



the thai that binds

ISB Reunion Virginia Beach, Va
August 26-29, 2010

ISB Newsletter
Volume 58
November 2009

Message From Maile

By Maile McCoskrie Lindley '67, isbmaile@sbcglobal.net

The holidays are here - we have had our tree up since Halloween – I like to get an early start. The New Year will be here before we know it and then the run up to our 2010 Reunion - like my birthdays they seem to occur sooner and sooner. Our Virginia Beach ISB Reunion hotel reservations continue to come in. The Cavalier Hotel Beach Tower is officially SOLD OUT and we are now working on filling up the original Cavalier Hotel building, a lovingly restored property from the late 1920's. I stayed there this past summer and found it to be charming. It is only a five minute walk or shuttle ride from there to the Beach Tower where all of our planned activities will take place. In late February we will have the Thai Dinner tasting at the Cavalier. If you would like to be a part of sampling and choosing the food for the Thai dinner on Thursday night, please let me know. An email will go out in advance with all of the details, which will also be posted on our Home Page. Todd Lockhart, our Treasurer, is working on a budget for our reunion fees. Because we have an unprecedented number planning to attend we should be able to keep the cost in line with the past - spreading our fixed expenses over so many results in savings for all attendees. The entire BOD is doing its part to make this the best reunion ever, and judging from the overwhelmingly positive feedback that we receive, I don't think we have ever let you down. What can YOU do to help make this the best reunion ever? Make plans to join us if not for the whole time for one of the days – most will arrive on Thursday with a few more arriving on Friday and Saturday. Will we see you?

This reunion will have some firsts, the most notable being the attendance of a former teacher, Mr. Reeves. He will be honored by some of his students whose lives he so touched that they have written a book dedicated to him. A project such as this is more than I as President of the ISB Network could ever have hoped to see come to fruition. If you want to read about it, see the articles on our website. As well, Mrs. Turbyfill and some if not all of her children will be in attendance. Mrs. Turbyfill was the Assistant Superintendent when I first started at ISB in 1963. I remember her and hope she doesn't remember me – her office is one I never wanted to be called into. What joy that we can share our reunions not only with each other but also former teachers and parents. Do other schools have this level of participation? I don't know, but I rejoice that we do. Then on a personal note I'll get to see in person my long lost boyfriend from 9th grade for the first time since our tearful parting at Don Muang Airport in June of 1964. How many times did we form a caravan out to the airport to see friends off wondering if we would ever see them again? We have both married, had children, found careers – found our way in life – and now we can spend a bit of time catching up as all of us do. For me it is another opportunity to recapture my youth and to validate a time gone by that I thought was lost – this is what our reunions are all about.

Make plans to join us if you can. You have my personal promise that no one will be turned away for lack of an available room in the city. However, the sooner you do this the closer you will be to the SOLD OUT Beach Tower where all of the action is going to be 24/7.

International School Bangkok Network All-Year Reunion



ISB Network Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 7454 Alexandria,
VA 22307
FAX: 703-768-9667

Contact your ISB Network Board members:

President – Maile McCoskrie Lindley '67,
 isbmaile@sbcglobal.net
 Vice President-Maureen Lockhart Salahshoor '75
 webmast@isbnetwork.com
 Secretary – Jameela "Cricket" Fluker Lanza '67
 jflanza1@yahoo.com
 Treasurer – Todd Lockhart '77,
 tlockhart@att.net
 Membership Director-Debbie Stinemetz Caulfield '70
 cauldeb@hotmail.com
 Director of Class Reps – Tom Reynolds '69,
 reynoldsthenas@hotmail.com
 Webmaster – Maureen Lockhart Salahshoor '75
 webmast@isbnetwork.com
 Newsletter Editor – Peggy Allison Snow '67,
 isbpeggy67@gmail.com
 Advisor – Tim Lockhart '75,
 isbtim@yahoo.com
 Advisor – Mimi Drake Wetherington '73,
 mimiweth@bellsouth.net
 Advisor-JoHanna Ewing '69
 johannaewing@gmail.com

Purpose: The ISB Network Foundation, Inc. is a not-for-profit, 501-C-3 organization, dedicated to bringing Alumni of International School Bangkok together to support, maintain, and create contacts between people who shared similar experiences in Thailand. We serve as the Official Alumni Association for International School Bangkok. Dues & Benefits: Membership fees are \$40.00 for 2 years and are tax deductible. Our goal is to provide you with three newsletters per year and access to contact information of all known ISB Alumni. You do not have to be a member to be listed on the website/directory or to attend a reunion. Your paid membership helps support the activities performed by the all-volunteer Board of Directors responsible for maintaining the database, publishing the newsletters, maintaining presence on the web, and planning the biennial reunions.

Join online or by mail. Click on Join ISBN on our website <http://www.isbnetwork.com>. Or write us at the above address. When you join, you will receive a password to gain access to the Members-only areas of the website.

