



ISB NETWORK NEWS

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Message from the President

By Maile McCoskrie Lindley '67 (isbmaile@sbcglobal.net)

As 2005 draws to a close, I would like to recap this past year and give some insight into 2006. Some of our members wonder how it is that we operate, while others are less than interested – they just want a good party every two years. In an effort to speak to both groups I offer the following.

Our Charitable Mission

January 1, 2005 found me in Bangkok with a group of ISB alumni, spouses, children, and friends. We could not have arrived at a worse time as Thailand was reeling from the tsunami that hit on December 26. However, as usual, the Thai people were gracious and charming, despite the tragedy that had just struck their country.

On January 10, I had the pleasure of awarding our fourth annual ISB Network Foundation Alumni Scholarship to Annie Batra, in the amount of \$1000, during the school's back-to-school assembly. This scholarship is funded by donations made directly to our Scholarship Fund (via our website or by a check sent to our Treasurer), by a portion of your ISB Network Foundation Biennial dues of \$40, and by our newly instituted fund-raising activities at our reunions. Thanks so much to all of you who generously donated money for this during our 2004 Hurricane Reunion in Florida. The Board of Directors (BOD) has set as a goal the desire to award more and/or larger scholarships on an annual basis. Please consider giving a tax-deductible donation to the scholarship fund in your year-end gift giving or as a way of honoring someone when a charitable donation seems to be the best way – be it a birthday, anniversary, or in memory of a loved one.

During the assembly at ISB we also heard first hand from the High School ASB Officers what they as an organization were already doing to help Khao Lak, an area near Phuket, recover from the Tsunami disaster. I conferred via email with our BOD and we expressed an interest as an organization to participate in their fund-raising effort. Thus far we have sent \$6,000 to add to the money that ISB has raised in Thailand for a total of \$800,000. In January 2006 I will again be in Thailand to award our scholarship and to check first hand on the recovery efforts in Khao Lak. I have followed the rebuilding activity on ISB's website (<http://www.isb.ac.th>) and hope that you have too. (See also the article on page 12.) We have been able to touch the lives that needed help the most – young Thai children who were left orphans. As our fund-raising continues, we invite you to consider this cause in our ongoing effort to not forget those who are rebuilding their lives.

2006 San Antonio Reunion

In February, three Board Members and I met in San Antonio for a site inspection of our 2006 Reunion site. We arrived just before the start of their now practically completed multimillion-dollar renovation. Of any hotel in the city, this property has the best pool and common area for a large group with our very special requirements and price range. We left knowing we had picked the right spot and that they would be ready for us in 2006.

Next we put the reunion publicity material together and sent it to you. Your response has been HUGE. We have over 125 room reservations representing over 200 attendees with 8 months to go. The hotel tells us this is unprecedented in their industry. All of the poolside rooms have been reserved, so we will definitely “own” the pool. If you will continue to reserve your rooms and encourage your friends and family members to do the same, we fully expect to “own” the hotel. We have a back-up hotel, but want this one filled first. In late February 2006 I will meet with members of the Board in San Antonio again to finalize our plans and to do a final site inspection. We are currently working with San Antonio area alumni to select a Thai restaurant to cater our Thursday Night Thai Dinner, which will be held at the hotel property, select a band for Saturday Night, and set up golf for Saturday. All we will need to make this a success is for you to join us where we will all be *Rolling, Rolling, Rolling on the River*.

ISB Mini-Reunions

In July and August I had the pleasure of attending the “St. Pete Repeat” that was planned by David Wilkerson and Kris Stahlman. (See article on page 4.) They had over 100 in attendance with some attending for the first time ever a reunion of ISB alumni. Then it was on to Florence, Oregon, for the 60s Kids Reunion. I am a younger 60s Kid; however, that didn't stop them from welcoming me. They were smaller in number, but not in fun, and they too had an attendee who was at his first-ever ISB Alumni gathering. (See Gregg “Chip” McKee's article on page 5.) I left both events wondering what these new-to-us alumni will think if they make it to San Antonio. We'll be ready for them!

ISB Network Board of Directors

Following the 2004 reunion various changes occurred on the Board. The BOD have taken this time to carefully consider and have in place a process by which members in good standing of the ISB Network can become members of the Board. This new process will begin with the 2006–2008 reunion cycle and will be explained in greater detail in our next newsletter.

Currently the Board is staffed by individuals who either volunteered or were asked by the BOD to consider accepting a specific position. That has continued during the 2004–2006 reunion cycle. Debby Stinemetz Caulfield '70 joined as Membership Director and between April 2005 and today paid memberships increased from 429 to 513, a 19.6% increase. Lyn McKenna Colwell '70 joined us as Fundraising Director and we held our first-ever Scholarship donation drive at our 2004 reunion. We raised over \$2,000, ensuring our ability to award our 2004, 2005, and 2006 ISB Network Foundation Alumni Scholarship. Claire Burgess Miller '77 took on the position of Director of Class Reps; however, she has just recently stepped down due to family issues and has been replaced by Tom Reynolds '69. After 7 years as our secretary, Cindi Carroll Young '74 has stepped down; she has been replaced by Jameela “Cricket” Fluker Lanza '67.

