



ISB NETWORK NEWS

Volume 32

June, 2000

MY TURN

Jeremy Foster '94

I attended ISB from 1988 to 1994. When I first arrived at ISB as an awkward, pudgy 7th grader, I thought I was going to be in Bangkok for two years. My parents' tour with the US Embassy quickly extended to four years. Then the tour grew to six years. After a brief adjustment period, I soon became quite comfortable at ISB.

At age 17, I moved back to the States to go to college in North Carolina. I spent time at both North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At neither of these questionably fine institutions did I find the quality of education I experienced at ISB. All of the teachers at ISB more than prepared me for anything I ran into at college.

Four years and an advertising degree later, I acquired a rather cynical impression of higher education in the States. The more time I spent in the States, the more I wanted to return to Bangkok.

This past summer, I started preparing for my move back to Bangkok. I worked two jobs, played bass in a punk rock band, and crashed on friends' couches. I saved money, and started searching for contacts that would help me find a job in Bangkok.

During my search, I stumbled upon a web site for the ISB Network. I had never heard of the organization, but I quickly became interested. I discovered that the ISB Network gathered every two years for a reunion of all ISB alumni. I found out that in August the ISB reunion was going to be held in Long Beach, California. Upon learning this, I routed my travel plans so I would be able to attend the 1998 ISB Reunion.

The ISB Reunion was, by every definition, a fabulous event. I hadn't a clue what to expect. I realized that it was a collection of some of the most interesting people in the world. Amazing people who all shared the same alma mater. I met ISBers from decades before. I was by far the youngest attendee. I was the only alum who



Ben Van Roy, Breet Smith, Jeremy Foster and Freda Williams at the 1998 ISB Network Reunion in Long Beach.

had graduated in the 1990s.

When people learned about my relatively recent times at ISB, they attacked me with a barrage of never-ending questions. "What's Bangkok like now?" "How's the new campus?" "Is this still here?" "Is that still here?" "Can you still get there?" I had a fantastic time learning about ISB's past.

I listened to stories for hours. It was fascinating to hear how much ISB had changed and how many things remained the same.

Everyone who has kept the ISB Network alive and thriving deserves an enormous pat on the back. They have done a tremendous job organizing reunions and maintaining a vast communication network. I urge all ISB students of past and present to visit the ISB Network home page. I also cordially invite all ISBers to attend the next reunion (near) Washington D.C. in 2000. You will not be disappointed.

It's time to start bringing some new, young blood to the ISB reunions. The ISB spirit will always remain alive and well. The ISB Network aims to make sure that none of us forget our unique, amazing experiences at ISB.

(reprinted from the October 1998 Touchstone Magazine)

Williamsburg Update

It's official! We will be smashing all the ISB Network reunion attendance records at the R2K Reunion in Williamsburg, VA. As of June 16, 2000 we have 250 rooms booked between the Radisson Fort Magruder Hotel and the overflow hotel, for an approximate total count of 400 people attending the reunion. We can't provide accurate numbers right now because many of you who have booked a hotel room have not registered for the reunion, and vice-versa. We still have six more weeks to go, folks!

If you are planning on attending the reunion and have not made your hotel reservation, do so now by contacting Cathy Patton, Reservations Manager at the Radisson, at (757) 220-2250 or email her at cathypatton@earthlink.net and she will assign you to the overflow hotel. Do not try to call the toll free number listed on our web site and on our registration form(s) to make your hotel reservation. You will be told the hotel is sold out! **THE FOLLOWING IS VERY IMPORTANT:** if for some reason you cannot make the reunion and have made a hotel reservation, or are holding an extra room and don't need it, please make sure you release your room(s) by contacting Cathy Patton. She will make sure that an ISB Reunion attendee in overflow gets it at the \$89/night rate on a first come first serve basis.

Many of you who have booked rooms have not sent your registration form in with your payment yet. **Any registrations postmarked after July 1, 2000, or faxed in after that date need to include a late charge of \$20.00/person.** This includes spouses, guests and/or children. We need to submit a final tally for catering on July 1, and this is what the hotel will charge us for additional headcount after that date. If the late fee is not included on registrations received after July 1, you will be required to pay it when you sign in for the reunion at the hotel.

