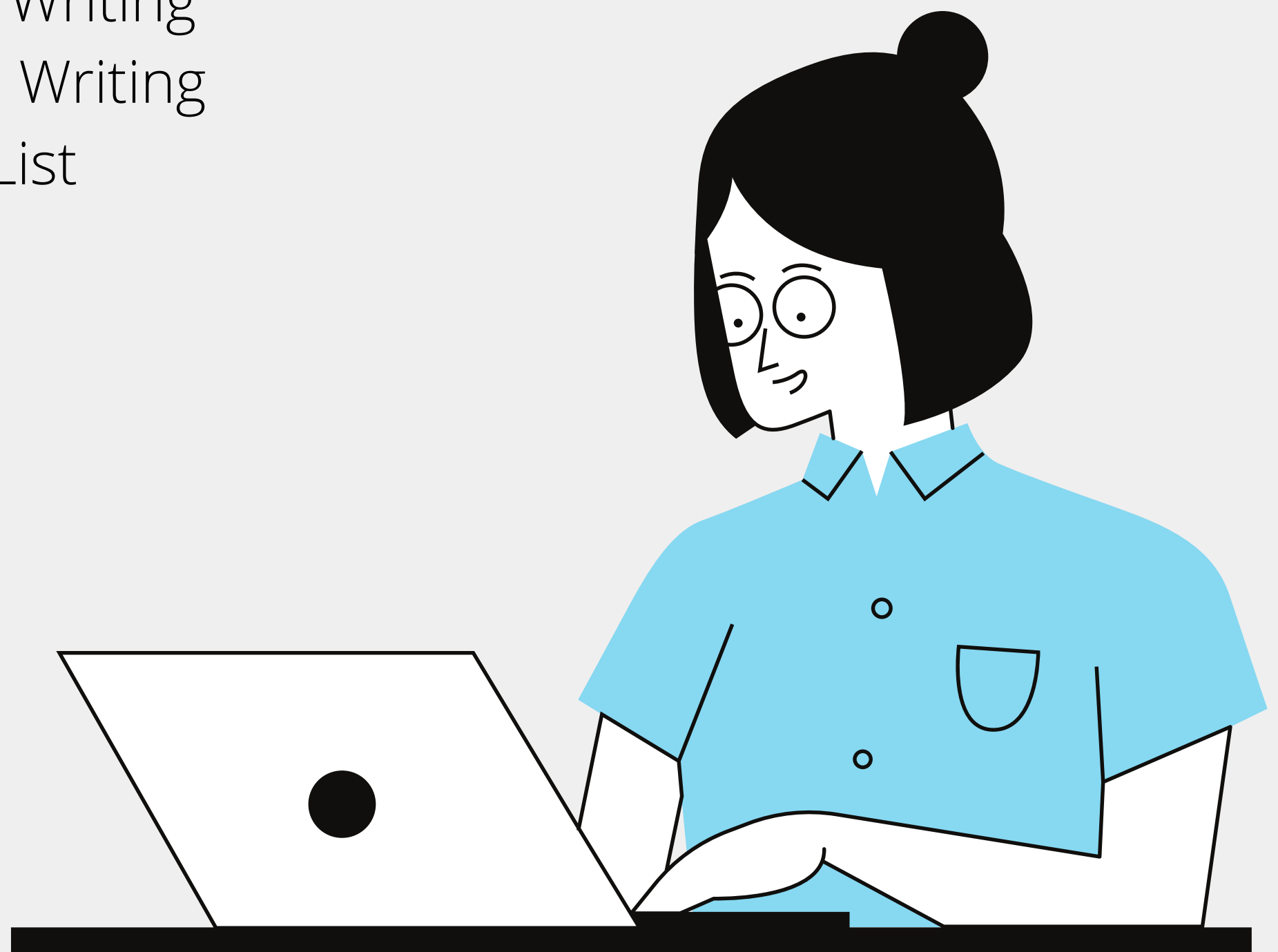
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/IYWLP_olcaSOGavQrkukbERZRT02Rh4pc?usp=sharing

Without print and in-person meetings this semester, we needed to figure out ways to work digitally and remotely. We started a shared google drive folder that is visible to the public but is used primarily by members of The Stute. In the folder we created resources and Google documents such as "Intro to News Writing," and "Ethical Reporting," among others.