As we go into our 2006–2008 reunion cycle, we hope that those who are interested in serving on the Board will work with Tom Reynolds (our Director of Class Reps) and their class representatives. Each of us working on the Board holds a very important link in making our network function and has earned the trust of the other BOD members.

BOD Operations

You might wonder how we run a BOD when our members are all over the USA and in four different time zones. It's easy – we use the internet. We use instant messaging to conduct online board meetings, which are usually held Sunday evenings for a couple of hours. It isn't perfect, but it works. And unlike our travel expenses – which we each pay individually – no one has any expense involved in this activity, nor does the Network or Foundation incur any expense.

As a group, we are constantly involved in many outreach activities, all of which are intended to reunite long-lost friends and to ensure that new alumni can find us 10 or 15 years down the road. Our 2005 outreach activities have included the following:

- ✚ Maintaining the website and enhancing the online bulletin board and Alumni Search feature
- ✚ Preparing mailings to alumni in our database for whom we do not have an email address
- ✚ Building relationships at the school, which led to putting our URL on their website
- ✚ Providing free memberships to new grads in our "Alumni at Last" program
- ✚ Advertising in the Erawan each year, knowing that 10 years from now, new ISB alumni will find us while flipping through their old yearbook
- ✚ Advertising in the 1st Annual ISB Black & Gold Ball program book to reach older alumni and parents (via the PTA) who might not have heard about us yet

Not every decision the Board makes is unanimous, but our goal is always to act in the best interests of the ISB Network in achieving our common goal. For instance, the Board had a very lively debate over the merits of placing the ad in the Black & Gold Ball program, and several Board members raised concerns about cost of the ad and where the money was going. In the end the Board voted as a group that it was worth exploring this new opportunity for reaching out to long-lost friends.

Future efforts might include increasing our presence on Classmates.com and placing articles in the school newsletter as well as the PTA newsletter.

Despite not being a relief organization, the Foundation's charitable mission of encouraging philanthropy and cultural exchange between the US and Thailand enabled us to partner with the school in the ISB Tsunami Relief Network. We

provided a US-based collection point for those seeking to have a direct impact by ensuring that 100% of their donations reach those in need.

These efforts by the Board have led to a record number of alumni – over 500 – now supporting our cause through their dues contributions, with our goal to reach 600 members by the time we head for San Antonio.

The following information provides a summary of our operating results for 2004 and 2005 year-to-date:

<u>ISB Network Foundation</u>	2004	2005 YTD as of 10/31/05
<i>Revenue and Support</i>		
Membership dues	\$10,295	\$8,520
General donations	3,847	50
Tsunami donations		6,192
Shack sales	11,883	388
<i>Total Revenue and Support</i>	\$26,025	\$15,150
<i>Expenses</i>		
Program expenses (scholarship, website, newsletter, Shack, etc)	\$15,271	\$8,782
Administrative expenses	1,102	1,086
<i>Total expenses</i>	\$16,373	\$9,868
<i>Net income</i>	\$9,652	\$5,282

2004 ISB Network Reunion in St. Petersburg, FL

Registration fees (net of refunds issued)	\$22,808
Reunion expenses	18,625
Administrative expenses	2,901
Total expenses	21,526
Net Income	\$1,282

As you are well aware, our 2004 reunion activities were cut short by Hurricane Charley, so these results are not anywhere near typical of a normal reunion.

2008 Reunion – Any Suggestions?

We are putting a lot of effort into our 2006 Reunion, but that doesn't mean that we aren't already working on 2008. It is time to move back West and various areas are being explored. Requirements for the hotel are:

- ✚ Minimum 300 rooms and a back-up property nearby.
- ✚ Space for a sit-down dinner for 500+ with room for a band and dancing – we are late night dancing fools.
- ✚ Ability to cater four meals on a limited budget so we can keep registration costs down.
- ✚ The outside pool area is important, as is the common space within the property.
- ✚ Good air conditioning is a must in the warmer areas that we seem to favor.
- ✚ They need to be near a major airport to keep transportation costs down; if they offer a shuttle service to and from the airport, this is a big plus for our attendees.

It isn't impossible to find a place that meets all our requirements, but it takes a bit of time. If you have any ideas, please let a Board member know. It is my hope to present to you – our paid members – our site acquisition by the Spring of 2006.

Back to the Beach Klub "St. Pete Repeat" Mini Reunion

By David Wilkerson '71 (Dawilkerson@aol.com)

Ninety Alumni and eleven guests were in attendance totaling 101 people.

The Cyprus Villa "Party Suite" opened Thursday night with movies and music. Nestor Neuman '71 graciously donated his equipment and enormous talents as a DJ on Friday night as we danced the night away. Thank You, Nestor!!

The class of '69 dominated the mini-reunion through the efforts of head lackey Tom Reynolds, Thank You, Tom!!

