

\*Darrell Briggs reports that “since I was declared unemployable due to age (aka retired) in May of 2001, I’ve managed to keep busy. My son and three grandsons live in York, ME (not far from Cliff House, the Class of 57 retreat site) and my daughter lives in Chantilly, VA.

“At the request of one of my grandsons I got back into scouting and have been an assistant scoutmaster for his troop. This has meant camping, including sleeping on the ground in a tent, backpacking up Rattlesnake Mountain in Maine, and going on a winter survival trip during which we built snow shelter and woke up on Sunday morning to a temperature of five below zero.

“For the past twenty years my passion has been scuba diving. I am a master diver with almost 900 dives in my logbook. We have enjoyed more than 15 live-aboard dive trips to the Caribbean, but my favorite diving is all around Cape Ann here in Massachusetts. It goes without saying that I have a license to take lobster on scuba. The fun is spotting them deep in their holes in the rocks and reaching in and wrestling them out. By late August we are usually sick of eating lobster which means freezing the meat and going out to dinner.”

\*Bill Fleischer had a successful professional career, first with Ingersoll-Rand and Dresser Industries, and then for over ten years with his own company, which he sold in 1982, manufacturing pneumatic tools and hydraulic jacks. During business trips to Germany he became involved in importing German shepherds. What began as a hobby 44 years ago evolved into a passion and also a substantial business. He now imports and breeds German shepherds, and has kennels, primarily in Texas, but also in other states. Bill owns the number one German shepherd in the world. His 97-year old mother keeps asking him why she sent him to MIT to become a dog breeder.

Bill lives in California with his wife Evy, and is the grandfather of six, including the latest, William IV. He also has a son Danny, 20, at Cal Berkeley and a daughter, Kristine, 18, in junior college. Bill’s old college roommate, \*Ben Inserra, visited a year ago. Ben also provided us an update on himself. He is busy preparing for his next trip to Honduras with medical and dental personnel to service the people of the San Marcos area. He is setting up for another year of stewardship programs at his church. Ben hasn’t played much golf because he had rotator cuff surgery in September, and expects to be going to therapy for another couple of months. He did get to take the sling off, which is a big improvement in quality of life. The biggest event in his family is the upcoming wedding in May of his oldest son Paul.

\*George Moy spent a month traveling through China and Vietnam with Alice, his brother-in-law, and his brother-in-law’s wife. They thoroughly enjoyed it and said that it was not too long – they didn’t think about coming home until the day before their return flight. Both countries are changing rapidly toward western-looking cities and economies, although some of the sites, such as the Great Wall, Xian Terracotta Warrior, and the Guelin Limestone Mountains are rock steady. George recommends these trips highly, especially if you want to see these countries before they change too much.

\*John Best reports that he and Estelle have been dealing with two “situations.” Estelle is recovering from knee replacement surgery, and has had to deal in her recovery with an infection which slowed down physical therapy. The second situation is a home renovation project which they hope will enable them to remain in place as they age. They decided to expand the lower level of their house, recognizing that the stairs will some day be a problem. They are living in a construction site, but hope to be settled in early in 2008. John and Estelle’s three children and five grandchildren, ages 15 years to 15 months, are well and a joy to be around. Two families live close by in New Jersey, and the oldest is in Vermont. They all get together for holidays and birthdays.

\*Dick Blieden has been working in the field of alternative energy technology development for over thirty years, and is director of government and international sales at United Solar Ovonic, LLC. He is a leading authority on solar electric applications worldwide and has been recognized for his pioneering work in the field. Dr. Blieden’s early academic career was focused on energy research and development in elementary particles and nuclear reactions at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, NY; the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen, Denmark; and the CERN Laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland. Dick’s wife, Nancy Baskin, is a licensed clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst. They have been happily married for 45 years and have two outstanding children: Michael, a film director and writer living in Beverly Hills, CA, with his wife, Erin Gibson, and Molly, a managing associate for Steven Holl Architects, living in Brooklyn, NY, with her husband and two children. Dick was a member of the 1960 US Olympic Rowing Team, and organized the class boat for the traditional row at the reunion in June.

\*Paul H. Carr made an excellent nine-minute video of events of the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. He reminded me that it can be viewed by going to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and searching for “50<sup>th</sup> Reunion, MIT Class of 1957.” The video is also available on the class web site.

\*Bill Salmon spent the summer with his committee colleagues tying up odds and ends from the reunion. His wife, Josephine (known to many as Pooky), had been diagnosed with lung cancer in April. During the summer she underwent chemotherapy, following which there was no evidence of cancer cells remaining in her lungs. Bill and Pooky traveled to Tokyo in October where Bill, as secretary/treasurer, was responsible for the meeting of the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technical Sciences (CAETS). While there, Pooky was taken ill and so they returned to the US. She entered the hospital and the diagnosis was that the cancer had metastasized to her brain. Sadly, Pooky passed away on Nov. 1, 2007. Our sympathies are extended to Bill and his family.

The class also extends its sympathies to the family of \*S. Alan Savitz, who died on Oct. 3, 2007, after a long illness. He leaves his devoted wife Maxine, his children, Adam of Greenwich, CT, and Alison of Berkeley, CA, their spouses, and four grandchildren. Dr. Savitz received his medical education at Tufts University Medical School, and practiced psychiatry in Washington, DC. He moved to Los Angeles in 1985 where he was an

innovative developer of managed care for mental health, retiring as CEO of Pacificare Behavioral Health in 2001. Alan loved to walk in, talk with, look at, listen to and eat up the best of the world around him, and left it a better place for having been there.

- \*Don Roellke, secretary, 4870 Carriagepark Road, Fairfax, VA 22032-2383, tel: 703-978-7370, e-mail: [daruellke@alum.mit.edu](mailto:daruellke@alum.mit.edu).