

Class Notes

January-February 2009

I am writing these notes on September 14 as Marie and I prepare to depart for our annual autumn stay in Italy. While there I will also make a trip to Cambodia, the fifth of six trips to Southeast Asia I have planned for 2008.

Let me begin these notes with some especially good news, the state of our class's Endowment for Innovation in Education (EFIE). Our class treasurer (and webmaster), **Jorge Rodriguez**, has recently posted the EFIE numbers for June 30, 2008, to our class website. They show that since our 25th Reunion you have contributed over \$1.5 million to EFIE, which now has a market value of about \$6.2 million, and with almost \$1.7 million being awarded to our Faculty Fellows. Congratulations to you all! Visit our class website, <http://alumweb.mit.edu/classes/1960/efie-fund.html> to see the total picture of EFIE, as well as other up-to-date information on class activities. Also, if you still have your copy of the September/October 2008 Technology Review, take a look at page M26 with the class news for 1943 and 1944. There you find a great photo showing Jorge, **Linda Sprague**, and **Barry Bronfin** signing the Treasurer's Memo that reestablishes (but did not launch, as stated in the caption) the relationship between EFIE and the Institute.

One of my regular contributors and a 50th Reunion committee stalwart, **Sue Schur**, is having another exhibition of her paintings in May 2009 at the Somerville, MA, Library's Auditorium Gallery, with an opening reception on May 4, from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. You are all invited. Looking farther ahead, in March 2010, Sue's magazine, Technology & Conservation will be sponsoring an international conference on Glass and Glazing in the 21st Century. This conference is co-sponsored by MIT's Department of Architecture and Boston's Society of Architects.

I received some newsy correspondence from **Sheldon Epstein**, who is still hard at work in Wilmette, IL, running his own engineering firm. Shel reported that he continues to enjoy learning to use new technologies and that the computers he recently purchased have allowed him to take advantage of many new approaches to his business. On a less pleasant note, Shel reports that the worst storm he had ever seen on Chicago's North Shore flooded his and Suzanne's home. Shel wrote that our neighborhood looked like it had been bombed, with many downed trees and ripped-off roofs. Shel decided to be his own general contractor for the rebuilding, a strenuous experience, but one that taught him a lot about materials, tools, and technologies used in homebuilding. Shel is pleased with his finished product. Shel reports that he and Suzie have been married 47-plus years and are particularly enjoying their four grandchildren, all of whom live nearby. Like many of us, Shel and Suzanne are looking forward to June 2010 and our 50th Reunion. Shel, noting the number of obituaries appearing in this column, suggested that we start a tontine. I know Shel is a lawyer, but I also believe that tontines are illegal, so I am going to stay away from that one!

I now turn to reporting the death of three classmates.

Gordon S. Mutchler died on August 15, 2008, in Houston, TX. Gordon was a professor of physics at Rice University. Gordon's warmth and sense of humor will be missed by his colleagues at Rice. The class extends its sincere sympathies to Gordon's wife, Lynne, and his family and friends.

I also sadly report the death of **Clay T. (Tom) Whitehead** who died of prostate cancer on July 23,

2008, at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC. After obtaining his doctorate in management from MIT in 1967, Tom was an economist for the Rand Corporation. Soon thereafter, he joined the Nixon Administration as an expert on budget policy. As a member of that Administration, Tom helped cable TV flourish by bringing competition to the satellite market in the early 1970s. President Nixon appointed Tom as the country's first telecommunications policy adviser where he championed free markets in the satellite business. In the mid-1980s, Tom also challenged Europe's state-owned television systems by helping organize the first private European satellite system, SES Astra in Luxembourg. He was also the founding president of Hughes Communications where he developed the Galaxy program of commercial satellites. Tom is survived by his wife Margaret, and two children, as well as three sisters, to all of whom we extend our sympathy.

In our November/December 2008 column, I briefly reported that death of **Robert J. Keeney**. Bob's longtime friend and classmate **Ralph Cuomo** passed along additional details about Bob, which I am including here. Ralph, as well as other friends, received personal notes and copies of Bob's obituary that Bob had asked his wife, Marge, to send to them after his death. Bob died at his home in Milford, MI, of choroidal melanoma. Bob had a forty year career with GE in their electrical power distribution business, much of the time as a technical sales representative and manager, with his final position being GE's manager for industrial sales to GM. After his retirement in 2000, Bob and Marge wintered in Hilton Head and spent extensive time traveling, visiting nearly 100 countries on 6 continents. While Bob was also a single digit handicap golfer, his interests included all sports and harvesting wild mushrooms. Bob is survived by Marge, his wife of 50-plus years, two children, and three grandchildren. The class sends its sympathy to his family and many friends.

Frank A. Tapparo, Secretary and Class Agent, 15 S. Montague St., Arlington, VA 22204 E-mail: ftapparo@alum.mit.edu