

# **Now and Then**

**by Tom Butterfoss, EE'72, D'78, GD'88**



## **If I were to sit down with my 22-year-old self over a cup of coffee or a glass of wine, here is what I would say:**

Tom, you're just starting out on this journey of life. You're married to a great woman and have a great education. That's all you need right now. Enjoy these uncomplicated times, stretch out as far as you want and be grateful for the opportunities that will be laid out in front of you. You may not believe this, but you will change careers three significant times, live in two foreign countries and five different states. You will have three children and seven grandchildren. You will lose two of your best friends and survive cancer. However, don't worry about all that right now. You have the capacity to adapt to all those changes and will navigate through all those challenges because you have and will have great support, both human and spiritual. You also have the experience of the last 10 yards of a football field and the agony and ecstasy of the last 500 meters of a rowing race! So go about your life. Learn from your mistakes. Be generous with your blessings. Be kind to others and.... I'll pick up this tab.