There was plenty of pool and ocean time each day as the weather was outstanding! Saturday night started with a complimentary bar from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM and followed by a cash bar with dinner. After dinner, the fabulous "Mike McArthur Band" performed from 8:30 PM – 12:30 AM, laying down the hits from the 60s and 70s. As with tradition videos and pictures were projected, further enhancing the atmosphere and allowing us to revisit Thailand and past reunions. The party moved back to the Cyprus Villa and carried on till 4:00 AM.

On Sunday night, with more than 35 alumni still remaining, we all went to dinner at several different restaurants. We all met back up at the Cyprus Villa at 10:00 PM, where we watched the Monterey Pop Festival and A Concert for George under the stars.

As you can see by the photos, a great time was had by all! For more pictures by Stacey Berryman '74 and Brian Burleigh '73 and for a great slideshow by Marti Wasilewski-Doggett '67, go to http://meplanners.com/st_pete_repeat.htm.



George Quitoriano '74, Norine Finn-Kirby '73, Brian Burleigh '73



Craig Hegna '78, Stacy Berryman '74, Georgia Lawson Moore '68, Paul Hindman '69, Roy Robbins '65, and John Aakesson '78 pose for a group shot at the Party Suite.



Deb Twing Thomson '72, Bob Athearn '71 and Dave Wilkerson '71 at the Dinner Dance.



Mike Wiley '73, Nancy Finn Rudnick '74 and Sid Gerson '73

A Reunion After 44 Years!

Attending the '60s Kids Reunion in Florence, Oregon August 4-7, 2005

Recollections by Gregg (Chip) McKee '61 (glmckee@hotmail.com)

When I boarded the 4-engine propeller plane at Don Muang Airport in June 1961, I was 17, had just graduated from ISB, and was headed back for college in Georgia and the exciting events of pending adulthood. Many of my ISB friends had been good enough to come to the airport to say goodbye, but ahead of me was a 5-week solo trip through Egypt, Lebanon, Cypress, and many European countries. I knew that most of my Bangkok high school friends would be leaving soon. Regrettably, I didn't keep in touch with many of the folks with whom I had enjoyed countless adventures in our two years in this exotic, fun, and wonderful place.

In the ensuing years, I graduated from Georgia Tech and served my time in the U.S. Army on the Korean DMZ, married, returned to graduate school, had three kids, worked as a business exec in more than a half-dozen U.S. companies, and even returned to SE Asia to run hard disk drive manufacturing operations in Penang, Malaysia, before finally retiring after some thirty plus years of work. In short, I had a world of experiences and ISB had receded into a distant, but very fond, memory. I had returned to Bangkok several times and had even enjoyed practicing my Thai on a trip earlier this year. Once, I even returned to the 'new' school building off Sukhumvit Road. Ours had been the first class to attend there. I had spent the 11th grade at the original school off Ratchadamri Road back in 1959.

One idle evening this spring, I clicked on Classmates.com. And with skepticism that anyone could possibly do anything with my high school data, entered my ISB details. I signed off soon after and promptly forgot about it.

"Sawaddi Chip" the email subject line read, three days later. I don't know if I was more puzzled or astounded. I didn't know anyone, other than my immediate family who spoke Thai, or who would write to me that way.... And no one other than my wife Sandy and my immediate family knew my nickname was 'Chip'. On opening the message, I found it was from Ellen Ehle Schaefer, who had been one year behind me in Bangkok and whom I remembered very well from some of those wonderful times. I absolutely couldn't believe it!

Hearing from Ellen was wonderful. And within the next three days, I had received messages from four or five other classmates from so very long ago. All stressed the importance of coming to Florence, Oregon in early August for the upcoming mini-reunion for the "60s Kids" – which I later found included people who had attended ISB in the late '50s and early to mid '60s. Well, what's retirement for if not for catching up with long-lost friends and retelling stories from long ago?

Sandy and I drove up to Oregon and spent 3 of the most special days I have ever enjoyed. Many of us show just a bit of wear and tear from the time gone by – but some of us are "almost" unchanged from those high school years in Bangkok – or at least I could convince myself that was so. We talked, ate, and talked some more. We told stories. We remembered first dates. We remembered friends no longer here. And we recollected about a world so very much changed from what we knew back during the era of propeller airplanes, no color television, and the need to actually write letters to communicate across continents. We also found that there was a very special web of experience that bound us together, and made us more alike than I had ever imagined in Bangkok. Some of us are teachers and professors; others are lawyers, business people, country music writer/performers, and just plain folks. But it was obvious that the time we spent together in that far-off land of Thailand had made us each very special to one another.

Ellen captured the feeling best, when she handed out bookmarks with the Mary Anne Radmacher quote: "I am not the same having seen the moon shine on the other side of the world." These days, the experiences we had as teenagers in Bangkok are not as unique as they were then. But they gave each of us a different perspective from most of our friends at home, and created a very special bond that goes way beyond the expectations I had on opening Ellen's email invitation to the reunion!





