

June 2004 1957 CLASS NOTES

*Bill Salmon hard at work planning for our fiftieth reunion reports that 130 of us have responded to his questionnaire. Early results indicate there will be a large turnout. You can view the results of the Reunion Survey on our web site:

<http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1957/50reunion>. The class site is maintained by *Marty Zombeck who reports he has retired after 30 years at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, working in the field of X-ray astronomy. He and his wife moved to York, ME last December, but they plan to be snowbirds, winters in Naples FL and summers in Maine. Marty says that as a true geek he will lug his computer back and forth with them. Also wintering in Naples is *Dick Monson who retired from Monson Engineering in 2002. While still doing some consulting work, he has more time for golf and tennis now. *Phil Cammack puts us in the mood for the Reunion by remembering when he lived in Burton, in order to liven up the room, his roommate and he hung curtains along one blank wall. They thought that if they opened the curtains a little in the middle and hung a mirror there, it would make the room seem a lot larger. But being poor they did not have the funds to purchase one. They happened though to notice that the men's room upstairs in a library just down river from the main building had outstanding mirrors over the sinks. Yeah, they did it. They went over and lifted one of them off the wall and carried it about half a mile back to their room. When the semester ended, they took it down, brought it back to the library and hung it in its original place. It had not been replaced. Fifty years later Phil says "Thanks for the loan."

*George Moy sends a short note from Gaithersburg, MD to say that he was happily married to Alice King in July 2002.

*John Varela responds to my e-mailed threat to devote Class Notes to information about my twin grandsons by telling us he has two grandsons of his own, plus two granddaughters and a web site to display them on. John retired from the MITRE in 1995 after 35 years in the air traffic control automation business. He is president of the retired men's group at his golf club at the River Bend Country Club in Great Falls VA. The club plays home and home matches with 15 other clubs in Northern Virginia. The neat thing about being president is that it is a sinecure. The team captain does all the work. Serve two years as captain and then you get to loll about for two years as president. John had a nice vacation in Iberia last winter and planned to attend Mardi Gras in his home town, New Orleans, this past February.

*Bob Schwartz tells us that he has retired after a career at Cornell Aero Labs, Sylvania, and Raytheon in Wayland. He enjoys cooking as a hobby, having collected over 300 cookbooks. He now has time now to play with his PC. Bob also works part time as a real estate agent.

*Jeff Wisnia proclaims he is still breathing and enjoying life in Winchester, MA. He had a great time at the last class reunion dinner in Cambridge and is looking forward to the next one. He retired from being an "electronicer" five years ago and since then has been applying his "flimsy math skills" to keeping the books for his wife's medical practice. He also attempts to keep up with the antics of the youngest of their four kids ages 17 to 39. The eldest son is an EE who turned to manufacturing a few years ago and started www.pbasics.com. Jeff's family and some of his current antics can be viewed at

<http://home.comcast.net/~jwisnia18/jeff/> Jeff closes by adding, if you can keep smiling when things go wrong, you have thought of someone else to place the blame on.

*Phil Presser reports that his wife Libby retired recently, some ten years after he did, so they are now really into retirement. They enjoyed traveling through Chile recently where the people are friendly, the country is beautiful, and the wine plentiful and cheap. They have a place in Mammoth CA and invite anyone who would like to join them in hiking in the summer to give them a shout.

My threat to fill the column with news of my twin grandsons also induced *Lew Smith to write that indeed the best part of his life has been connected to his grandchildren. No one ever told him how much joy they would bring. He then sends along this summary of his last 47 years. Although a member of the Class of '57 he was in the Course VI-A, a five year program, so the exact graduation year gets somewhat complicated especially since he married Evie, a beautiful blue eyed blonde sister of Ernest Wolff '56, before he graduated. He finally got his BSEE and MSEE in 1959. They now have four children and nine grandchildren. Their oldest granddaughter has applied to MIT and hopes that having two great uncles as well as an MIT grandfather will count in her favor. After graduation, Lew spent 20 years as an analog-to-digital circuit design engineer for a number of Boston area companies, most notably Analog Devices. He nostalgically remembers borrowing needles from the nurse's office to probe his first integrated circuit analog-to-digital converter. In 1978 he moved to Tucson where his property is bisected by a major wash that functions as a wildlife corridor. They have learned to share their porch with bobcats, their swimming pool with raccoons, and their flowers with pig-like javelina. Lew retired in 1992 to take up flying full-time. Over the years he has owned an autogyro, four ultra-light aircraft, and four paragliders. Lew says he never truly perfected landings, and the resulting family concern and hospital bills finally grounded him in 2000. These days he spends his time as a volunteer in the local school system where last summer he taught trig and pre-calculus to a blind student. Lew also enjoys traveling, sometimes with grandchildren, writing for ham radio magazines, and hiking. He plans to attend the reunion in 2007.

Sadly, we report the death of Dr. Donald Arnush on April 24, 2003. Don was Director of Energy Research at TRW in Redondo Beach, CA, where he was the driving force behind the construction from scratch of their plasma physics department.

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