...And a Message From Deb

By Debbie Steinmetz Caulfield, '70
 Director of Membership

Are you feeling the love?

Every time we send out an email blast to all ISBers in our database we end up getting back hundreds of undeliverable mail notifications. Why? Because people have changed their email addresses without informing us. The easiest thing for us to do is to say, "Tough luck" and go about our business dealing with our active ISBers. But no, our stated goal is to reunite all long LOST friends and we make it our business to find those LOST friends. So, as she does every year, Maile, along with members of her family, painstakingly searches the database and sends out snail mail postcards to everyone with no email address. Then when the recipients reply and send us an updated email address I painstakingly enter the information into the database. And bingo, we are again connected. We do this because we love you, but we are asking for a little love back. Next time you have a change of address would you PLEASE logon to the website and make the change directly to your profile page. When you click SUBMIT at the bottom of the page it automatically updates our database and I don't have to enter change of address submissions one at a time. Plus, it ensures accuracy and timeliness. Some ISBers have a permanent email account with yahoo or hotmail that they set up and use just for ISB so they always remain current. You might consider this too. Thank you for your loving kindness.

Reunion Name Badges

Attention all Reunion attendees! Kate Johnson '76 is already hard at work making name badges for those who have already indicated their intention to go to the VAB Reunion by reserving a hotel room. While we owe her a great deal of thanks for her efforts, she has requested the following in order to make her job easier (remember, as of today there are over 500 people registered, and that's a lot of name badges):

1. Please check your current profile on the website "<http://www.isbnetwork.com>" www.isbnetwork.com and make sure that your profile information is correct.
2. If there was a mistake on your name badge from the San Diego '08 Reunion, please contact Kate directly at isbkate@yahoo.com so that she may correct the mistake.

Time Passages

Married-



Kat Stahlman'74 and Brian Burleigh'73, on September 3, 2009. Congratulations to you both!



Gail Loudermilk Kirk'61 is the new First Lady of the State of Massachusetts. Her husband, Senator Paul Kirk, was appointed into the position left open by the late Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts.

Died-

Noel Niehaus Plummer'66, March 2, 2009

Frank Foss II '75, January 13, 2009

Verna Voltz, age 93, matron of the River Kwae Riding Camp and the Bangkok Riding and Polo Club

--And the goodbyes make the journey harder still.

Cat Stevens

To all:

If you would like to honor Verna Volz by donating to the River Kwae Family Camp, a fund has been set up by one of Verna's nieces in the U.S. This account will be open through December of 2009, so any one wishing to make a donation in Verna's memory should make their check out to River Kwae Family Camp and send the check to Verna's niece:

Mrs. Barbara Boerschlein
426 Chili Avenue Ext.
Churchville, New York 14428

Best,

Sandy McCoskrie Blanchette
BRPC -1963-1967

Panther Gatherings

Front Row Left to Right:
Rob Aleksa ('73), Linda
& Bob's Daughter,
Linda Loback McCarty
('73), Donna Grady,
Bob McCarty
Back Row Left to Right:
Vince Bennett ('67),
Murielle Bennett, Tony
Grady ('73)



November 1 Dinner in Washington DC



Tom Slemmons '59, Gail
Loudermilk Kirk '61, Tom
McGlasson '61 and Susie
McGlasson





Mrs. Marie Matheny, former Chemistry Teacher at ISB,
Vince Bennett '67, Lee Riley '68



Chuck Kugler '62

Richmond Virginia dinner 09

Standing L to R--Gary Kinney '65, Davi ?, Clyde Wilson '71, Susan Cerrone '67, Todd Lockhart '77, Tal Wingate '70, Ted Ong '73

Seated L to R--Davi's wife Eleni, Nina Lockhart, Patty Donovan Hight '66, Libby Oppenheimer Hutchinson '65, Brian Doherty '72



Class of 69 Party

Tom Reynolds "69

The Class of '69 will use any excuse for a party, so it was decided that the Class' 40th Graduation Anniversary was as good an excuse as any for a Class get together and a PARTY in July 2009.

Atlanta, GA (a.k.a. "Hotlanta") was chosen as the gathering spot due to it being a hub airport for ease of access. Sandy Ferguson who lives in Atlanta was contacted and put on "scout" duty to find a hotel and arrange for the festivities. Tom Reynolds took on the role of "cat herder" to gather the Class for yet another party. What initially started to be a "short week-end" party on Friday and Saturday began to grow and finally became another traditional ISB get together – beginning on Wednesday and ending on Sunday.

