

Dick Bulova BA '62



Fortunate to have worked as an undergrad lab assistant for Henry Levenstein. Bill Frederickson (sic) was dep't chair and once loaned me balance due on a tuition payment. Paul Gelling was already a living legend around Steele Hall. Peter Bergman's lectures were awesome. After some military time, did mainly research and development in electro-optics for the army. Now enjoying retirement in Northern VA, wintering in FL.

...I got a nice letter back from the Department Chair, Prof. Marchetti thanking me for contributing to the Levenstein, Gelling and Frederickson funds. She reminded me that I need to send you a pic of myself. Very casual, but hope it'll do.

Scanning through the faculty list on the dept's web site, I was astonished to see some of my old professors. Erich Harth, who taught Physics 101 and 102 during the 1959-60 school year, and Herb Barry, who did Sophomore Physics the following year. Dr. Harth gave me, after the first semester, one of the best breaks I ever had, that of an undergraduate lab assistant. This allowed me to earn some badly needed funds, but much more so, exposed me to Physics research, which is what I eventually made my career in. I started out in the Reactor Building, adjacent to the labs under Archbold Stadium, helping to build a propane bubble chamber and also worked on the film machine to analyze Brookhaven Nat'l Lab bubble chamber events, following particle events and punching out coordinates on IBM cards. I eventually moved over to the solid state lab under Levenstein and Ginsberg doing detector sensitivity and infrared transmission studies, mostly out of a small lab building at Skytop.

That work laid the foundation for the seeker on the Air Force's Sidewinder heat-seeking missile, although I didn't know that at the time, not having a security clearance. So many lovely memories are coming back to me as I compose this, but will stop before your eyes glaze over. Most of my career was at the Army's Night Vision Laboratory at Fort Belvoir, VA.

Did the telephone pole in the basement of Steele Hall get moved to the new building? The new experimental PhDs would climb it and attach their names. If it's still around, there's probably no room left on it! It was called Mrs. Jennings' Leg, after the long serving department secretary, who's office was directly above it.

Regards

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