If you are signed up as an alumni or faculty member for the reunion you will receive a reunion t-shirt as part of your package. Please email David Wilkerson at isbalumdaw@aol.com with your t-shirt size. This only applies to those of you that paid the full \$100.00 registration fee and does not apply to spouses, guests or children.

The planned functions for the reunion are as follows:

Friday	- 9:00am - 10:00am	Volunteer training
	- 10:00am - 6:00pm	Registration. Kearney Room open as a reception area
	- 6:30pm - 8:30pm	Ice Breaker party with cash bar
	- 8:30pm - 1:00am	Kearney Room open with cash bar. Videos and music playing.
	- 8:30pm - ?????	Hospitality Suite open
Saturday	- 8:00am - ?????	Golf Tournament
	- 10:00am - 11:30am	Kearney Room open
	- 11:30am - 1:30pm	Barbecue in courtyard
	- 7:00pm - 1:30am	Dinner/Dance with entertainment by the Sonics and Somlor.
	- 1:30am - ?????	Hospitality Suite open
Sunday	- 8:00am - 10:00am	Business meeting - continental breakfast.

The first function planned for people who arrive before the official start of the reunion is the Thursday evening dutch treat Thai dinner. Since this is not an official reunion function, you must register directly with Sandy Ferguson in order to attend. To do so, send a check or money order in the amount of \$35.00 payable to:

Sandy Ferguson
1001 Park Lake Lane
Norcross GA 30092

If you need further information about the event, you can contact Sandy at sandyf@bellsouth.net.

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ISB NETWORK INC.

P.O. Box 74

Libertytown, MD 21762

(925) 461-1812

email: ISBNETWORK@aol.com

Web: <http://www.isbnetwork.com>

Purpose: ISB Network Inc. is a not-for-profit organization, dedicated to bringing Alumni of the International School of Bangkok together to support, maintain and create contacts between people who shared similar experiences in Thailand.

Rates: Dues are on a bi-annual basis. The current dues period is January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2001. Membership dues are \$40.00 - \$35.00 if paid before January 31 of the first year of the enrollment period - which entitles members to three (3) newsletters, and a complete membership list each year. If someone joins the network during the membership period that person will receive all newsletters and mailing lists available for the current membership period to date. Extra copies of the newsletter are available at \$2.50 each and membership lists at \$15.00 each. Membership lists are available to Network members only and are not for commercial use. Call for advertising rates.

Access: Pay dues either by check made out to ISB Network, or by using the form on our home page to conveniently charge your dues to your Visa, MasterCard, or American Express card, and mail or fax to:

ISB Network, Inc.
P.O. Box 74
Libertytown, MD 21762-9998
(301) 228-3962 (fax)

Problems, questions, answers and/or general interest, contact the ISB Network Voice Mail at (925) 461-1812. For payment inquiries call (301) 228-3962.

Please mail, email, or fax newsletter articles to:

Rudy Xavier
2590 Skylark Way
Pleasanton, CA 94566-4505
Phone: (925) 461-1812
Email: rxavier@ix.netcom.com

ISB Network Officers

President:

Maile McCroskrie Busby '67

Board of Directors:

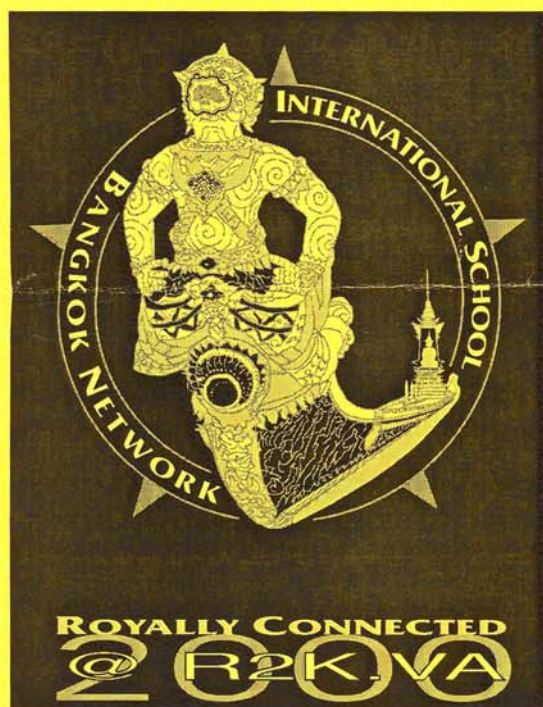
Mimi Drake Parks '73
Keith Hatton '70
Cindi Carroll Young '74
Rudy Xavier '62
Glenn Connolly '83
John Bankhead '73
Kris Stahlman '71
David Wilkerson '71