Sandy found a hotel close to the airport with fantastic facilities where the "party suite" room was adjacent to the pool, restaurants surrounding the property and a hotel staff who went out of their way to satisfy our every whim! Sandy also found a restaurant about five miles away, the Zab-E-Lee, for a Friday night Thai dinner. Sandy and Tom went to the restaurant on Wednesday to arrange the Thai dinner and Sandy and the owner "negotiated" the dinner (in Thai) with the restaurant staff just loving the fact that they were going to have a group of "farangs" who had lived in Thailand eating at their facility. And they were so enthused that they closed the restaurant Friday night for just our party.

The renowned '69 Party Suite bar was assembled (with plenty of Singha, of course) and 60's music began playing on Wednesday and did not stop until Sunday, including being piped out onto the pool deck for all to enjoy. People began arriving on Wednesday and continued to arrive throughout the day and into Friday. By Thursday evening over half of the expected attendees had arrived, and in traditional ISB fashion, desired a Thai dinner on Thursday night. A sufficient number of "designated drivers" were found to take about 15 people to the Zab-E-Lee restaurant for a "pre-Friday night meal" and when we walked in, the staff adopted us. Sandy orchestrated the meal to avoid duplicating the planned Friday night meal and the food kept coming until people simply had to give up eating. It was as traditional of Thai food as one could ask for!

On Friday morning a car pulled up in front of the hotel and out crawled Dave Wilkerson and Lynn Brookley (Shrack), who had pulled an "all night drive" from Texas as they had heard there was a party brewing!!! The remainder of the attendees arrived throughout the day on Friday and then it was time to go back to the Zab-E-Lee for the planned Thai dinner. Due to having partied all day long beside the pool, designated drivers were once again "chosen" in order to move the forty attendees five miles down the interstate to the restaurant. And because the restaurant could not sell beer, three coolers stocked with Singha were hauled with us. (Fortunately there was a beer store not too far away as three coolers proved to be an "insufficient" stock for the evening). The staff went out of their way to serve the first seven sets of appetizers, followed by six main courses and when everyone was stuffed with their favorite foods, the staff brought out fried bananas with ice cream for dessert!

Saturday was "pool day" with everyone basking in the fabulous weather and ended with preparations for the Saturday evening five course Italian dinner Sandy had arranged at the restaurant adjoining the hotel. Once again the staff "adopted" us and we had a fabulous dinner, followed by a "roasting" of Tom Reynolds as the event organizer and even a "coronation" as Party King.... And of course, after dinner, it was back to the Party Suite to finish the evening with 60's music and dancing!

Sunday was the dreaded "departure day" with people not wanting to leave but looking forward to the next Network Reunion in Virginia Beach 2010!!

Attendees at the gala celebration from the Class of '69's 40th Reunion were:

Tom Reynolds, Sandy Ferguson, Dutch Duarte, Betsy Ball, Mike Price, Mark Price, Nancy Harris (Price), John Beach, Lora Yount (Keating), Greg & Kris Larson, Dene Dewey (and Chris King), Lynn Payette (and Larry Branton), Becky Byers (Quierfield), Alison Sommers (Kennedy), Kim Cooper, Meredith March (Mcnamee), Bobbie Fisher (Carlisle), Candi Kranz (Busch), Fran Finnigan (Pulone), JoHanna Ewing, Gary Kokenspager, Sue (Ong) Chang & Audie., Bob Olsen and Jim Butler.

Guests from other class years were: Bonnie Geilfuss (Avery), Karen Berkow, John Cole, Joe & Deb Myers, Dave Wilkerson, Lynn Berkley (Shrack), Bob March, MaryLee Marchant (Roberts), Deb Twing, Kris Stahlman, Jolli Sidon (Merritt) and Greg Merritt,



JoHanna Ewing and Meredith March McNamee,



Happy partygoers!



Looking through the Erawan



Kim Cooper Newport, Sandy Ferguson, Becky Byers Quierfield



King Tom

Reminiscences of an Avid Snake Enthusiast

By Paul "Snakeman" Soderberg, '67

ed.note: The following story first appeared in the January, 1967 edition of the Klaxon, ISB's high school literary magazine.

My shelves are now empty and the bottles that once contained my collection of some eight hundred preserved snakes are now gone, donated to a museum where they have lost their identity among countless other specimens. Sometimes I sit and stare at the empty shelves, and my mind wanders aimlessly back to the glorious days long past when I used to go out in search of serpents. Back in those golden days of snake hunting my friend Geoffrey Young '67 and I would ride our bikes out of Bangkok and along a country road to a bridge that arched over a winding klong. Leaving our bikes, we would continue our journey by canoe. This craft, manned by the two of us, would take us far up into the backwaters of the klong to our happy hunting grounds and to places where for a few short hours we could lead a thrilling type of Utopian life sloshing through swamps and rice fields, hacking our way through tangled jungles, or wandering through dark and dank primeval forests. Wherever we went we would search for snakes.

