

Now and Then

By: Don Nemerov W'72 aka "Nemo"



If I were to sit down with my 22-year-old self, magically appearing now, over a cup of coffee, a glass of wine, or, better yet, a shot of my favorite single malt, here is what I would tell him:

What took you so long to fully launch? Married at 34, career change at 39, really? You should have passed these important milestones earlier in your life. On the other hand, I see you made up for lost ground pretty well. You sired a great family as seen in the picture – a wife and life partner of 38 years, your son and daughter, with their wonderful spouses. Only person missing is your first grandchild. Becoming a grandfather for the first time at the ripe age of seventy-one seems a bit late in life. They do say that grandkids keep us young, so hoping that is the case for you.

As far as your career, I would have told you to get out of the corporate staff setting much earlier; it was not a good fit for you, like caging a lion. It is nice to see that you at least launched into consulting before it was too late. That is where you belonged all the time, and that was proven by your many achievements over the years.

I will add, Mr. Procrastination, there is good news for many of us now. Our live spans are longer and, if you think in terms of broad thirds, your last third started sometime in your sixties. You still have time to grow and explore the world. I hope you have a long off ramp to enjoy what comes next. My father actively volunteered his time to several worthy causes into his nineties; he is my role model.¹

In sum, I will give you a pretty darn good so far, continue to keep your eye on the ball, focus on doing it today, not tomorrow. And as the saying goes: "sharpen your saw."

¹ Jack Nemerov, my father, was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame in 2008, for his work with schools and veteran groups throughout the Phoenix area as he formed and delivered programs on teaching tolerance and Holocaust Remembrance. He was 91 years old at the time of his induction.