This shared folder is a way that we can write all our knowledge and learnings down on paper and keep it somewhere for future members of The Stute to look at and learn from.

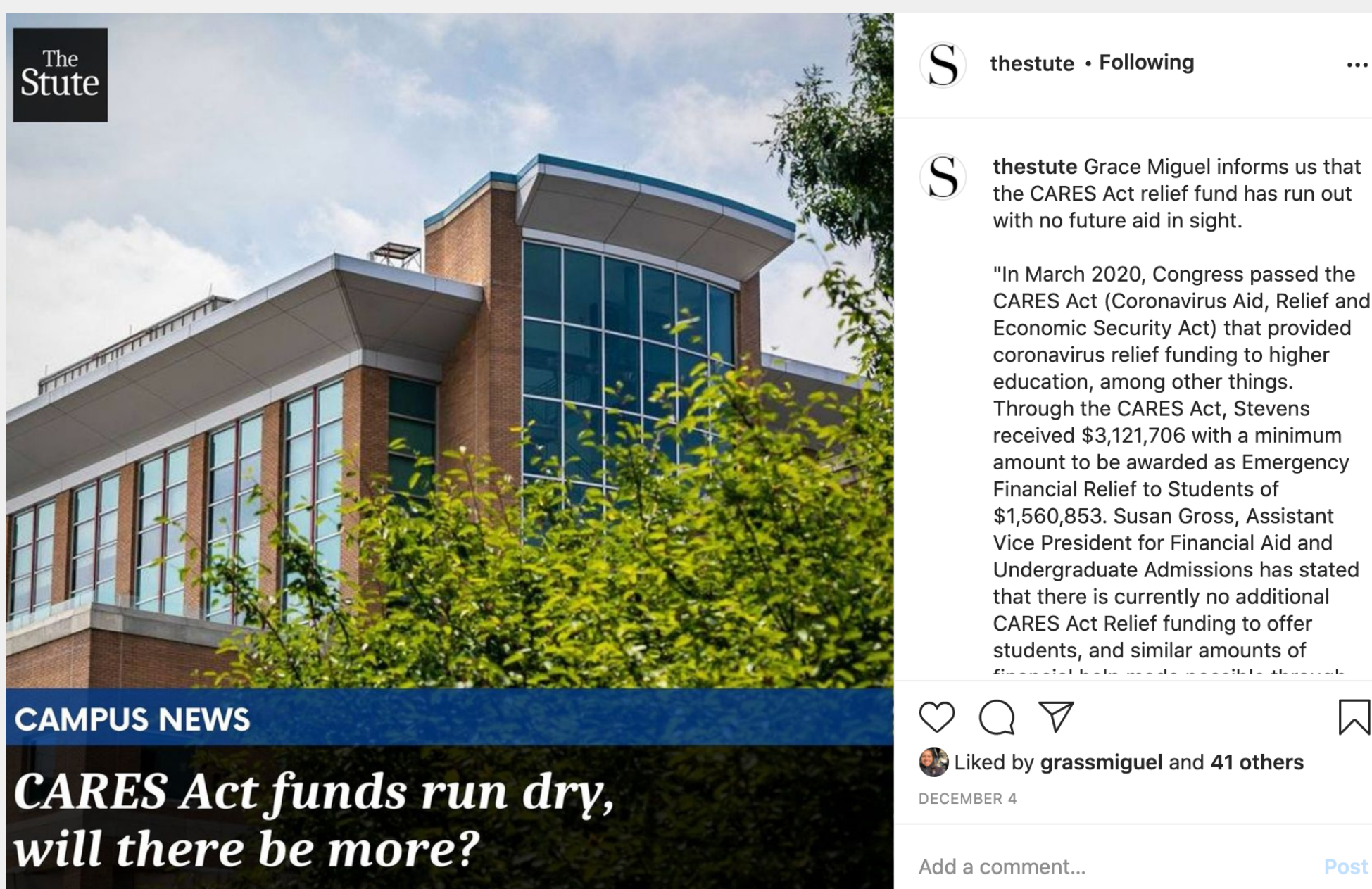
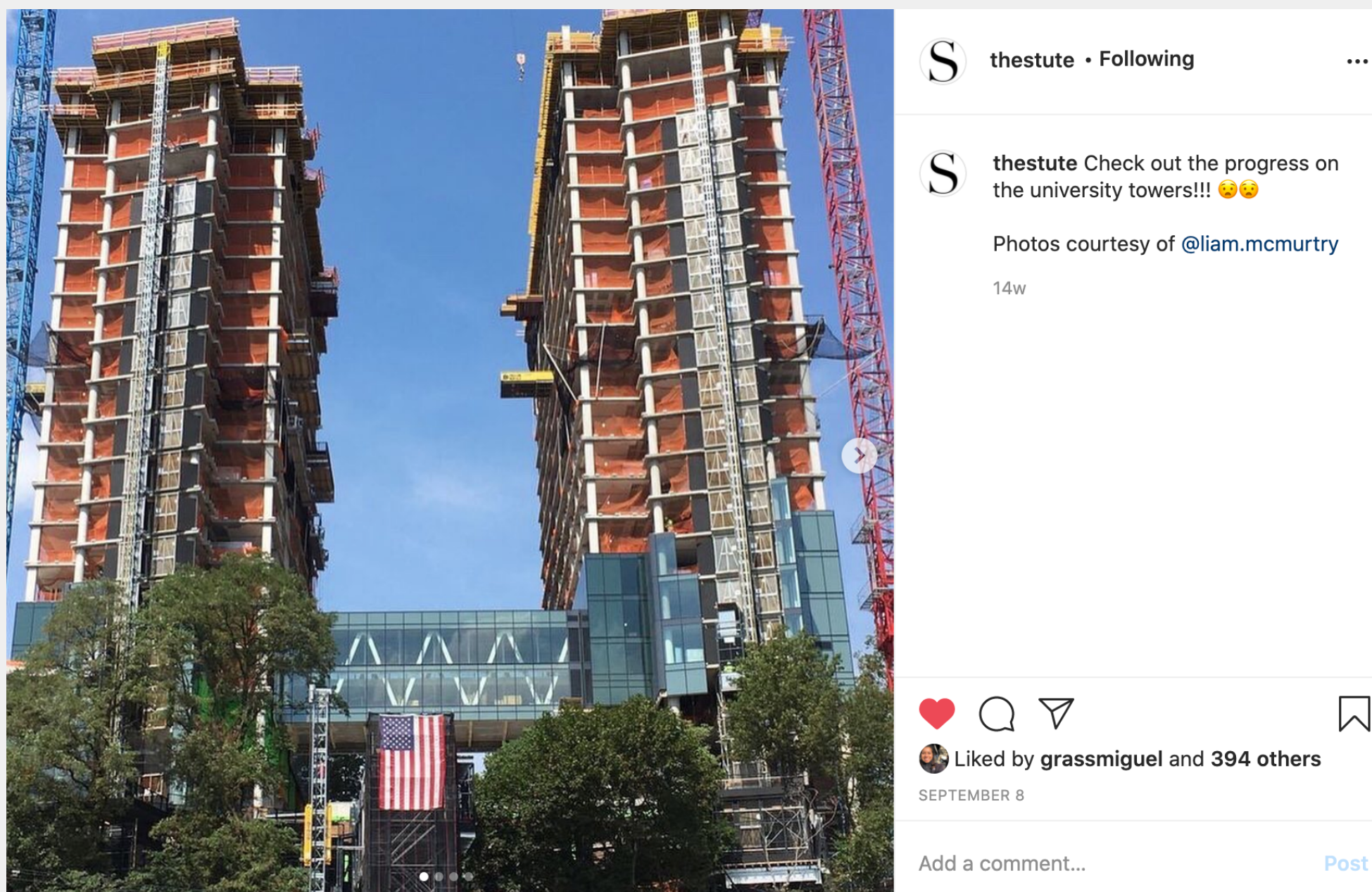
Some documents in the folder:

- New to Stute Guide
- Constitution & Bylaws
- Intro to News Writing
- Intro to Science Writing
- Intro to Opinion Writing
- Admin Contact List



Social Media Presence

Our social media presence has taken off this semester! Last semester, we revised our Constitution and added a new position to the Eboard: Digital Manager. The Digital Manager is in charge of our digital world, which includes overseeing our social media profiles. We've increased the amount of importance we place on our Instagram page in specific, and it has been an influential method of interacting with students. Without print and in-person meetings, we've used Instagram to post about articles and to promote our meetings, among many other things.



Organizational Changes

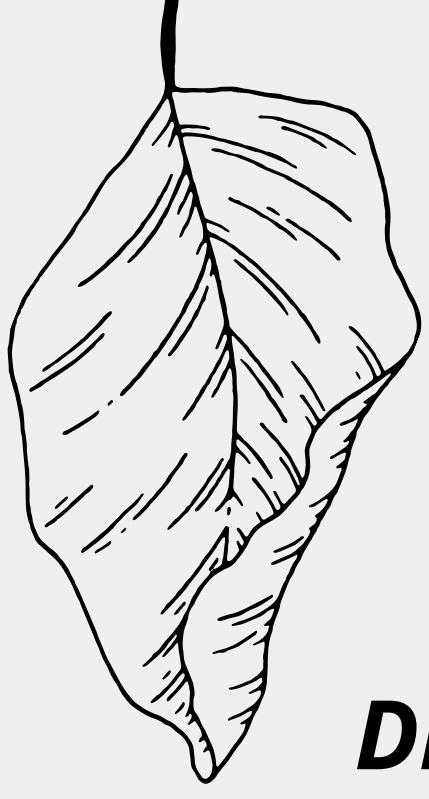
Executive Board structure: as hinted in the previous page, we revised our Constitution last semester and added two new Eboard positions to increase the number from 5 to 7. The positions we added were Digital Manager and Secretary.

Policy updates: This semester we heavily revised what was our Policies to be what is now our "Purpose, Values, Policies, and Practices" that in a way stands as an extension of our Constitution and Bylaws.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SxmoB9dZMJ4HFy8bbJdOaax0ftvXulr-LSDvdipNeQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Transparency: communication between The Stute and readers has not always been a priority. However, it is of utmost importance to the current Editor in Chief and current Executive Board to ensure transparency and an understanding between The Stute and readers is carried out. Editorials are being used and will continue to be used as ways of speaking to readers, explaining editorial decisions, and much more. Here are other ways we are aiming to increase transparency:

- Making an effort to reach out to students for healthy discourse concerning a decision we made or a piece we published
- Increasing discussion and importance within The Stute on ethical journalism and reporting practices
- Understanding our roles as student journalists and how we can better represent the Stevens community



Professional Development

Digital Accessibility Pledge: this semester we took a pledge along with other student organizations to be digitally accessible. Organized by the Diversity & Inclusion Committee of the SGA, we are striving to make sure our increased social media use and digital delivery of news stays accessible. Over the 2020-21 winter recess, we will be refreshing our Instagram page, our website, and researching ways we can better deliver the news to ensure we are offering it in condensed, easy to understand, and accessible ways.

Leadership Series: this semester we took part in a series of leadership workshops organized by Student Life. We learned about effective communication, navigating conflicts, and overcoming our fears with being in our roles. We connected virtually with other student organizations and made an effort to learn about how we can be better leaders for our staff.

For the future: over the winter recess and during next semester, we will be researching more ways we can work on professional development. This includes but is not limited to taking LinkedIn learning courses together, researching journalism conferences we can attend, and much more.

Looking ahead: 2020-21 Winter Recess

Recruitment Program: over the winter recess we will be trying a new recruitment and onboarding tactic, such as a Winter Journalism Program, or Bootcamp, or Crash Course in being involved with The Stute (name pending). Similar to past "Stute Freshmen Weekends," this program will be a time for new members to come learn about our organization and for returning members to advance their skills or become an editor. Logistics are still being worked out, but we are planning for the program to be 2-3 days in late-January for virtual workshops and social activities. This will not only help us prepare for the Spring '21 semester but will also help us gain members and engagement.



Looking ahead: Spring '21 Semester

Here's a sneak peak into some of the initiatives we hope to work towards during the Spring '21 semester!

- Improved copy editing system to increase efficiency and workflow
- Increase in communication — more meetings with editors, readers, staff members, etc
- Presentations and meetings discussing ethical journalism and professional practices expected of our staff members
- Refresh our LinkedIn page + create titles for all members to add their experience to their pages
- Plan features and special issues and how we can execute them digitally (Black History Month, International Women's Day, etc)
- Explore and expand our "Gender, Race, and Religion" section to increase pieces written for the category and topics we cover
- Increase contact with other student organizations to have advertisements on our website for other club events
- And much much more!

Thank you for taking the time to read The Stute's Fall 2020 Semester Report! We'll see you next semester.