Snake hunting is quite unlike any other type of hunting. In lion or tiger hunting Man is pitched against a foe almost his equal in cunning and intelligence. He deals with a strong and powerful adversary which he nevertheless can reckon with on almost equal terms. Snake hunting is different. Here Man tracks a noiseless, voiceless creature, an unblinking shadow that glides almost magically over the ground without the aid of arms or legs. Here one minute and there the next, always turning up when least expected, the unpredictable snake exudes an aura of mysticism that inspires awe and respect, if not fear, in even the most fearless of hunters.

Geoff and I never knew what we would run into (snakes are not sought out, they are run into), but every specimen was a new thrill, a new experience, and a new chance for excitement. Often we would catch garter snakes, elegant tree snakes and water snakes. Sometimes our luck would change and we could find the rarer types: large pythons, tiny burrowing snakes, or agile rat snakes. However, there was one kind of snake which was more exciting to find and catch than any other—the Bamboo Viper. Venomous and highly irritable, this two foot long, green, red-tailed snake is the epitome of the layman's conception of all snakes. With a large, swollen head, staring yellow eyes with vertical, cat-like pupils, and two long saber-like fangs, this snake is the personification of all evil.

I remember in particular one day when Geoff and I ran into a Bamboo Viper. We had been gliding along over the water in our canoe. Occasionally a bird would twitter or a monkey would chatter. It was about noonday.

"About time for lunch, Paul?" Geoff called from where he sat in the back of the canoe. I stretched. My shoulders ached from the strain of paddling. A rest and a bite to eat would feel good.

"Why not?" I called back.

We slowed up and drew up in the shade of a large tree trunk that jutted out over the water. We broke out our lunch and settled back. We occupied ourselves by throwing bread crumbs to the amphibious fish that flitted and hopped about on the bank near the waters edge.

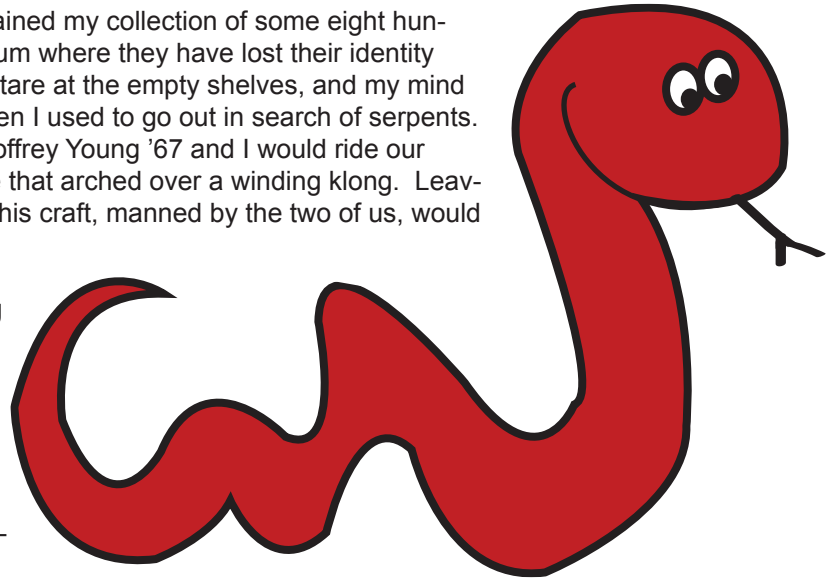
Before too long we were ready to push on. Geoff stood up and put his hands on the tree trunk to push us away from the bank. Then a funny thing happened: without a sound, Geoff fell backward into the canoe. But he immediately scrambled back onto his knees, shouting "Bamboo Viper! Bamboo Viper! Up there!" Geoff had placed his hands only inches from where a huge Bamboo Viper lay coiled upon the trunk!

The snake had been asleep. Now with all the commotion it had awakened, and like a bear after hibernation was grouchy and irritable. Realizing that in this state of mind he would be particularly dangerous, we were at first undecided how to bag it. But when the viper began to crawl away we realized that if we did not act fast it would escape. Though grouchy, it only wanted peace and quiet and had uncoiled and began to inch its way up the trunk in search of a more peaceful spot. Geoff was the first to act. Grabbing his snake stick he tried to pin down the viper against the trunk. As luck would have it though, he succeeded only in knocking the now hissing, writhing reptile into the boat. Both of us hopped about to get out of its striking range, causing the canoe to rock frightfully.

Now ensued a series of frantic efforts to pin the snake down. Geoff would try, then I would try, and then Geoff would try again. To no avail: the snake just wouldn't allow itself to be pinned, and every minute it became more and more irritated. Suddenly Geoff slipped and fell over the side of the canoe and into the klong. He came up spluttering and cursing. Momentarily forgetting the snake I laughed aloud at him. "What're you doing down there," I teased; "How's the water?"

"Very funny," he fumed; "Come on, help me get back in."

