

APRIL 2003  
1957 CLASS NOTES

Faced with a deadline in 10 days for the April issue of TR and no material on hand except the obituaries, I emailed the 358 classmates whose names reside on the MIT server. I threatened to devote this entire column to an update on my three-year-old twin grandsons if I had nothing else to report. Within 24 hours I received over 30 responses, more than enough to fill the 1200 lines allotted to me for several issues to come. Even though \*Joe Aein would rather hear about my grandsons, I will take them in alphabetic order, and I have forwarded all of them on to \*Marty Zombeck, our web master par excellence, for immediate posting.

\*Alex Bernhard writes that his wife, Myra, and he biked 140 miles along an old railroad right of way in Northern Quebec last September. Going it alone they learned how to fix a flat tire, where to find great French food, and how to stay dry in the rain (find a good coffee shop). He is still at Hale and Dorr as a full partner but has reduced his workload, which he describes as the best of both worlds. Alex proudly tells of his four grandchildren.

\*Daniel Borenstein tells of his exciting year as President of the American Psychiatric Association, an organization of 40,000 psychiatrists. He chose the themes for the two scientific meetings the organization held this year and wisely recruited Eric Kandel who won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry just prior to the meeting as one of the featured speakers. Another was Ray Kurzweil well known to MIT for his work in Artificial Intelligence. One meeting attracted over 13,000 registrants, and the second set records for its location. Dan describes the presidency as basically a fulltime job, so he is now in the process of getting reacquainted with his friends, rebuilding his private practice, and returning to teaching as a Clinical Professor at UCLA. He lives with his wife of 35 years, Bonnie, in LA. Their son Jay is president and CEO of a small software company in Palo Alto.

\*Mike Brenner emails from New York that he is still working and having more fun than ever with an executive search practice in Information Technology and as an executive coach. He has had time to write a draft of a book titled, My Dad and Me. It may be telling that one of my favorite courses at MIT was in Shakespeare. This New Year's Day he attended the wedding of \*Jack Friedman. Mike says yoga has been an incredible addition to his life. All of his kids are fully independent and he now has two young grandchildren. Lastly, he reports he is on the Board of Fedcap, a \$60 million not-for-profit organization that trains and employs people with disabilities. Next year expects to become President.

\*Ed Bristol asks how many pages do I want from him and encloses a listing of 114 articles, speeches, papers, etc. that he has penned in the last 30 years. He has retired from Foxboro after a 40 year career as Research Engineer. Ed is still active in the Boston area IEEE and ACM.

\*Sherman Chow responds that he worked in Boston and Philadelphia following graduation from Tech and then picked up a Masters Degree from Cornell in 1963. He then returned to Canada where he worked on radio and satellite systems at a Canadian Government establishment called the Communications Research Center in Ottawa.

Sherman officially retired in 1995 but was appointed Scientist Emeritus, so he still has an office and lab space to work on projects he finds interesting.

\*Stanley Cortell reports that he has been a Professor in the Department of Medicine of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University and Chief of Nephrology at St. Lukes-Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan since 1975. He enthusiastically works full time teaching, doing research and in patient care. His older son Andrew is an Assistant Professor at Lewis and Clark College and his younger son Jonathan is with the NY State Housing Authority, working on developing affordable housing.

\*John Roberts sends along word of the death of \*Robert Jantzen on September 30, 2002. Bob spent his career designing, building, and rebuilding dredges in the US, Central and South America, Europe, and Africa. Bob is survived by his wife, Joann, two daughters, two brothers, and numerous nieces and nephews. The Institute has also notified me of the passing of \*Dr. Gordon Anderson, of Tiverton, RI, in October 2000, \*James Burns, a Director of American Cyanamid, in July 2002, and \*Jose Frenk of Washington DC.

The following loving memorial by \*Lester Gimpelson to his good friend, \*Marshall Schachtman, apparently was lost somewhere during the month that I took over this column from \*Alan May. Lester writes that I am saddened to report that Marshall died on February 1, 2002. His whole career, from co-op days to retirement some years ago, was with Bell Labs. He had been ill for some time and with “overseeing” by a quartet of friends from MIT and Bell Labs was living in an assisted care home in New Jersey. Last February over 70 of his friends gathered to remember him, with extemporaneous remarks and a slide show that happily turned into a “roasting” which Marshall would have enjoyed. Friends remembered his idiosyncrasies, his travels and his visits, like his caviar drops offs for me in Brussels on his way back from Iran and a drop in on his former secretary on Peace Corps duty in Kenya. Also alluded to were his 12,000 slides, his long answering machine messages (touting the “real Marshall”), his magnificent ski house in Breckenridge CO, and his do-anything-for-friends mode of life. The story was told complete with a slide of Marshall monitoring an underground cable in the hot summer of a southwest desert. He had bought a beach chair and umbrella and sat there beside a telephone company truck. The local newspaper also got that picture and used it to complain about this luxury causing Ma Bell’s high rates. As an undergrad in Atkinson dorm, Marshall built his own telephone switch, hooking up friends in the East Campus dorm. This large machine (a stepper for those with telco backgrounds) sat in a bathtub and continued to switch calls. Amazingly it still lives, dusty but proud, in Marshall’s house in Red Bank, NJ. Would anyone like to have it? One of Marshall’s Bell Labs cohorts said that Marshall never spoke ill of anyone and I don’t know of anyone else about whom I can say that. Marshall was one of the most colorful, best known and most universally like characters of the Class of ’57. Marshall has no surviving family members. A fund has been set in his memory at MIT. Lester Gimpelson has Marshall’s MIT ring and says he is prepared to give it to a classmate who makes an appropriate contribution to the fund.

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