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If you have signed up for the golf tournament, or are wanting to play, call or email Deb Twing Thompson at (831) 440-1522 or dmt@cruzers.com for price and registration. This is a nine hole scramble format and will be held Saturday morning.

The Saturday evening dinner/dance will feature **two** alumni bands. The first band will be the Sonics, playing under their original name. The Sonics played at the Teen Club in the mid 60s, and will feature music from that era. Somlor is comprised of musicians who played at the Teen Club and for various functions in the late 60's and early 70's. Somlor will cover music from the 60's through the 90's.

This is going to be a great event with a huge turnout. Please watch our web site at <http://www.isbnetwork.com> for up-to-date information about the reunion, and to check the ever-growing list of attendees. See you in Williamsburg!



OFFICIAL ISB NETWORK LOGO ADOPTED

The ISB Network Board of Directors has voted to adopt a logo designed by Chad Gabeler (Gabeler Designs, 75 Varick Street #301, New York, NY 10013 (212) 941-8335), husband of Cary Bernard Gabeler '72, as its official logo. This logo will be imprinted on the limited edition R2K Reunion T-Shirts along with the words "Royally Connected @R2K.VA" as shown in the photograph above. Each ISB alumnus or faculty member in attendance will receive this t-shirt. Additional shirts can be purchased from the Shack at the reunion.

THE ELEPHANT QUEEN

A New Novel About Thailand

by Paul Soderberg '67

"In *The Elephant Queen*, the twenty-something founder of a San Antonio women's shelter collides with the man who rules Bangkok's sex scene. The first novel of ISBer Paul Soderberg ('67), *The Elephant Queen* is an Internet novel, available only at www.1stBooks.com (\$4.95).

"Alumni from the 60s might remember Paul as "the Snake Guy" (his 8,000+ preserved specimens became the core herpetology collection of the Thai National Museum), his three brothers (Dave, John, and Steve), and their mother, Betty Soderberg, who taught 4th Grade at ISB from 1960 to 1968.

"Paul's interest in the Thai jungle, where much of the novel is set, was inspired in part by Phil Reeves and Mrs. Woodbury. In college (Arizona State, cultural anthropology), as a Peace Corps Volunteer (Afghanistan, famine relief), and as an investigative reporter (for a series of articles exposing the abuse of minority children in Arizona public schools he was named 1990 National Newsperson of the Year by the largest and oldest Hispanic organization in America), he studied people with the same intensity and objectivity with which he'd studied Thai snakes. The result of both interests - wild animals, and the wild animals inside people - is this remarkable novel that exposes and slams child prostitution in the world's Sex Sin Central, Bangkok.

"There is a warning on the novel's publication page that while this is a love story - of love that never dies versus undying hatred - it contains descriptions of sex and violence that may be disturbing to readers. As the novel's very first reader, Paul's "critique reader," I can tell you with authority that that warning should definitely be heeded by those of delicate sensibilities. The reason is that those disturbing scenes are rendered with exceptional power. In point of fact, the entire novel is written that way - in such a way that you, the reader, feel like you're actually in the scene

"While the novel comes with the warning noted, it should also come with this six-part guarantee: after reading *The Elephant Queen*, you will never again be able to see a butterfly as simply a lovely flying insect; you will be absolutely enchanted by elephants; you will want to hop the first thing that smokes nonstop to Thailand, to see, or revisit, the incredible Land of Smiles; if you now hold the view that prostitution is a victimless crime, you will abandon that view and forevermore see it for what it really is; you will believe in your heart that although Bangkok has sunk so deeply in a sea of smut, there is hope after all for the "City of Angels" in "the Land of the Free"; and you will be very eager to see any fiction written by anyone who ever learned how to write at the International School, Bangkok."