In his enthusiasm to get back in Geoff grabbed onto the side of the canoe and tried to hoist himself up. Of course, he only knocked me off balance and into the klong on the other side, and the resulting release of weight sent Geoff back



into the water again. I wasn't laughing then. Like a pair of spluttering wet cats we clambered back into the canoe from opposite sides. But disaster of all disasters! The snake was nowhere to be seen. Frantically we searched the boat for it, but it had disappeared. We were heartbroken. Then Geoffrey groaned and pointed to the opposite bank. I turned and looked. There was our prize specimen, just gliding out of the water and into a matted tangle of bamboo. We could only sit and watch it go. The Bamboo Viper vanished, but a short time later its head came again into view. It stared in our direction with its cold, yellow, unblinking eyes for perhaps half a minute as it to say, "You two are sure a couple of clumsy oafs!" Then it flicked its tongue—stuck it out at us, really—turned, and was lost from sight forever.



ISB Spring Break Thailand Trip

Departing from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on Sunday, March 28, 2010 (Check in time 11:00PM)

- Trip Menu -

Entrées (Full Trips) - All of these Full Trip packages include round trip air transportation from Los Angeles in economy class via China Airlines to and from Bangkok plus additional regional air transportation mentioned in the package. Also included are accommodations with breakfast daily at the hotels mentioned, all airport transfers, local sightseeing and visits, local guides, plus many extras including the following activities:



Welcome Dinner (Tuesday, 30 Mar) – Our Welcome to Bangkok dinner will be held the evening of our arrival at the Rembrandt Hotel. In addition to our group, all sorts of local ISB grads, teachers, and students will be attending making this a great kick-off to our visit.

Memory Lane (Wednesday, 31 Mar) – A walk into our past with a visit to the old ISB campus on Soi 15, and the new one in the 'burbs where we'll have lunch (included). This afternoon, we'll break up into smaller parties and go house hunting, looking for where you used to live so remember your address!

Explore Bangkok (Thursday, 1 Apr) – Today we spend that day (with lunch included) exploring Bangkok. The early birds can join us to give alms at Wat Trimitr, but don't worry if you miss this, our staff will be at the hotel to send you along to join us when you are ready! Later, visit Pak Klong Talat, literally meaning "a market by the mouth of the canal", biggest and most important wholesale market in Bangkok. From the market, board a "long-tail" boat for the next element of this adventure, the famous Chayo Phraya River, the River Of Kings. We'll cruise through the water streets of Thonburi making a brief stop at, the Royal Barge Museum on the way to a view of Wat Arun, or Temple Of Dawn. Next, cross back over the river to visit Thailand's most impressive cultural and historical attraction; the Grand Palace, seeing the extensive grounds which include the Temple Of The Emerald Buddha. Then we are off to the world's largest golden teakwood structure; Vimmarmek Palace, the Castle In The Clouds. Erected in the late 19th Century, it has been completely restored and houses a grand collection of turn of the century memorabilia. After this (or before if we are running late), stop at the Royal Princes Hotel to enjoy their ample midday buffet lunch. After lunch, visit Jim Thompson's House, a must for oriental art and antique lovers. We then return to the hotel by late in the afternoon either by vehicle or use Bangkok's excellent Skytrain, just near Jim Thompson's.

Bangkok Adventure (Returning to Los Angeles on Sunday, April 4th) - \$1,495 Per Person **
A week (5 Nights) in Bangkok at the Rembrandt Hotel in Soi 18, Sukhumvit (www.rembrandtbkk.com) with all functions and tours, plus a full day trip (Saturday, April 3rd) to Pattaya, including lunch and a boat trip. Just like our senior class trip! Or, enjoy 3 nights in Bangkok & 2 Nights in Pattaya at the Montien Pattaya for the same price!

Thailand Adventure (Returning to Los Angeles Saturday, April 10th) - \$2,295 Per Person **
11 Nights in total in Bangkok, Pattaya, Chiang Mai, & Chiang Rai. Featuring the Golden Triangle

Thai Lao Explorer (Returning to Los Angeles Tuesday, April 13th) - \$3,195 Per Person **
14 Nights in total in Bangkok, Pattaya, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, & Luang Prabang, Laos, voted the #1 place to see this year by the New York Times Travel Section, also the home of Kenny Yarbrough '69.

Independent Adventure (For the Independent Explorer) - \$1,295 Per Person **

3 Nights at Rembrandt Hotel with all functions and tours, plus a 4th night at the Rembrandt that can be taken at any time during your stay. Independent return by air any day. Includes only arrival transfers and does not include the Pattaya day trip. This package is recommended for designing your own tour using Add-Ons as follows:

Side Orders (Add-Ons) - All of these Add-On packages include the air transportation mentioned from and back to Bangkok and/or the land transport, accommodations with breakfast daily at the hotels mentioned, all airport transfers, local sightseeing and visits, local guides, plus many extras.

