

Patricia Little, Author ... That sounds awesome!

By Gell Gellman

After 24 years at Intel, Patricia continues on with her next career as an author, but not before facing a huge obstacle that life threw into her path.



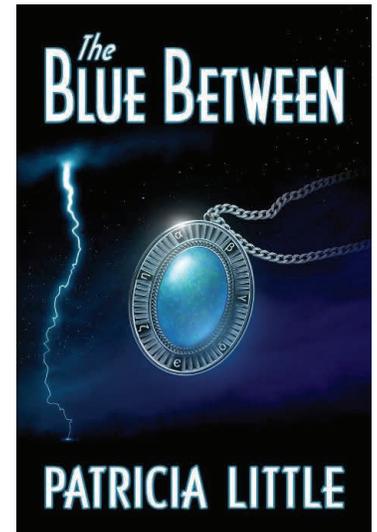
Patricia Little

You think about retirement. You plan and save and try to find the best time to retire. Finally, you are in your last week at work ... your last day ... you are retired! No getting up early unless you want to. No status reports to write or meetings to attend. No schedule to keep while others depend on you. YEAH! And then the unthinkable happens. The very month Patricia Little retired, she became seriously ill. Plans went out the window and suddenly the thoughts of enjoying her time outside Intel were on the back burner.

So what did Pat do? She carried on, appreciating all the good things in her life. That great attitude moved her through necessary treatments and into currently feeling well! While traveling in that direction, Pat managed to publish her third book, *The Blue Between*, a young adult, science fiction fantasy. You can check out www.patricialittle.com to find out more about her latest literary adventure.

Pat equates writing a novel with doing layout as a Mask Designer, her Intel career. "Layout is like a vast city, with different buildings (transistors) that serve different functions, all connected by wires at different levels. If they aren't connected correctly, the chip won't work. A novel is also a complex structure, with many characters serving different functions in the story, connected by goals and actions. They also have to be connected correctly or the story doesn't work." She would love to turn this hobby into a second career and seems well on her way to doing so.

Starting her Intel life in 1988 as an Admin in Intel's OS software division, Pat was then accepted into the Mask Design Training Program in 1997. She took advantage of this "best career break I ever got" and passed the six month program, using her desire to move forward in her profession to make a mark in Intel's history. Pat has drawn transistors inside many of Intel's leading production chips, even in the one currently being sourced to write this article!



Pat's latest novel

Pat misses doing layout, which is a fantastic challenge, putting together puzzles each day. Like many retirees, she also misses her friends and colleagues. However, she does love having time to exercise every single day. You can find Pat working out with Jane Fonda for a half-hour in the morning and then walking through a lovely, forested neighborhood in the evenings. Pat is now able to travel again and recently spent time exploring the city of Atlanta, Georgia with her sister.

Her current challenge is the lament of struggling writers everywhere: letting people know her novel is out there. Pat's other focus is writing the sequel to *The Blue Between*. "Writing is hard," Pat observes. "But when you get it right, there's nothing like it. I remember one time when all the disparate threads came together almost unintentionally. It caught me by surprise. I leapt out of my chair and ran around the room yelling, "Action! Action! Action!"

Moments of doing the "happy dance" find their way to us through hard work, dedication, and a positive attitude, as Pat has found throughout her life's adventures. Pat currently lives in Portland, Oregon and can be contacted at patricia.little1@frontier.com or at her web site, www.patricialittle.com.