Jill Green Rensch '61, Tom McGlasson '61, Jim Gill '61, Gail Loudermilk Kirk '61, Chip McKee '61

For more of Chip's photos from the reunion, click on <http://glmckee.smugmug.com/gallery/729743>

Ellen Ehle Schaefer '62 and her husband Dennis have created a wonderful website for ISB 60s Kids at:

<http://isb62.happylanedesigns.com/isb62/newsletter>



ROWING TO MARKET

A stunning celadon masterpiece, this dish depicts a young woman possibly rowing her way to Wat Sai, the famous floating market in Thonburi, Thailand. What will she bring to the market today? The possibilities are in the mind of the beholder. Whether it's spicy tapas, artistic sushi, or seasonal fruit, there's no end to the opportunities to delight. Each is painstakingly handmade of the finest cobalt infused celadon from our expert craftspeople in northern Thailand. Dimensions: 14" from bow to stern and 7" from the hull to hat. Limited quantities available.

<http://www.bluerice.com/rowboatdis.html>



Loy Krathong /ลอยกระทง /

Thailand's New Year Celebration

By Maria Bennett Hock '70 (mhock@cox.net)



Loy Krathong is one of Thailand's most beautiful celebrations. Rich in culture and ancient traditions, this celebration has taken place for centuries. For many years Thailand – located in Southeast Asia – was known to outsiders as Siam. Siam was governed by a monarch, but in 1932 a coup changed the country from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional one, and the name Thailand was officially adopted. The royal family is highly revered, which is evident in Thai culture and reflected in festivals like the Loy Krathong.

In Thailand, *loy* means “to float” and *krathong* refers to a boat made of banana leaves in the shape of a lotus (Kislenko, 2004, p. 142). The celebration means “to float one’s offering.” The offerings, such as wishes and hopes along with prayers, are set in the boat made of banana leaves, which are folded and pinned together to make a beautiful vessel. The boat is traditionally decorated with flowers, lit candles, and incense sticks. In recent years, more elaborate designs have been created such as a bird or a traditional boat. Another item that is often added is a coin. The coin is a symbolic offering to the water spirits, but in recent years they have been regarded as a donation to the poor, who often search the floats for coins (Gerson, 1996, p. 44-47).

The festival usually falls in the month of November. Loy Krathong is celebrated on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month. Because the moon is full during celebrations and the river is high and full of water after the rainy season, the moon’s light makes the river look clear and clean in the night when the boats are set off with candles lit as they float down the river. This year, 2005, it will be held on Wednesday, the sixteenth of November. The festival celebrates the New Year and the end of the long monsoon season. Thailand gets most of its rain in the monsoon season, which falls between the months of May to October. Because rice is one of the main crops grown in Thailand, rain is needed to sustain rice paddies in order to produce an abundant crop. After the strenuous labor of plowing and planting rice for the last three months at a stretch from dawn till dusk, for the country-folk, the heavy work is finally over. When the heavy work is finished, the Thai people have a month or so before they will have to begin harvesting the rice. During this period the Thai people celebrate with various festivals and celebrations because October and November are traditionally a time to relax, re-energize, have a good time, and enjoy dry, warm weather.

The tradition of celebrating Loy Krathong dates back about seven hundred years in the ancient kingdom of Sukhothai. The legend explaining the beginning of the celebration is that a young queen named Nang Noppamas was the originator of the celebration. She made a small boat in the shape of an open lotus flower with candles lit upon it. And as an act of respect, she offered the krathong to the King, who then accepted the gift and set it afloat down the river. Her reason for doing this was because she wished to honor the water spirits during the festivities that marked the end of the rainy season. Because this was such an honorable act, the people of Sukhothai repeated the festival annually. As should every annual event that matches a culture’s tradition, Loy Krathong became integrated into Thai culture.

Along with the tradition of sending off the krathong boats, there is a beauty contest that takes place. There is not one winner, but there can be many in which one beautiful lady is selected at different universities or cities for example. The reason for selecting a beautiful young lady is to have her represent the original creator of the event, Nang Noppamas. Old documents refer to her as the chief royal consort of a Sukhothai king named "Lithai."

There are other legends rather than the one just described. For example, as Nang wished to honor the water spirits, there is another legend that is more popular, of Loy Krathong beginning as an expression of gratitude to the Hindu goddess of water, Kaileshvari (Chao Mae Kongkha in Thai), for blessing the countryside with rain to help the rice crops that Thailand deeply depended on in their economy as well as symbolizing a "floating away" of old sins on the krathong. Still another legend says that the floral krathong is an offering to the pagoda (a temple) that holds the Lord Buddha's topknot. Young men in Thailand ceremoniously cut off their topknot when they come of age, usually around thirteen or fourteen years old. The Lord Buddha's topknot was cut off at his self-ordination and placed in a pagoda. Other legends say that the celebration of Loy Krathong is a way to honor one's ancestors. No matter what the reason for celebration, once a person has seen this beautiful celebration, it will not be forgotten. Today people take the opportunity to celebrate and make wishes for the future when they come to Thailand as a tourist, passerby, or resident.

