

November 2002 Notes MIT Class of 1957

In anticipation of having plenty of hours to fill in retirement, I agreed to take over as Class Secretary from Alan May. You read this column, so you know Alan is a tough act to follow. His columns were always tight, meaty, and well paced, but I figure if you guys will send me the raw material, I'll be happy to whip it into shape. How much work could it take to knock out six issues a year over five years?

Alan has warned me that I might have to resort to sending you birthday cards in order to inspire you to provide me with some information for the column, but I think I have a better way to get grist for my word processor; namely, I will throw out a topic and you can respond to it or not. If you do, I think we can turn the column into a lively forum based on your experiences over the past 45 years. If not, you are going to read a lot about my twin grandsons, David and Scott, born to my daughter, Julie, MIT '89 and her husband, Kent, MIT '82. (Yes, they met at an alumni event in Philadelphia.)

Although modern communications are almost instantaneous, TR works to its own internal clock. I am working on this column on a beautiful day in July to meet the August 2 closing date for an issue you will receive between Halloween and Thanksgiving. If you drop everything to write a brilliant essay on today's topic, you probably will not see it in print until next winter (or perhaps early spring?). I don't know when because I have yet to receive the publication schedule for the next year. If this format does prove interesting to a broad enough segment of our class, I will see if I can get all the responses posted to our Website.

*TOPIC FOR NEXT COLUMN

The toughest client/customer I ever had....

Now to the stuff you sent Alan May last spring. **Ralph Reynolds** writes from Rochester, NY to tell of his role as President of the local chapter of Americans for Separation of Church and State. He also heads up the Secular Humanists of The Rochester Area. His work was recently recognized by an award from the Genesee Valley chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union. **Dr. Mark Hanschka** has retired from Kaiser Permanente in Portland where he was an OB/GYN and now volunteers for Planned Parenthood, enjoys playing the piano and writing for environmental organizations. **Phil Presser** seems to have got his MS in Physics (Class of '01 if I am reading his handwriting correctly.) He also is using his spare time to play the guitar and gaze through his telescope. He neglected to tell us what he is looking at. **Paul Nicholson**, still tooling away as CEO/Chief Scientist at Fiber Phonics in Malden, has received Notice of Allowance from the US Patent and Trademark Office for his invention, Light Ramp 2000, an all fiber optic solution to the "Last Mile" which will allow two-way multi-media services to the desktops of homes, small businesses, medical offices, schools, etc.

You may remember Paul's work as Class President and Reunion Committees.

Speaking of the 45th Reunion last June, **Ermanno Signore** sent along a wonderful account of his trip east with his wife, **Kay**. Being from California, he was started at the cavalier attitude of pedestrians. Driving problems aside, Ermanno enjoyed touring New England, in general, and his search for true East Coast pizza, in particular.

On a more sober note, part of this job apparently is “chronicling of the contributions and memories of deceased alumni and alumnae .. a sad task, but also a very important and meaningful one” to quote from my instructions. Thus I must report the passing of:

Dr. Thayer French	April 2001
Jose Frenk	1999
DeWayne Ganow	March 1999
Trond Kaalstad	November 2001
Deane Kihara	October 2001
Martha Norman	
Marshall Schachtman	February 2001
Richard Sparapany	

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