Pattaya (2 Nights) - From \$180 Per Person **

Including ground transportation to/from Bangkok staying at the fabulous Montien Pattaya (see www.montien.com/pattaya/), the new hotel closest to our old haunts. The Nipa Lodge still exists, called the Nova Beach Lodge now.

Phuket (3 Nights) - From \$695 Per Person **

Including flights from Bangkok and staying at The Boathouse & Villa Royale in Kata Beach (see www.boathousephuket.com/) or Andaman White Beach Resort (see www.andamanwhitebeach.com/)

Koh Samui (3 Nights) - From \$495 Per Person **

Including flights from Bangkok and Rocky's Boutique Resort (see www.rockyresort.com/), the Anantara Resort & Spa (see www.anantara.com/indexflash.html), or Sala Samui for stunning new boutique property on a great location, private beach, and a wonderful spa facility (see www.salasamui.com/home.htm).

Angkor Wat (2 Nights in Siem Reap, Cambodia) - From \$795 Per Person **

Including flights from Bangkok and staying at Hôtel de la Paix (see www.hdlpangkor.com), La Résidence d'Angkor (see www.pansea.com), or the Borei Angkor Resort & Spa (www.boreiangkor.com for details)

Chiang Mai (3 Nights in Chiang Mai) - From \$995 Per Person **

Including flights from Bangkok and staying at the Puripunn Baby Grand Boutique Hotel (see <http://www.puripunn.com/> for details) or the Yaang Come Village, a short walk from the Night Bazaar (see <http://www.yaangcome.com/>).

Custom Add-Ons – Design your own custom Add-On! Anything is possible, including a visit to Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, or many of Thailand's other areas. You can do almost anything, and we can arrange it!

** All package and add-on prices are based on TWO persons sharing a room. Single room supplements are available on request. Triple (3 persons to a room) rates are on request but subject to availability in hotels that offer triple rooms. No quad (4 persons to a room) rates are available in any of the hotels on this trip.

Are you interested? Contact G.W."Sandy" Ferguson/Direct Line-800-667-4993 or (678) 749-7210, Fax (678)868-1600

Or check out his website www.asiadesk.net or www.asiadesk.net/downloads/ISB_69_Spring_Break_2010.pdf



REMINDER!!!

If your credit card expiration date has changed since you made your reservation, call the hotel right away to update your record or your reservation will be forfeited!

Air America – Upholding the Airmen’s Bond Symposium – Phillippe W. Ritter (73)

A symposium was held at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD-Richardson, Texas) April 18, 2009. The McDermott Library at UTD houses a History of Aviation Collection including the archives of Air America. A large bronze memorial plaque displayed in the library/museum is engraved with the images of CAT (Civil Air Transport) and Air America and is engraved with the names of all 240 CAT/Air America personnel that lost their lives (1946-1975). It is the only place where these losses are memorialized by name. Civilian losses from the Vietnam War are not included on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC. The symposium was hosted by the CIA and several corporate sponsors and was held to coincide with the release of 300 documents comprising some 10,000 pages of declassified material from the Air America CIA Corporate records. Aside from the release, the symposium highlighted Air America’s role in the rescue of US military pilots downed over Laos during the Vietnam War. It brought together the rescuers and rescuees to tell their stories. Some of these people had never met. It was also a chance for me to see old family friends from my days in Thailand, Laos and some ISB friends. Terry Rodgers-Jepsen (72), Gordon Rodgers, Charles Singleton (72) and Cindy Singleton (76) were there. Their fathers also flew for Air America. There were other kids there who I remembered from Laos, after my family moved there from Bangkok.



Air America operated from the early beginnings of the Vietnam War. It was there at the end with the fall of Saigon in April 1975. Evidence of this was captured in the now famous photo of an Air America helicopter atop the Pittman apartment building in Saigon showing a long line of desperate Vietnamese climbing a ladder to a waiting AA crew man. Many who have seen this picture think it was taken of the top of the American Embassy in Saigon. It was actually an apartment roof top, one of the few sites that Air America had set up to extract Vietnamese.

Air America was a proprietary contract airline owned by the CIA. During the Vietnam War, Air America had significant operations in Thailand, Laos, South Vietnam and Cambodia. The largest operations were in Laos, and South Vietnam where they fulfilled a variety of USG contracts. In those countries, especially Laos, Air America was every where. Because of this, when ever a US pilot had to bail out over Lao territory, Air America (mainly helicopter crews) was often the first to respond. Rescues in war are time critical. The more time spent on the ground, the greater the chance that the enemy will get you. USAF SAR (search and rescue) responses took more time as they had a chain of command to go through and they launched from Nakorn Phathom (NKP) in Northern Thailand, bordering Laos along the Mekong River. There were some temporary staging places in Laos used to by US military rescue crews. Technically, US military personnel were prohibited from being on the ground in Laos except in Vientiane where the USAF and Army had Attache’s and where the Marines guarded the Embassy and other USG buildings. Launching from NKP, rescue choppers and air cover took up to an hour or more. Air America choppers in the area could be there in minutes. Rescues were not done at night but, AA crews were often there at first light to continue a rescue. It was only in the later part of the war that Air America was actually contracted by the US government to have an official part in rescues.

