

*Mike Brenner sends word that “In spite of my efforts to slow down I have built a very successful executive coaching business, described in my website, www.brennerresources.com. I published a book entitled “Executive Coaching for Managerial Excellence”, available on Amazon. My wife and I had a splendid time on a three week adventure tour of Cambodia and Thailand. My youngest daughter just completed an MBA at Columbia and is starting her new job in a charter school system as director of operations. My wife and I moved to Brooklyn in 2006 and are enjoying our new apartment.”

I came across a review of the book, “The Design of Future Things”, by *Don Norman in the IEEE Spectrum. In his latest book he says “I believe in making lives richer and more rewarding through use of science and technology. But that is not where our present path is taking us.” *Ray Stata is recipient of the 2008 EE Times ACE Awards Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by EE Times.

*Norman Hirst provided this summary of his career. “I served in the Korean War before attending MIT. Reflecting on the war I concluded that the most urgent task was coming to a better understanding of values. When I met Robert Hartman, visiting professor of philosophy at MIT, teaching formal axiology (value theory), I was quite moved. Hartman created a semi-formal version to help create a science of value. Though knowledge did not support Hartman’s insights, I believed Hartman was right. I also believed there could be no more important task than supporting the possibility of a value science. This has been my life’s work.

Hartman became Research Professor of Philosophy at both the University of Mexico and the University of Tennessee. He died in 1973, and The Hartman Institute was created at the University of Tennessee. I recently delivered a paper at their 30th anniversary meeting on my findings of 50 plus years. My wife and I will be editing the conclusions of my research as further development towards a science of values, to be published this year. I see the possibility of great progress in developing the science as Hartman envisioned, and its impact on the qualities of future life.”

Earlier this year I reported the death of *William Bowman, but no additional information was available. *Thomas Springall sent me an obituary from the Des Moines, WA, News, from which the following is summarized.

Growing up on Long Island, NY, Bill developed a love of family, science, sports, music and humor that endured through his entire life and enriched all who knew him. He studied physics at MIT where he rowed crew and excelled in violin, becoming the concertmaster of the MIT orchestra. He went on to UC Berkeley to get his PhD in physics and play rugby for "Cal."

While diving at the UC pool, he met Betty, his wife of 45 years. They moved to Normandy Park, WA, to start a family while he enjoyed a 30-plus year career in nuclear physics at Boeing. He continued to play rugby in Seattle as well as soccer, basketball and softball. Bill was a consummate family man known for his "Bowman jokes," music, song

and stories. He was involved in all of his kids' sports, including coaching and umpiring Little League baseball, refereeing soccer, and serving as a meet official and an announcer at three swim clubs. Bill lived a dynamic retirement, traveling extensively with Betty, playing on the Des Moines Sounders coed senior softball team, enjoying weekly lunches with retired Boeing buddies, and attending his grandchildren's sporting events and concerts.

Bill died on October 13, 2007, after a six-month battle with primary CNS lymphoma. Bill is preceded in death by his wife, Betty. He is survived by his daughters Kim Smerekanych (Michael) and Brett Bowman, his son William Bowman Jr. (Lisa), and seven grandchildren.

I have to report the deaths of three of our classmates. The class extends its sympathies to their families.

Earlier in the year I had prepared the class notes for July/Aug issue, which included a description of the experience *Ed Hasselmann had in October with forest fires near his home in Southern California. Subsequently I received a circulated e-mail informing that Ed was seriously ill battling cancer. He initially had bladder surgery in October, an additional procedure in November, and a diagnosis of cancer in December. He had been receiving additional treatment through the spring. Another e-mail from Heather Walker, Ed's daughter, conveyed the news that he had passed away peacefully on June 2, 2008. As has been commented to me, Ed was a loyal classmate and his enthusiasm at our reunions will be missed.

*William Hershyn died April 10, 2008. Bill was born in the Ukraine near Kiev and he and his family survived both the Russian and Nazi occupation. His father was a farmer and landowner and Bill spoke fondly of his parents and the lessons they taught. Near the end of the war, at the beginning of the Russian occupation, his family had to hide him to prevent conscription into the Russian army, the fate of many teenage boys whose families never heard from them again. Instructed by his father to follow the retreating German army to escape the Russians, he lived off scavenged food and clothing often found on dead German soldiers. He ended up in a displaced persons' camp in Germany where his intellect and bearing attracted the attention of an influential German woman who sponsored his attending a private high school. Upon graduation, she arranged sponsorship for his immigration into the US. In Boston he worked for a storekeeper who was impressed with his intelligence and work ethic. The storekeeper suggested that he apply to MIT, and he was accepted but had no funds to attend. He volunteered for the US Army during the Korean War, was stationed in Iceland, and when discharged he attended MIT under the GI bill, graduating with a BS in EE. He worked in industry where he distinguished himself as a designer of microwave and x-ray tubes at General Electric and Watkins Johnson, eventually establishing his own x-ray tube business in the Santa Cruz, CA, area. Bill had many relatives in Ukraine. He left no family in the US, but he had many close friends, and will be missed for his humor, love of life, and most of all his devoted friendship.

*Allan Eckhaus sent me notice of the death of *Ira Skalet on July 11, 2008, of bone cancer at his home in Durham, NC. After Ira graduated from MIT he entered the family gold jewelry manufacturing business in New York City. For decades, Ira was a successful provider of fine jewelry. He retired to North Carolina in 2005. Ira was a spirited teacher and advisor, and very generous with his time in maintaining old and new friendships. He kept in touch with classmates from White Plains High School in NY, and was the prime mover in organizing several reunions. He leaves Elinore, his wife of 51 years, son Paul and his wife, daughter Joanne and her husband, and two granddaughters in addition to a large extended family of loving friends and neighbors.

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