

Brian A. Wong  
HMC Class of 1974 50<sup>th</sup> reunion

After graduating from HMC, I went to the Lovelace Inhalation Toxicology Research institute (ITRI) in Albuquerque, NM. I did a summer internship, then took a job as a research technician. I learned about aerosols and inhalation toxicology and learned techniques for sampling and analysis of aerosol particles for their health effects. I worked on projects that assessed the exposure of users of consumer aerosol products, measured particles generated and released from coal-fired power plants, fluidized bed combustors, and coal gasification technology, and measured particles released from nuclear fuel shipping casks in accident scenarios.

After working at Lovelace ITRI for many years, I went back to graduate school to get an MS and PhD in Environmental Engineering Science from Caltech. I thought I would study air pollution and smog particles, but ended up looking at the combustion of individual carbon particles.

After finishing at Caltech, I then went to the Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology (CIIT) in Research Triangle Park, NC. There I worked on projects related to the inhalation toxicology of a variety of materials and compounds of interest to the Chemical Industry to develop data for use by the US EPA. I served as Technical Advisor to the CIIT Inhalation Facility. My responsibilities included design, fabrication, installation, calibration and GLP compliant operation of inhalation generation, exposure and monitoring equipment. I developed inhalation systems for various studies, including chloroform, chloroprene, benzene, ethylene oxide, bromodichloromethane, butadiene, styrene, oxygenated fuels, refractory ceramic fibers, glass fibers, titanium dioxide, manganese compounds, acetaldehyde, tungstate, jet fuel, ethylene, naphthalene. I worked on aerosol deposition measurements to provide validation of mathematical models of respiratory physiology. I regularly went to Society of Toxicology and the American Association for Aerosol Research annual conferences. During my time there, CIIT morphed into The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences (THIHS).

I left THIHS and went to the Naval Medical Research Unit in Dayton (NMRUD), OH as a contractor. This meant working for the Navy on the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, looking at inhalation health effects from exposure to environments encountered by military personnel. I was Principal Investigator on several studies, including developmental effects of simulated submarine atmospheres, synthetic jet fuel inhalation studies, middle east sand (Iraq and Afghanistan) inhalation studies, and burn pit simulation studies. I retired from NMRUD a couple of years ago.

#### Personal

I met my wife, Vickie, when she came to work at Lovelace ITRI in NM for the summer. We eventually married in Iowa (where she is from) and she worked to support us while I was in grad school. We had two sons while in CA, and then a third son after we moved to NC. Vickie is an artist/craftsman who draws, paints, and does print-making, gardening and cooking. She has worked as a microbiology technician and laboratory manager. My oldest son, Andy, also went to HMC in engineering. My middle son, Tony, went to Virginia Tech, and University of Tennessee

for a PhD in Materials Engineering. My youngest son, Colin, went to Grinnell College, and Iowa State University for a PhD in entomology. Tony is married with 2 children and 2 foster children.

One activity that I have gotten involved with (not predictable when I was at Mudd) is choral singing. I joined the Caltech Men's Glee Club as an activity to relieve the stress of grad school. I enjoyed singing at Caltech, and when Vickie and I moved to our new hometown of Cary NC, we found the audacity to audition to sing with the Concert Singers of Cary, a community choir. The group puts on choral concerts and also joined a few times with the North Carolina Symphony for some major choral symphonic works like the Beethoven 9<sup>th</sup> symphony. After we moved to the Dayton area, I auditioned and have been singing with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra Chorus. Vickie and I both also sing with the Springfield Symphonic Chorale. We have met many of our now closest friends through singing.

Another activity that Vickie and I enjoy is bike riding. After moving to Dayton, we found that the Miami Valley area has a wide network of bicycle trails. During the good weather months, we try to go on a 10- to 25-mile ride on weekends. As I eased into retirement by working fewer hours, I started walking regularly. When the pandemic enforced even more days at home, and when I fully retired, I try to walk every day.

I have also jumped headlong into my family genealogy. I actually started many years ago when I visited the National Archives in San Bruno, CA while on a business trip to SF. I discovered that the National Archives held Exclusion Act files for Chinese that entered the US in the late 1800s through WWII. These files held immigration documents and transcripts of interrogations as immigration officials made determinations as to whether or not individuals were eligible to enter the US. Family members on both my paternal and maternal lines came to the US during this era. I have since acquired copies of these files and other information from genealogical sources such as Ancestry.com to put together a history of the immigration process for the several generations that preceded me.



Eclipse party at my house. We had 28 people including our sons and their families, my brothers and sisters and some of their families, Vickie's mother, sister, and nephew, and other relatives of relatives. They came from northern and southern CA, Iowa, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota to view the eclipse. Everyone had a great time.