The Loy Krathong festival can be very competitive. There are contests to see who can make the best krathong. In recent years the designs have become more elaborate and creative as opposed to the simple banana leaf with a single candle and a flower. Loy Krathong is now a major tourist attraction. Those who have heard of the celebration find a way to arrange their travels to take advantage of seeing this wonderful and unusual way of bringing in the New Year and celebrating the end of the rainy season. The Beautiful Queen contest is still an important part of the festival. In November 2000, there was a big controversy regarding the beauty contest. The first runner up for the title of queen was a man, or a man dressed as a woman (กะเทย). During the competition, a few ladies complained that one of the contestants was a male, but no one believed them. The man, Kesaraporn Duangsawan, won Miss Media. A few days later his lie was discovered and he had to return his prize money, but he kept his Miss Media runner-up sash as a memento. In Bangkok, Thailand, major establishments such as leading hotels and amusement parks organize their Loy Krathong Festival, krathong contest, and beauty contest as major annual functions. There are also many private celebrations attended by families. If they are not near a major river, regular swimming pools or ponds substitute for the river.

Maria Hock was able to participate in the magical Loy Krathong festival when she lived in Bangkok, Thailand for two years with her family when she was just a child in the 1960s. She lived in a house that was situated along a waterway in Bangkok. In the 1960s the waterways were used as a means of transportation, even through the city. During the Loy Krathong festival, she would go out into the backyard and watch her neighbors place their lighted krathong boats in the water. When important or especially ornate boats were unveiled, the crowd would applaud politely. By the end of the evening the whole canal was lit with small boats carrying wishes, hopes, and dreams off into the darkness only lit by the moon. Some people believe that if the candle remains burning until the krathong is out of sight, then their wish will come true.

As people are setting off their krathongs, young children often set off water fireworks to pass the time. They also sing a song that goes:

*November full moon shines,
Loy Krathong, Loy Krathong,
And the water's high in the river and local klong,
Loy Loy Krathong, Loy Loy Krathong,
Loy Krathong is here and everybody's full of cheer,
We're together at the klong,
Each one with his krathong,
As we push away we pray,
We can see a better day.*



The krathong usually doesn't float for too long because as it floats away from its starting place, children further down the stream will swim out to snatch a beautiful krathong once the candle has gone out to get the small coin, if any, from the krathong. Some believe that if you put a small lock of hair or a piece of your fingernail in the krathong, anything bad in your life will float away with the boat. When it is dark, everyone gathers down by the waterside. There is usually some sort of pier made especially for the occasion. At the ends of the pier people gather to send their krathong down the waterway. By the time everyone's krathongs are in the water, the whole waterway is lit with a warm glow of good wishes.



If you go to the market a few days before the festival begins, all the supplies are in stock to build personal krathongs. Biodegradable krathongs are suggested when making krathongs because they will float away for nature to take care of and it would take away the meaning of the festival because it is an event to thank nature. In recent years foam cups have been used because they float better, but because of the expensive cost of having to collect them after they all are sent off is huge it is strongly suggested to not use anything that is not biodegradable. Instead of foam cups people have been seen using bread to make their krathongs. Also, in order to better protect the environment, some people celebrate in small canals or swimming pools to help prevent pollution of the waterways that are so important in Thailand. The markets sell ready-made krathongs or leaf cups that are specially made for people participating in the festival.

Making a krathong requires a lot of patience because working with the banana leaves can be very tedious. There are directions online (<http://www.pattayacity.com/pattaya/loikrathong2000.html>) and if you are a native of Thailand it should come natural in the ability to make them from directions being passed down from generation to generation or you should have many resources at your fingertips.

In order to make a Krathong you need:

- banana tree leaves
- banana trunk sections
- assorted flowers
- pins
- incense
- Candles



First you will need to fold the banana leaves and pin them to the outside and top of the banana trunk. There are many different styles to folding; some like the leaves to flare out and others like them sticking up towards the sky, or whatever suits one's preference. Once the "boat" is created flowers, candles, and incense are added in any arrangement that is desired. After finishing the krathong, it can be taken to the riverside, to make a wish or prayer upon it and set it off into the night. It is said that the krathongs float down the river to the temple to take care of people's wishes and prayers. Also, any bad luck is said to be sent away and hopes of good luck and prosperity for the next year is also sent away.

Some people would say this is a religious event, but others call it part of the culture of Thailand; it would be a matter of opinion because there are so many legends associated with the annual festival. Loy Krathong is a beautiful ceremony that has developed into an event for the traveling tourist to participate in or marvel at.

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My First ISB Alumni Event: Thai Dinner in Seattle

By Don Garcia '76 (dgarcia663@msn.com)

I attended junior high and high school in Bangkok from '71 to '73. I lived at the Capital Hotel. I was a member of the Young Internationals. While looking through some old letters one evening I came across one from my best friend Joe Aimo. I thought it would be fun to try to find him and came across the ISB Network Alumni site. It wasn't long before I made contact with other alumni. I had seen some pictures and articles regarding ISB alumni activities and was excited to find out that Maureen Lockhart Salahshoor was organizing a dinner at a Thai restaurant in Seattle, so close to my home in Gig Harbor.

