

Class Notes – 1957

Jul-Aug 2009

Paul Carr says that “while wintering near Bradenton, FL, I enjoyed talking with our classmate **Martin Zombeck** at the MIT Club of Southwest Florida. I have joined the Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College (ASPEC). The Sigma Xi Chapter there is sponsoring my presentation "From Astrology to Astronomy." It is based on Chapter 3 "From the 'Music of the Spheres' to the Big Bang's Whisper" of my recent book "Beauty in Science and Spirit," described on my web page, www.MirrorOfNature.org.”

Bob Laurence sends word that “in 2008 I served as a station director at Cargill in Minnesota and had the opportunity to meet a diver from our days at Tech, Dave Cahlander '59, at the Minnesota Alumni barbecue. Later in the fall, we served the Singapore Station at GSK and Pfizer. The MIT Alumni Club in Singapore put on a great Thanksgiving dinner at the American Club of Singapore and the Practice School crew took part. We're back home now in frigid Maine now remembering the warm Singapore days and waiting to see what this year brings.”

Don Tufts retired in June 2008, after 48 years of university research and teaching. He said that “in addition to the conventional retirement party, I arranged one myself. Sixty-five of my PhD students, research collaborators, and spouses gathered for two days of getting acquainted and reacquainted in an enjoyable setting. Everyone seemed to have a good time, especially me. In retirement I have returned to my interest in local issues and politics.”

Tom Boyle has been trying to use his systems analysis skills to grasp some sense of what is happening in the economy. He says that “the frequent reports of a "downward spiral" - people get laid off, cut back on spending, leading to others getting laid off - got me wondering if the economy was a stable system. I coded up the original five equation Klein model and found that that is a stable system but that the response time is very long, so that it could take years for a shock to work its way through. More recently, I learned of the work of Hyman Minsky and the financial instability hypothesis - it would seem that a model based on that approach might fit the "downward spiral" metaphor in a more troubling way. I would be interested in communicating with anyone with an interest in this kind of approach to the "meltdown"; wolpusa@yahoo.com, wolp@alum.mit.edu.”

Vida and **Vic Klemens** have been busy raising their adopted grandson, John Paul, who turned two. Vida is still guiding in the Egyptian section of the University of Pennsylvania Museum. Vic continues to teach some of his favorite courses on remote sensing and satellite oceanography at the University of Delaware. He is also working on two books and will teach his second Fulbright course at the University of Klaipeda in Lithuania in the spring of 2009. Vic has developed a strong interest in the Baltic Sea and is organizing conferences over there.

Allan Clark reports that “I retired in the summer of 1997 as executive vice president of the Research Foundation of the City University of New York after a career as a mathematics professor and academic administrator in a variety of positions at Brown, Purdue, Clarkson, California State University, and the City University of New York. The last thing I did at RF/CUNY was to move the entire operation into two beautifully restructured floors in a building at 30 West Broadway - the culmination of four years of planning and construction. It was all ruined when 9/11 came - the building was too badly contaminated to be usable, but fortunately none of the staff were seriously injured.

“When I left New York, I settled into pleasant leisure in a warm climate in Carlsbad, CA, promising myself I would do no work in the new millennium. In January, 2000, I came out of retirement for a year to lead the Southern Research Institute in Birmingham, AL, out of financial difficulties - my last useful bit of work, I think.

“To back up a bit, at MIT I lived in Senior House and roomed with **Michael Pick**, Bruce DePalma ‘58, and Arthur Kaufman ‘59. Bruce, the older brother of movie director Brian DePalma, became a famous figure in the “free energy” fringe of science and died in New Zealand in 1997. I wrote my senior thesis with Professor Dirk Struik, who lived to be 104. When asked by NPR why he had lived so long, he answered simply “Because I haven’t died yet.”

“After MIT, I completed my PhD in algebraic topology at Princeton, married, and started to climb the academic ladder at Brown University, where I spent fourteen years, with sabbaticals at the Institute for Advanced Study and the Mathematics Institute in Aarhus, Denmark. My three sons made their appearances. Edward now lives and works in Kuwait, Geoffrey in San Diego, and the youngest, Thann, is in Los Angeles. Thanks to Thann's efforts, my first grandchild is due in August.

“In 1975 Purdue offered me the deanship of the School of Science and I spent a happy ten years there, during which the opportunity for growth of the faculty and facilities made administration rewarding. One highlight was attending Nobel ceremonies in Stockholm when a Purdue chemist, Herb Brown, won the 1979 prize in chemistry. Another was lecturing on Greek and Roman art and history on a cruise around the Mediterranean on the yacht Sea Cloud. Another highlight of my years at Purdue was serving on the Board of Directors of Fermilab from 1978 to 1984. Those were exciting years in high energy physics and Fermilab was in the middle of it all. The Tevatron was then in the planning stages.

“I enjoyed academic life, but haven’t missed it much. It doesn’t make for fascinating biography, but it has afforded me the opportunity to travel, collect rare books, visit famous opera houses of the world, and do a lot of photography. At the moment I am preparing to spend the month of May in Spain (Madrid and Barcelona) and Italy (Milan and Rome), and looking forward to grandfatherhood.”

George W. Grove Jr., 80, a resident of Ravenwood Community in Hagerstown, MD, and formerly of Green Bank, WV, died January 19, 2009. Born in Waynesboro, PA, he

graduated from Waynesboro High School. He served with the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. George later attended MIT, and received his bachelor's degree from American University in Washington. He retired from National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank after more than 30 years of service. He is survived by one niece and many cousins.

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