

NOVEMBER NOTES
Class of 1957

*Marty Zombeck alerts us that he has added an image of the month to our class web site. The new image is a photo of the model for the Ray and Maria Stata Center with a link to the Center web site. To access our site go to <http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1957/>

*John Rinde writes that after working 12 years as an engineer he went back to school to study medicine, and he has indeed been pleased with that decision. He feels that he has had a positive impact on the lives of many patients, but after practicing medicine for 24 years in Clearwater FL he decided to call it quits to pursue other interest in snow skiing, tennis, and travel, although he will probably miss the person-to-person interactions. (Thanks John for tending to my brother Dick.)

*Tom Roberts sends a brief note that he is now retired and reasonably recovered from a long bout with health issues. He is driving again and can walk about 180 feet at a clip. He is presently doing some advisory work with Sigma chapter of his fraternity Theta Xi.

*Hank Salzhauer reports that Sue and he have two comparatively new grandchildren. Their son Mike and his wife Amanda had a second girl, and their daughter Elisabeth and her husband Blair had a fourth child, making it three boys and one girl. At this late stage in his business career, he is getting some exposure to the court system of our country. The experience leaves him thinking wonderful country, lousy court system that certainly needs some revamping. Hank feels it is a stranglehold on business and technology. He writes about it with the hope that if the opportunity presents itself for any of us to effect a change for the better that we accept the challenge, or at the least work with those who are trying to do so.

For the past two years Hank has been on the Board of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Association, a research and teaching facility for bio-research and genetics. It doesn't consume a vast amount of his time, and it gets him close to some world-class science. Hank feels that he actually gets more out of it than he puts in. The Lab is on the North Shore of Long Island about 40 miles from New York. Hank notes that Watson of DNA double helix fame makes his home there. If anyone would like to visit the Lab, get in touch with Hank.

*George Seiler sends word that his management consulting firm, Profit Planning Associates celebrated its 25th anniversary in Spring 2003. He describes their activities as helping managers make winning business decisions. He remains active with the practice, spending about $\frac{3}{4}$ time with it. His wife Jean and he take the balance of the time for travel and other fun activities, including a capella singing. His consulting practice web site is <http://pwl.netcom.com/~profitpl/> (We're not above giving plugs.) George serves as a director of two privately held corporations and is on the advisory board of a third. He also is active in helping technology start-ups. Jean and he joyfully celebrated their 30th anniversary. Five years ago they moved from the suburbs of New York to the Saratoga Springs area in upstate NY and report they love living there. Jean's music group recently celebrated its 30th anniversary with a concert and the release of their third CD.

*Hal Shane writes that after an abortive fifth year working towards an MS in Geochemistry at Tech he worked for two years as an engineer for Daystrom in Poughkeepsie. He then decided to return to graduate school and enrolled at NYU in Mathematics where he earned his MS in a year and a half. Hal then began teaching at

Cooper Union while continuing his studies. Six years later, having acquired a wife(Mita), two daughters (Erica and Lisa), and a PhD in Mathematics, he took a job at Baruch College of CUNY. He spent the next 33 years trying to do some original Mathematics and trying to teach the subject. He must have been a pretty good teacher, because he is in a series of videotapes on the subject that he made for Video Aided Instruction, a Roslyn, NY based firm. Both Erica and Lisa went to MIT, class of '86 and '89 respectively. In January 2001 Hal retired and he and Mita moved to an "active adult" community in NJ, where he spends most of his time reading, doing crossword puzzles, playing cards, chess, and billiards. He notes that it is pretty much like being back in college –without exams! Last June Erica presented Hal and Mita with a grandson, Joshua; and in July Lisa followed suit with their second grandchild, Jack

*Ira Skalet fills in 40 years with a note that two weeks after graduating Tech, he married his college sweetheart, Ellie. Their first child, Paul was born a year later, and their daughter Joanne in 1960. Following graduation and marriage, Ira joined the family business, a wholesale manufacturer of precious jewelry. His father passed away a few months before Ira's 32nd birthday, so he received a real trial by fire. Fortunately an uncle was in the business with him and proved to be an invaluable aide and mentor. The business grew, the product mix changed, customers came and went, and employees did the same. The sales force went from three or four independent reps to eight full time sales specialists devoted to the one line of jewelry. His son Paul worked in the business in summers and during vacations just as Ira had done while a teenager and college student. In the late 1980's major changes took place in the industry and in the buying methods of his major retail customers. What had been a fun business of 30 years became a cutthroat one. Competition was not the problem; it was their own customers who began setting prices and limiting margins. They dictated how the business was to be run and made demands that became impossible to meet, even with computers, electronic data exchange, contract manufacturing and offshore contractors. In 1993 Ira got an offer and realized the time had come to sell the business. Since then he has been with a search and recruiting firm in Great Neck LI, where he specialized originally in the jewelry industry, but now finds his efforts directed to high tech industries like information technology, information systems, telecommunications and defense.

Finally, I pass along this note from Bob Smart that illustrates one of the more embarrassing aspects of being Class Secretary. "No one was more interested than I in your June '03 TR class note advising everyone that Bob Smart died in October 2002..... Although some fellow grads have checked on my well being, I have to wonder how many think I have passed away. A clarification may be in order. MIT had the distinction of having two Bob Smarts in its ranks. One Bob Smart was Harold Robert Smart, Course II and a native of Cambridge; and the other Bob Smart (me) was Robert Dalton Smart, Course I and a native of Quincy. From initial registration we had to be wary of record keepers who kept trying to blend the two of us. We met in line on registration day and remained good friends for our four years at school. I was sorry to learn of Harold Robert Smart's death. Please be assured that Robert D. Smart is still alive and thoroughly enjoying his retirement years in Wolfeboro NH." Bob's death is the second one erroneously reported by me.

I have e-mails from just a few more classmates to relay to you in the February 04 issue. Unless you want to see more than pictures and anecdotes about my twin grandsons, better

send me some more material.—*Jack Safirstein, 30 Woods End Road, Hartsdale, NY
10530; e-mail:jack.saf@verizon.net