My wife Lori and I were invited to the dinner held on August 13 – thank you, Maureen!! Most of the attendees were from different classes senior to me, but to my surprise Randy Perritt '76 attended; he just happened to be close enough to Seattle to attend. We had been in several classes together and we also attended the same summer camp in the jungle of northern Thailand. It wasn't long before we starting talking about the “old” days.

What was really funny is that for many years, I have told a story about how I used to attend a summer camp in the jungles of northern Thailand. The camp was run by the green berets who were training the Thai infantry. At the camp we learned all sorts of skills, including how to deal with a king cobra. One year after the cobra class, our sergeant cut the head off the cobra and let the blood drain into a bottle of Mekong whisky. We then passed it around and took drinks!! I was eleven years old at the time. Anyway, I'm sure everyone I've told this story to, including my wife, thought that this was a figment of my imagination. Well imagine what my wife Lori thought when Randy – without any prompting – began to tell the story! It caught everyone's attention, but it was a real treat to see Lori's eyes light up as she heard the story told almost word for word from Randy. We also talked about the teen club and of course school. There were many stories recounted that evening and it was almost surreal, especially when Maureen broke out the yearbooks. Someone caught a picture of me dancing. (too funny!). Of course the food was fantastic and the Singha was flowing.



Don Garcia and Randy Perritt

The attendees were Maureen Salahshoor '75, Carol Bryant '73, Christopher Burgess '73, Gudrun Deckert '71, Gary Kokensparger '69, Dutch Duarte '69, Marian Lockhart '75, Randy Perritt '76, Don Garcia '76, and of course our wives, husbands, families, etc. Lori and I had a great time and were glad that we got to meet everyone. I'm looking forward to the next alumni event and hope to keep in contact with everyone.

For more pictures, click on http://isbnetwork.com/photos_seattle_dinner_081305.php



Gudrun Deckert '71 visits Seattle from Germany.



Hungry alumni and their families.



Chris Burgess '73 and wife Kathy

Polo Club Mini Reunion with Miss Verna

By Sandy McCoskrie Blanchette '72 (sandy.blanchette@umb.edu)

We held our Polo Club reunion at a Thai Restaurant in Wellesley, Massachusetts, on October 1, 2005. We ate, talked, showed pictures, and looked at the Prasangthong Yearbooks. I even had old home movies of Gymkhanas in Bangkok and jumping at the River Kwai Camp. Everyone had fun catching up and meeting new people. There was a group of people from the 1960s, a group from the 1970s, and one person from the 1980s. Some of us overlapped our stays in Bangkok and either knew each other or had heard of each other. We definitely all knew the same horses and ponies.

Many of the group are still actively riding, teaching riding, or just occasionally riding. Besides Verna, who came from Thailand, Marge Naglee Russel came the longest distance to join us for the reunion, from San Diego, CA. Everyone else was in driving distance, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.

Verna brought a list showing all the things they have been able to accomplish with the donations collected over the last 10 months. They have been able to take care of the retired horses and ponies; unfortunately though, Heritage passed away during the year. Many of the animals – horses, cats, and dogs – have been vaccinated. Needed repairs around the camp have been done, including roofs, stalls, and fences. Verna said she, Mrs. Rhodes, and Puki are very appreciative of our support and send their sincere thanks.

I will continue to collect donations and forward them to Verna and the River Kwai Camp.

I am hoping we can arrange another Polo Club reunion during the ISB Network Reunion that will be taking place in San Antonio, TX in July 2006. Check the isbnetwork.com website to get full details. Hope to see you there!



1st Row, sitting: Pam Ford '68, Sandy McCoskrie Blanchette '72, Sarah Noss '73, Anne Sommers Welch

2nd row, standing: Christy Gaudet '86, Winnie Flanagan, Maria Flanagan, Verna Volz, Marge Naglee Russel '76, Allison Sommers Kennedy '69, Becky Byers Quirsfeld '69

Not pictured: Mike Windsor

Tsunami Project Update:

New school buildings, dormitories, gymnasium, and cafeteria are well underway.

<http://www.isb.ac.th/Content/Detail.asp?ID=1641>



A couple of students greet the ISB representatives visiting their school

On a ridge, behind a wall of rainforest vegetation that blocks a magnificent view of the sea at Rajaprachanukroh School 35, students march through a maze of new buildings, to get to their classroom. The buildings are in various stages of construction. En route, a group of these students stop to greet the International School Bangkok representatives touring the new campus of Rajaprachanukroh School 35. With glowing smiles, they clasped their hands together in a traditional Thai greeting and said, "How are you? I am fine, thank you very much." The English greeting was well practiced. Eager to be on their way, the students ran through the construction area to meet their teacher in a temporary classroom at the far end of campus.

Rajaprachanukroh School 35 is a busy, happy place. Thai military and local workers have been building around the clock with the goal of completing the dormitories as soon as possible. Three of the four dormitories are almost complete. The fourth will be finished by November 2nd when 480 children plan to move in.



