

Tom Franz - Retired and on to a Second Career

Interview by Barb Frank - Written by Debbie Watson

Our executive interviews continue with Tom Franz who, although retired from Intel in 2007 as Vice President and General Manager of Fab/Sort Manufacturing, is not even close to retiring from the workforce! Catch up with Tom and read about his second career.



Tom Franz

During Tom Franz's 27+ years at Intel, you may have run across him in a variety of different positions. His last position at Intel was as the Vice President and General Manager for Intel Corporation's Fab/Sort Manufacturing (FSM). As many of you know, FSM is responsible for Intel's worldwide wafer fabrication facilities, which manufacture microprocessors, micro controllers, flash memories, chipsets, and other devices. Previously, Tom was Vice President and General Manager of Intel's Communications Infrastructure Group (CIG). CIG provides silicon, software, and sub-system solutions. Tom was also Vice President and General Manager of the Network Processing Group, which is responsible for delivering processing elements for the communications infrastructure. During Tom's tenure, he lived in Santa Clara, Folsom and Chandler.

A highlight of Tom's time at Intel has nothing to do with his career progression. In 1982, Tom met his future wife, Patti, who worked at Intel for about 10 years in both Planning and Marketing. They were married in 1983 and have two sons. Tom and Patti's oldest son is in graduate school at USC studying Astronautical Engineering – "yes, he is a rocket scientist". Their youngest son is also in college, studying Computer Science at University of San Francisco. He interned at Intel in Oregon last summer.

When Tom "retired" from Intel, he wasn't ready to just relax and enjoy the good life. He wanted to move on to new challenges within a couple of parameters. First, Tom wanted to stay in Arizona to finish raising his sons, who at the time were 15 and 18. Tom also wanted to continue working, but on something that would be more local, and enable him to spend more time at home with his family. A job as CEO of the Greater Phoenix Leadership group fell into his lap. Greater Phoenix Leadership is a group of Phoenix area executives who collectively represent 105 top companies. Members work together to move forward initiatives, public policy and projects that will strengthen the future of Arizona. For more information on what GPL is all about, go to their website at www.gplinc.org, and click on "about us" for a complete history and their many accomplishments for the Phoenix community.



Tom finds his new career very interesting since their work involves a lot of interaction with local government, and Tom himself is now a registered lobbyist! As an engineer, he does miss the technology, and of course, the people. Like a lot of us, he has found that his Intel training has enabled him to be very effective in the non-profit world, especially applying business principles and results orientation.



Tom, Patti and their two sons

For fun, the Franz family likes to road bike, scuba dive, snow ski and spend time in their house in Lake Tahoe. Tom has been doing the annual ride around Lake Tahoe since 2000 and Patti has joined in the fun for the last five years.

Tom's advice for those who are thinking of retiring: "Don't go to a dead stop. Have a plan to do something. Stay active!"

When asked whether Tom has plans to *really* retire he said, "The short answer is no plans. The job I have now, I really enjoy. It fits my lifestyle choices and continues to challenge me intellectually, so at least for now, no plans." He loves that he is able to make a difference in the Arizona education system.

You can catch up with Tom at tfranz@gplinc.org