

*Jack Safirstein e-mails that since he is no longer writing the TR Notes after five years, it is appropriate to start off the new class secretary with his own update. After graduation Jack worked briefly for GE in their Manufacturing Training Program. Early assignments included three months in a machine shop and three more watching semi-automatic machinery turning out Christmas tree bulbs. The factory ran 12 months a year with hope that the output could be sold early each fall. When he arrived they had three years production sitting in storage in the cellar. That's when he decided it would be much more interesting and rewarding to move product rather than just make it. Not knowing much about how that was done, after a stint in the Army, Jack headed for Madison Avenue to learn how. As an MIT grad they figured he knew about numbers and would be best suited for the Media Department. Over the next dozen years he did, in fact, work in audience research and planning at three major ad agencies. After being cut back in two recessions, however, he decided he would rather be master of his own fate and took over managing a small 10-person operation doing just under \$200,000 annually. Although it was owned by all the major ad agencies, in general they left him alone for the next 32 years as the company, Advertising Information Services, grew to a 150 people doing \$10.5 million, all without the agencies investing one dollar more than the total original capital of \$30,000 they put up to start the company. Their major service was the previewing of all prime time TV programs to make sure that a commercial did not appear next to scenes which would upset or embarrass the advertiser. They also videotaped all shows for proof of performance. These tapes became the source for a database that grew to over one million commercials. They also collected most magazine and newspaper ads in order to offer complete competitive advertising portfolios. Jack retired as Chairman in 2001, but has been serving emeritus on a monthly basis since then.

Jack married his college sweetheart, Sue, and together they raised two wonderful children, their daughter Julie, MIT '88, who is a doctor, and a son, EJ, a writer who passed away six years ago. Jack and Sue are founding members of the local synagogue, where Jack served on the board and as president during its formative years some 40 years ago. He watched it grow to one of the cutting edge Reform congregations in the country with a membership limited at 420 members.

Since retiring Jack has been auditing a course each semester at the local arts college, getting to the gym more or less regularly, and doing volunteer fund raising for MIT and the Westchester Food Bank. For the past 24 years he has been singing baritone with the Chordsmen, the local affiliate of the Barbershop Harmony Society, which has performed in England, Italy, China, and Russia. He has also been trying with very limited success to play the piano. Jack reports that his health is reasonably good and he looks forward to watching the Yankees in another World Series some day.

*Jim Schattinger provides the following. "My first job out of Tech (I ended up graduating in the class of '59) was for a consulting firm in New York City, and then to Cleveland to work for an oil company. My tenure there was interrupted for two years at HBS, but I did return to the oil company for a few years. For the past 30 years, I have run Pioneer Mfg., a manufacturer of line-marking materials for athletic fields, and Revere Products, a catalog house for do-it-yourself building repair materials sold in kit form. About five years ago, my son succeeded me, so I make it to the office only about twice a week. In the meantime, I play tennis at least three times a week, work out, attend many cultural events, take "senior" classes sponsored by the local university, and have at least a day a week for a "man's day out" with our three-year old

Cleveland grandson. As it happens, Joan and I leave this afternoon (this was in August) to visit our London daughter and her family (two more grandchildren, ages nine and six). Finally, we enjoy traveling and we usually take two foreign trips a year. Life since Tech has been good. I still find it hard to believe that I left school without enough money for the photo in the yearbook.”

*Daniel Borenstein e-mailed the following update. “After finishing my presidency of the American Psychiatric Association in 2001, I have cherished getting reacquainted with my friends and family. Life is good in Los Angeles with tennis, theatre, and gourmet restaurants. I finally have a chance to enjoy my wine cellar with vintages dating back to 1961.

“Having frequented most of northern and western Europe, we are branching out. We recently completed a wonderful trip to Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. In January (2007) we are traveling to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and, in August, to Africa for a safari. Less ambitious trips include returns to the wine country in Northern California.

“I continue in half-time private psychiatric and psychoanalytic practice, serve in multiple capacities in the highest rated physician-owned professional liability company in the nation, and recently received the Distinguished Clinical Professor award at UCLA.

“Bonnie and I will be celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary at the time of our 50th class reunion. We are still on a high from our son’s recent wedding at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, CA. Jay’s company, Internet Appliance, in Palo Alto, is growing by leaps and bounds as it approaches its sixth anniversary.”

*Ernst B Torp sent word that he had planned to attend the reunion, but was unable to because his multiple sclerosis prevents him from traveling much. Ernst and his wife Brit have four children (one boy and three girls), all now in their forties, none of whom attended MIT. In 1986 Ernst sold his company, Torp Data Processing, and bought a 51% share in a 49 foot Hallberg Rassy Yacht. Twice during the 1980s Ernst sailed her as skipper from Norway to the Canaries, then on to the Caribbean and back to Norway via Bermuda and the Azores. He has been working with Brit in the health business in the Arguineguin area in the Canaries since 1990, but they are planning to give up this life and pension themselves in Norway. Ernst’s very good friend and classmate *Gunnar Brondmo died of cancer a few years ago (which was briefly reported in the notes). Gunnar’s American wife, Susan, and his four children (two boys and two girls) are very much adapted to life in the US. The older son, Hans Peter, graduated from MIT several years ago.

*Roger Yaseen says that he has led a normal sort of life – three kids, as many wives, and no great failures. Not exactly what he might have expected when he graduated, but not so terrible either.

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