Students will sleep on the 2nd and 3rd floor of the dormitories, while the 1st floor will be temporarily used as additional classroom space. The nurse's station is ready for patient beds and first aid equipment. One of the major classroom buildings has three stories, and the walls are now going up. The other classroom building is a foundation with support pillars. The gymnasium and cafeteria are well underway.

The colors Blue and Yellow express their allegiance to the Kings of Thailand. Blue is the color of Thailand's current monarchy and represents His Majesty the King's modesty and respectful character. Yellow symbolizes King Rama the IX. The school motto emphasizes good manners and a united and helpful community. Following His Majesty the King of Thailand, the children pledge to be honorable, moral, and knowledgeable.

To celebrate the new campus and the transition to a happier life, a ceremony to dedicate the new school is tentatively planned for the King's Birthday on December 5th. There is much to celebrate. The most recent data indicates that 662 children are enrolled, but only 330 are currently able to attend. Most children are studying via television satellite from the Rachaprachanukroh (King's) Foundation. The principal, Ajarn Prasit Sathaphonchaturawit, visits these children at their interim schools. He is looking forward to the day when all of his students can be together at the new campus. All 662 students will be able to study at Rajaprachanukroh School 35 in November when the dormitories are open.

What's next? Khun Prasit provided a preliminary list of materials and equipment for the campus. The items listed (for example beds, wheelchairs and equipment for the nurse's station, playground toys and equipment, furniture for the kindergarten, microscopes and other science equipment) are beyond the traditional learning materials such as paper and pencils as well as beds for the dormitories



furnished by the Thai government. A committee representing the ISB Tsunami Relief Network will begin meetings on September 26th to identify and prioritize projects and needs such as those mentioned above.

The committee will also concentrate on ways to improve the psychological well being of the students.

It is in fact not just the materials and buildings that are important. Although the faces of the children are happier than they have been since December 26th, they still suffer the trauma of the tsunami disaster.

A psychologist provided by the Department of Mental Health Recovery Center visit the School once a week. However, more psychological support may be needed.

The ISB Network continues to collect funds to support Rajaprachanukroh School 35. Please continue to visit our website for the latest progress, including new photos.

If you wish to donate to this worthy cause, please click on our ISBN donation link. All donations are tax-deductible.

http://www.isbnetwork.com/tsunami_donations.php



Remember this place? It's the Shack pizza parlor on the corner of Sukhumvit and Soi 49 circa 1972.



Photo courtesy Todd Lockhart '77

I Remember Jim Thompson

By Robert J. Rochlen '74 (robertrochlen@sbcglobal.net)

On Sunday March 5, 1967, a mixed group of Americans and Thais set out from Bangkok in Land Rovers and ordinary street vehicles for a remote destination north of the capital. The mission's stated objective was to photograph cave ceilings to be used for Jim Thompson's Thai silk prints. Besides myself, the traveling party consisted of my sister, my mother, my dad, Jim Thompson, Lisa Lyons (an expert in Thai art), and a couple of Thai museum officials. My brother Roger chose to stay home that day.

Jim had requested my dad take care of the photography. Though his current job description at the time did not include the designation of "professional photographer," he had previously taken photographs for Life Magazine, and was asked to aid on this trip because of his close friendship with Jim and Lisa, and because of his prior workings with Bangkok's National Museum.

My dad first met Jim Thompson in September 1955. They had been introduced the very same month of his new diplomatic posting in Bangkok by Bob Lasher, an American working at USIS. At that time, Jim still lived in his house near the Dusit Thani Hotel. Over the next two years, Jim and my dad became close friends and both my parents were over at his house frequently for dinner. After a year of intensive Thai language training, my parents were back in Bangkok for another three years from December 1958 to December 1961, and they continued their friendship with Jim. They went on trips together, including one up the River Kwai. That too was in search of caves.



Jim Thompson (center) and Bob Lasher (far right)

In August of 1965 Dad was posted to Saigon. He would come home to Bangkok every three or four months. It was during one of these family visits in 1967 that the cave expedition was carried out. I was oblivious to much of what was happening at the time, and I don't even know if the cave pictures were taken, though I feel with some degree of certainty that any such ceiling pictures never ended up on Jim's Thai silk prints. But I do have pictures from the trip, and certain memories of that day.

I remember that the street vehicles had to be left at a point away from the caves, and that that was the purpose of the Land Rovers; to access unsuitable terrain. I remember climbing on rocks, a hot day, dirty and dusty. The caves, if they existed, remain a mystery to me. I remember Jim saying he wanted to walk back ahead of the Land Rover, and we told him we'd pick him up on the way back to our starting out point. As we rode back, we kept looking for Jim. It was a long time, and many miles, before we caught up with him. We found him, tired, exhausted, dehydrated, and sapped of energy.