It was widely assumed and believed that Air America pilots were paid a reward for saving downed pilots. This was a myth. Pilots were never paid for this. They did it because they felt bound by honor to rescue a fellow pilot. Most, like my father,



were retired or former military pilots. When a radio call came out, AA chopper pilots in the area would drop their loads and head to the area. Sometimes the loads were just dropped into the jungle and lost. My father most likely was never involved in a search and rescue. He flew a larger fixed-wing plane (C-123K) while in Laos. I am sure he probably ferried a rescued pilot or two back to Thailand.

Some Air America choppers were older piston-engine Sikorsky H-34’s. These lacked power at high climatic temperatures and high mountain altitudes. Both were a common experience in Laos which often made a rescue more exciting. Hovering at full power for too long over a jungle canopy or off the side of a mountain would destroy an engine. Enemy ground fire also took its toll on

Terry Rodgers Jepsen, Phillippe Ritter, Mrs. Rodgers



aircraft and crews. Rotor blades of the helicopters were commonly damaged from striking tree branches. Sometimes the downed pilot was reluctant to be hoisted aboard an “unmarked” helicopter. Under these extreme conditions, the margin of error was minimal and rescues were accomplished only by the skill and determination of the crews. When a downed crew was pulled out, they would be taken to a safe landing strip and left to be picked up by a US military chopper or Air America or Continental Air Services plane, who then ferried them to safety in Thailand. If their own aircraft was undamaged and they had enough gas, the Air America crews would then go back to “work.” Wounded crews were rushed to Udorn, Korat or Takhli in Thailand. Critically

wounded crews were rushed to various in-country medical facilities for emergency treatment. The painting on the right depicts an actual rescue that occurred on the Plain des Jars in North central Laos. It was commissioned by the Air America Association and presented to CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia in October 2009 where it now hangs.

Interestingly, Air America officially stopped counting the number of rescues back in 1966. It is estimated that Air America rescued about 600 personnel throughout the war in Laos. By chance, the dazed or wounded pilots would remember the AA crew’s names or aircraft number. Back in Thailand those pilots would traditionally make it a point to buy drinks and give a customary bottle of booze to their rescuers if given the chance. I’m sure those gatherings were almost as rough as the rescue itself.

Another portion of the symposium brought together people who were rescued and those that rescued them from the capture of Lima Site 85 (Phou Pha Thi) in Northern Laos. In the fall of 1966, the USAF started construction of a TSQ-81 TACAN precision radar/bombing system on top of a mountain karst, at the end of a mountain ridge in Sam Neua province in Northeastern Laos. This was a bold move in that Sam Neua was the nerve center and strong hold for the communist Pathet Lao government. It was also within sight of North Vietnam. Sophisticated for its time, this mobile system needed to be within 120 miles of its targets to accurately direct bomb placements inside North Vietnam. USAF personnel, disguised as civilians as well as civilian personnel representatives of the manufacturer operated it. It was defended on top and below by Lao Houmg and Thai PARU troops. Being that the karst was about a mile high from the ground below and that the sides of the karst were sheer vertical rock, the site was considered safe by our folks.

The North Vietnamese were not happy with its presence on their door step. They launched an unprecedented effort to capture the site. After slowly building a road up to the karst and doing away with the defenders below, on the evening of March 10th 1968, the North Vietnamese launched a mortar and artillery assault on the karst. The final assault involved North Vietnamese sappers scaling the karst. They had been trained to mountain climb by the Russians. In the night attack, all but three personnel survived. The next morning, an Air America helicopter pulled the lone survivors off the side of the karst. They had survived the night by hiding down below the top among the boulders on the jagged side of the karst while the North Vietnamese fired weapons and threw grenades over the side at them. During the dawn rescue, the



NVA were able to shoot up through the floor of the chopper, mortally wounding one of the survivors. When our side concluded that no other personnel could be recovered, air strikes were called in to destroy the sensitive site. It was never rebuilt. Today, the loss of 11 people still remains as the single most costly loss of USAF ground personnel.

In the months leading up to the NVA final assault on Lima Site 85, an Air America helicopter performed the first ever shoot down of a fixed-wing aircraft by a helicopter. This had never been done before and has never been done since. In another unprecedented move, the NV Air Force outfitted AN-2 “Colt” Russian biplanes with mortars and rockets to attack Lima Site 85.

Tae Kwon Do – ISB “Chy-yut, Kun-yee”

Steve Duncan '68

First, the disclaimer. My memory may not be terribly accurate after all this time. My sister Susan, who was a freshman at ISB when I was a senior, is always remembering things a little differently than I did and claims jokingly that I wasn't really there.

