

SEPTEMBER 2004
1957 CLASS NOTES

Although he wonders why anyone would be interested in what he is doing,*Frank Regan sends along the following update. After getting his BS Frank continued on and received his MS in Course XVI in 1958 and began a career at the Naval Surface Warfare Center. After his wife Katherine was seriously hurt in an automobile accident in August 2002, it seemed prudent to retire and go in new directions. He has continued to work at the old job, but as a contractor, and only for two or three days a week. His wife and he are members of the Renaissance Institute at the Notre Dame College in Baltimore, a group of about 250 retirees, most of whom were professionals. All are over 50 and for the most part are interesting and interested in the world around them. Frank gave a course there last year on the history of commercial aviation from 1905 to 1940. This group also gets together to go to plays, symphonies, restaurants, etc. Frank still flies a small Cessna in a flying club, skis when he can, and rides an ancient Yamaha motorcycle just enough to annoy his wife and friends. Frank makes it a policy not to ski when there is no snow and not to ride the Yamaha when the slopes are covered. He thinks there is an interesting Bayesian problem here but “too much gray matter may have left his brain for him to run with this one.”

Frank has five grandchildren ages eight to 23. The youngest three still think their grandfather is a guy who has done everything and knows everything. He helps them with their school-work as much as they will let him, encourages them, and gives them some sort of refuge from the rigors of parental discipline. He hopes that one of the grandchildren will get to MIT.

Occasionally Frank wanders around the Institute as a tourist and reads Technology Review. From his vantage point he believes that MIT has changed much in the last 50 years, going from a more hands-on technology school to a place in the forefront of science. He believes many of the professors seem to be more policy wonks than engineers or scientists. Frank would love to have been a history of technology prof at MIT, focusing on technology rather than the personalities who made it possible. His specific interest would be transportation, vehicles, and the networks that support them, including the roads and GPS navigation for planes and ships. Along with this Frank has a long and abiding interest in the rise of technology in New England, specifically the mill culture that started there in the early part of the Nineteenth Century. He grew up in Lawrence MA, so the mills were all around him as were the horror stories about the working conditions in them.

Frank has taught engineering courses at the University of Maryland, including airplane stability and control, linear algebra, computer programming, and dynamics. He reports that it was great fun and made him wish that he had followed a more academic path in life. The world of ideas has always held great interest for him, and he has written two books.

His wife and he have done extensive traveling over the past four years, visiting Australia, New Zealand, China, Russia, most of Western Europe, Greece, Turkey, and a delightful trip across Canada by train.

*Hank Salzhauer sends along an update for the past couple of years. Sue and he took a trip of a little over three weeks to India last October. This was their second time there, and the second time where part of the trip was done under the auspices of the Metropolitan Museum of Art with Oliver Bernier as a guide and lecturer. After the museum trip, they traveled a bit by themselves. Hank reports that the country is so different from what they are used to here in the US, and the history and art, especially with Bernier as guide, is something one comes to understand and appreciate. The last time they were there was three years ago, and there are visible changes in the country since then. He reports that the economy indeed has a long way to go, as evidenced by the fact that on a construction site sand is carried in small trays by heavily-burdened women with nary a wheelbarrow in sight. The other side of this situation is the Call Center business, the Software business, and the general dynamics of business in the country. The fact that government controls have been removed from capital investment has brought Indian entrepreneurship into full flower. There is still an enormous amount of basic political corruption. Although there is some of it here, Hank says that in India they really know how to do it. But Hank believes that will change with the growth of an educated middle class.

Hank notes that from a business and occupational viewpoint things are certainly well. He doesn't want to get too far into a bragging mode and that is one reason he hesitated to write, but along with son Mike, he manages an investment fund which had a return of over 63% last year, on top of a return of 11% in '02, a 33% return in '01, and a 20% in 2000. Hank says that in addition to making money, the ability to manage it and see how you are doing against a group of peers becomes almost like a competitive game, and winning the game adds to the sport.

Family-wise the Salzhausers have six grandchildren, the oldest of whom is ten and seems to want to go to Harvard rather than MIT, but Hank will see about that.

The last time we heard from Dan Borenstein he was busy as the President of the American Association of Psychiatrists. Since then he has been able to get reacquainted with friends and enjoying the holes in his practice caused by his frequent absences. His psychiatric and psychoanalytical practice consists of relatively healthy late adolescents and adults. In addition he is a clinical professor in the department of psychiatry and bio-behavioral sciences at UCLA as well as a senior faculty member of the LA Psychoanalytic Society and Institute. Dan also serves as an examiner for the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. In addition to these duties, Dan has been president of the Bay District of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, a member of the Board of Trustees of the CA Medical Association for nine years and is currently serving as a Delegate in the AMA House of Delegates.

Dan reports that he and Bonnie have been happily married and living in the Brentwood section of LA for over 36 years. They have one son, Jay who is president of Tsunami Software in Palo Alto. Dan finds time to play tennis three times a week and loves to travel.

Sadly, I must report the death last May of our former president Paul Nicholson. Paul had a Masters from BU in Physics and a PhD from the University of London and was active both as a consultant and a lecturer at MIT and Tufts.

*Jack Safirstein, 30 Woods End Road, Hartsdale, NY 10530. e-mail:
jack.saf@verizon.net.