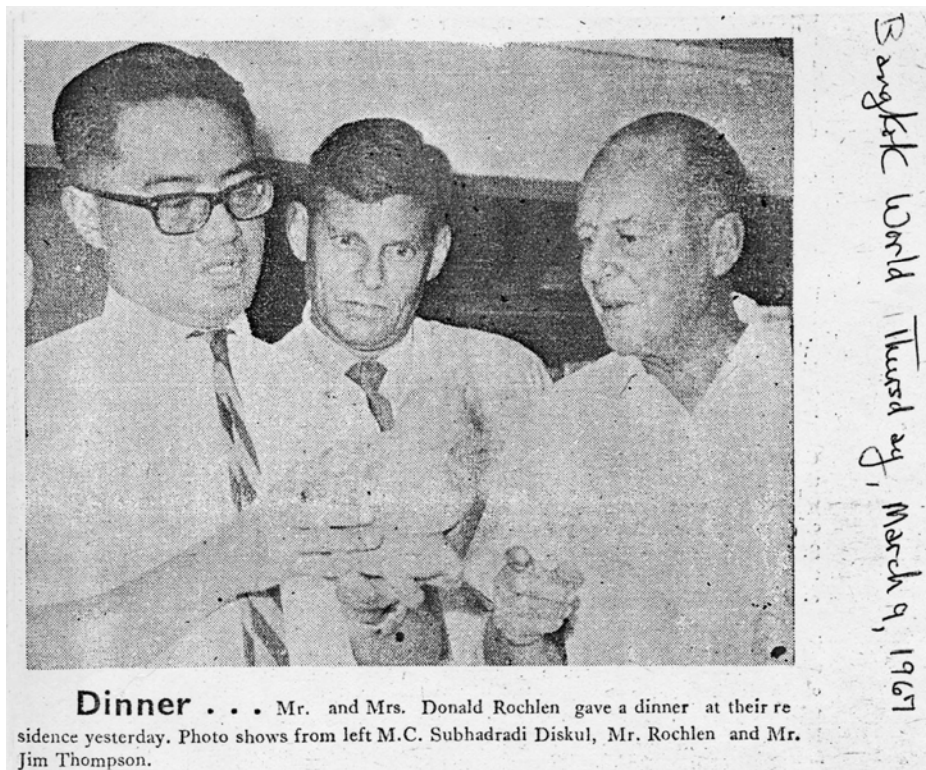
Little could we have imagined that this was an ominous portent of events that were soon to unfold. On March 27, 1967, three weeks after our Sunday excursion north of Bangkok, Jim Thompson once again set a lonely sail into the wilderness. Was this a man coming to terms with his previous life as an O.S.S. officer? Was he a tired man on a rendezvous with his Maker? Was this world no longer his home? I don't know what happened on that day, but I can't help but think of a hot afternoon three weeks before as a man set off on trial run of what was to become his rendezvous with destiny.



*My mom with Jim Thompson at
Kampeng Pet Ruins, circa 1960*



Jim Thompson with a cut on his face.



Thai Iced Tea

By Kate Johnson 76 (isbkate@yahoo.com)

There was a discussion on the ISBN Bulletin Board about drinking Thai iced tea and iced coffee off the carts when we were kids. Does anyone have pictures from those days? I think we used to pay 1 baht (5¢) back in the 70s. Now it costs a whopping 10 baht (26¢).



They don't tie the baggies with rubber bands anymore. Now the plastic bags have little handles.

**Bi-Annual ISB Network Alumni Association Reunion
2006 Registration Form**

July 27- 30, 2006 San Antonio, Texas

(This form can also be downloaded from our web site at http://www.isbnetwork.com/reunion_registration_form_eb.pdf)

International Children's Center (ICC 1951-1956) International School Bangkok (ISB 1957 – present)

You need to fill out this form **only if you are paying your 2006 reunion registration fees by personal check or money order.** Please complete this form and return it with your personal check or money order (in **US dollars only**, please) payable to the "ISB Network, Inc." at:

**ISB Network, Inc.
P. O. Box 7454
Alexandria, VA 22307
Fax: (703) 768-9667**



DO NOT complete this form if you wish to pay your 2006 reunion registration fee by credit card. Instead, please go to our website and go to the 2006 reunion page. There you will be directed to the PayPal registration form with instructions to complete on-line.

Grad Year (any high school)	Years Attended Bangkok	Name of Attendee: First/Last(Maiden/Married)	Classification (Please circle all that apply)	Early Bird Cost (Per Person)
	<i>i.e.:</i> 1971-1973			Until January 31, 2006
			ICC / ISB Alumni / Faculty	\$110
			ICC / ISB Alumni / Faculty	\$110
			Spouse / Friend	\$100
			Parent / Child	\$85
			Parent / Child	\$85
			Child	\$85
			Child	\$85
			Thursday Thai dinner	\$30
			Thursday Thai Dinner (under 10 yrs old)	\$20
			ISB Network Bi-Annual Membership Fee*	\$40
			TOTAL	



Early Bird Rate MUST BE PAID BY January 31, 2006:

Alumni/Faculty \$110, Spouse/Friend \$100, Parent/Child \$85 (*children under 10 are free*)

* **Membership fee** is not required to attend reunions. However, we do appreciate your support by becoming a member.

Please complete the following in case we need to contact you with questions regarding your registration form:

Name: _____ Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Country: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Daytime Phone: () _____ Email Address: _____