

NOVEMBER 2004 NOTES FOR  
CLASS OF 1957

\*Alex Bernard reports that he and his wife Myra spent a month in the Lanquedoc region of France last November and that it was great. He thinks it will be the next Provence. They were back at their farm in New Hampshire on January 8<sup>th</sup> when the temperature hit 18 below, and that was Fahrenheit! Alex continues at the Boston law firm of Hale and Dorr doing general corporate work for clients such as Bose Corporation and Ocean Spray Cranberries.

\*Bill Brandon has taken a new job with Harris Corporation, working on satellite communications, after 36 years at MITRE Corporation. He is co-editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Space Communications*. Bill includes research in geology and Dutch painting as hobbies and reports that he currently has six grandsons and two granddaughters.

Last fall, \*Stan Kroder was in Boston attending an academic conference. While there he was thrilled to have dinner with some good friends from our class including \*Jay and Sally Hammerness, \*Carl and Nancy Hagge, \*John White, \*Ken Jones, (all fellow DU's) and Erin VanSpeybroeck the wife of \*Leon who, sadly, passed away last year. The conference Stan attended was sponsored by the Association of Accredited On-line Programs International, a new organization that accredits on-line degree programs. Stan's job as Associate Dean of On-line Learning at the University of Dallas includes managing the on-line MBA program launched in 1997. This program has grown to the point where it offers the entire degree on-line. Last year they had 700 students in 40 classes. These duties are in addition to his position as Associate Professor, teaching courses in Telecommunications. This is Stan's second career, having worked for IBM for 29 years, all of this the direct result of taking course 6.25 where he got to write a program on MIT's Whirlwind computer in 1955.

As I write this column in the summer, it looks like the Yankees "my" team for 60 years now will get another crack at the Cardinals or Braves in the World Series this fall. But I am rooting for the Marlins to stage a comeback, so we can get another report like this one about his team from \*Elliot Wolk next year:

In 2003 I bought a small part of the Florida Marlins. The team was good enough to qualify for the playoffs by winning the wild card spot. On Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> I flew to San Francisco for the first of two playoff games against the Giants. I was able to take my former Harvard Business School roommate and my nephew. We split those two games and I then flew to Florida on the team plane. Nancy, my son Andrew and his wife Jodi came down for the two home games at Pro Player Stadium. Jose Cruz the Giants Gold Glove winner dropped a fly ball in the 11<sup>th</sup> inning of game 4 which the Marlins won. We beat the Giants again in game 5 and my son and I celebrated in the Marlins locker room after the game.

I then flew to Chicago on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> staying at the team hotel. At Wrigley Field I sat in our suite along with the General Manager, the Manager's wife, plus Andre Dawson and Tony Perez, two former big league stars now execs with the Marlins. I went back and forth to the games on the team bus, was on the field during practice before the game, and in the locker room after the games. We split the games in Chicago and once again I flew back on the team plane to Florida. I had a field pass for my son Tony, and he got a kick out of walking around the field and over to the Cubs dugout to stand next to Sammy Sosa. The Cubs won the first two games in Florida. Now down three games to one, we were depressed because we now had to win three in a row to make it to the Series. But Beckett won game 5, and I flew back to Chicago Tuesday afternoon with Jeffrey Loria, the principal owner. We dropped our bags at the hotel and went on to Wrigley to face Prior and then Wood in the next two games. At game 6 I was sitting next to Hall of Famer Tony Perez. We were down 3-0 with one out in the eighth. Both of us were kind of resigned to defeat after a great year, but then came the Miracle... a foul fly ball just where the stands meet the field ... a Chicago fan and the left fielder compete for the ball and the fan wins. Next play their shortstop bobbles the ball for an error. We score eight runs in the eighth inning...Destiny...We win the next game, crushing the Cubs dream, and go on to the World Series. Once more I celebrated in the locker room with the team, getting drenched by Josh Beckett who poured two bottles of Champagne over my head. Now we wanted the Yankees, the legend, and Yankee Stadium. The Series was unbelievable for me, from the eleventh inning walk off home run by Gonzalez to win game 4 to the pitching masterpiece by Josh Beckett to win game 6. There were over 65,000 at Pro Player Stadium for all the Cubs and Yankees games, but the priceless experience for me was being part of the celebration on the field at Yankee Stadium.

From such delightful reports on to a sad note. I must report that Donald Hildebrand, retired USMC Colonel, passed away last June. He is survived by his wife Madeline of Maryville, TN.

For the past two years I have sent e-mails threatening to devote the entire column to the exploits of my twin grandsons if I did not get other material for the column. This threat has proved very effective, perhaps because it is so easy to hit the Reply button to send off a paragraph or two. However effective this electronic communication has been, it does not get me anything to report from those of you who are not on the Institute e-mail list. So now I send the same threat to the 500 or so who have not responded: you are going to hear a lot about Scott and David unless you provide me with something else to report.

Jack Safirstein  
30 Woods End Road  
Hartsdale, NY 10530  
jack.saf@verizon.net