(excerpts from a review by Rebecca J. Powell)

ISB Network Reunion 2000 Registration Form

International Children's Center (ICC – 1951-1956)/International School Bangkok (ISB – 1957 on)
Use this form to register for the 2000 Reunion to be held in Williamsburg, VA. August 4-6, 2000. You can also download this form from our web site home page at <http://www.ISBNETWORK.com>. Simply fill out the form and return it with your payment to:

ISB Network Inc.
P.O. Box 74
Libertytown, MD. 21762-9998
(925) 461-1812
email: ISBNETWORK@aol.com
Web: <http://members.aol.com/isbnetwork>

Class Year	Name of Attendee	Classification	Fee/ Person	Cost
		<input type="checkbox"/> ICC/ISB Alumni	\$100	
		<input type="checkbox"/> ICC/ISB Alumni	\$100	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Friend	\$90	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Child	\$80	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Child	\$80	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Child	\$80	
	ISB Network Membership Fee*	Jan 1999 – Dec 2000	\$40	
		Total Cost:		

*You do not need to be a Member of the ISB Network to attend the reunion. However, we do appreciate your support by becoming one.

A late fee of \$20.00 will be added to all rates above for registrations after July 1, 2000.

Please select payment choice below:

- ☐ Check or Money Order made payable to: ISB Network, Inc.
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp: _____ / _____

Name as it appears on credit card (print): _____

Authorization Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address to mail receipt and registration acknowledgement (please include daytime phone number):

- ☐ Check here if you would like to attend the Thursday evening dutch-treat Thai dinner
☐ Check here if you would like to participate in the Golf Tournament

THE SHACK MERCANTILE

Here is the current price list for items from "The Shack Mercantile". If you would like to order items, please send your check payable to **The ISB Network, Inc.** to David Wilkerson C/O Techstar Services, 750 Cowan St. # 9, Nashville, TN. 37207 (615) 242-2925. To pay by credit card, either visit our web site, print the credit card order form, fill it out and mail it to the address above, or call Dave directly and place your order by phone. All proceeds go to the Network.

Store Item	Price
Black T-Shirt with Gold ISB Logo	\$15.00
Grey T-Shirt with "I Survived Youth In Asia" Dallas 96 Limited edition	\$ 9.00
Black Track Shirt (tank top) with Gold Panther and ISB lettering	\$19.00
Black Track Shorts with Gold Panther and ISB lettering	\$18.00
Black or Gold Sweat Shirt with ISB Logo (please specify color)	\$21.00
White Golf Shirt with ISB Logo	\$20.00
Black or White Baseball Hat with ISB Logo (please specify color)	\$ 6.75
White Golf Towel with ISB Logo	\$ 6.75
Black Bicycle Shorts with ISB Logo	\$23.00
White (button up) Baseball Shirt with ISB Logo	\$19.00
Singha Beer Mug - Glass with handle	\$15.00
Large Coffee Mug (Black with Gold Trim on Mouth with ISB Logo)	\$15.00
ISB Alumni License Plate Frame (Black with Gold Writing)	\$ 6.00
VHS Video: "Perspectives" 30-minute history of ISB	\$11.00

Add \$2.00 for each T-Shirt and \$3.00 for each Sweat Shirt when ordering XXL.

Normal express mail (2-3 days) via the U.S. Postal Service for any destination within the United States is \$4.20 for the first non-glass item and \$1.00 for each additional non-glass item. For glass items the fee is \$5.00 for the first item plus \$2.00 for each additional item. If ordering from overseas, please contact Dave Wilkerson by letter, e-mail or phone first to determine the shipping, handling and duty amounts (where applicable) to add to the order.

A current "Shack" item and price list is always available by visiting the ISB Network home page at <http://www.isbnetwork.com>

ISB Network Inc.

c/o Rudy Xavier
2590 Skylark Way
Pleasanton, CA 94566-4505
Email: rxavier@ix.netcom.com

(Address correction requested)