I remember reading something about karate classes starting at the YMCA in Bangkok. One Saturday I went down there on a lark and watched a class. It was a bit confusing, all the taking off of shoes and bowing to enter the do-jang, but Mr. Kim convinced me in his halting English to give it a go. I just started out a few Saturdays and found it was kind of fun if a bit of a hard workout for someone in my shape. I convinced my Dad that I would stick it out and he bought me the uniform and my glaringly clean white belt.

Mr. Kim was always trying to instill more than just the physical aspects of Tae Kwon Do. One day he seemed a bit disappointed in our efforts and decided to show us the power of the martial arts. He had us sit in an open square in the do-jang and went outside to the garden area. We weren't quite sure what he was up to but he appeared to be digging around on the ground. He came back in with a nice, flat rock about 8 inches long. He then proceeded to use the edge of his hand to strike the rock. This went on for a painfully long time until he finally broke the rock. I think most of us there were both impressed and a bit fearful of a man who breaks rocks with his hand. I know it helped convince me to hang around a while longer.

The next year Mr. Kim started a class at ISB. We trained in the afternoon after school. We usually practiced in the breezeway of the Intermediate building. I remember these classes as being pretty grueling. I think they sometimes lasted as long as 3 hours. It's a good thing I never wasted much time studying other stuff. We would stretch and warm up with a run around the field and then start practicing blocks, punches and kicks. We would soon be drenched in sweat from the workout and the humidity. I looked forward to getting to sit and watch the higher belts spar.

Mr. Kim impressed me with his ability to keep everybody at their level of expertise. When you were starting out you weren't allowed to actually spar, which was good and kept injuries to a minimum. We got to do something I called knee sparring. We would hop around on one leg with our other knee sticking out and try to bump our partner off balance. Strange behavior but definitely helped our balance. Of course we also did a lot of three step practice, block, block, block, strike. This got us used to watching the other guy pretty carefully. I once let my mind wander a bit and got a pretty good whollop in the chest for not paying attention. We also practiced a lot of the forms for advancement.

We got to work with lots of other partners, which helped our ability to adapt. We worked with everybody from our idol Ron Burley'68, to new students just starting out. We even had the young son of the Korean Ambassador in our class. He must have been about seven, but he was very fast.

There were parts of the training I wasn't fond of. Besides the daily schedule (and I'm sorry but I skipped many a Saturday), there was the punishment of one's body. Not just the pushups on two knuckles of each hand which deadened your hand a bit, but others as well. Mr. Kim had us smack the inside and outside of our forearms on the pipe railing in the breezeway to toughen the blocking areas. It was sometimes hours later before I could feel anything. We would also face a partner and smack our forearms together repeatedly. Ouch, it hurts just thinking about it.

Above all, Mr. Kim wanted us to develop discipline. He said that he didn't want to hear about us getting in any fights at school or anywhere else. Self-defense was one thing but brawling was grounds for the boot. After getting beat up every day in class who wanted to fight anyway! In his serious but humorous style he once counseled me about breathing with my mouth open. We were supposed to breathe through our noses. This was pretty tough when you were getting to the end of a class. I was in the front line punching and kicking when he stepped in front of me and said "Breathe with mouth open, fly land on tongue". I think the whole class was amused by my chastisement. I was, of course, speechless, still breathing heavily through my mouth and turning bright red to boot.

While I continued to study Tae Kwon Do back in Oregon the teachers never matched Mr. Kim. Many of his lessons have stayed with me all these years. Myung Soo Kim was the best Tae Kwon Do teacher I had. It was sad to hear of his passing. I can see him now with a bunch of raw young students in the great Do-Jang in the sky yelling: "Chy-yut, Kun-yee, Chonji, Hanna, Dool, Set, Net,....



FREE SPARRING — PEGGY CROWLEY TAKES ON RON BURLEY.



Calling All Golfers

It's not too soon to think about our "Reunion Golf Outing" for the 2010 ISB Reunion at Virginia Beach. Maile has asked me to organize this adventure. I am talking to a few golf courses in Virginia Beach and need a head count on how many people are interested in playing to get a better estimate of price and location.

The best day for the outing would likely be Friday, August 27, 2010 (better prices weekday). We can have our outing in the morning with lunch served at the course (box lunch) or we can have lunch before we tee off in the afternoon. I am leaning towards the morning tee time (9:00 or 10:00AM). Either way, I will need a head count so please either email me at [HYPERLINK "mailto:kjwhang@gmail.com"](mailto:kjwhang@gmail.com) kjwhang@gmail.com or call me at (609) 731-2414 so that I can move forward on logistics.

At our last reunion at San Diego, we had about a dozen alumni who participated and we all had a GREAT time. We actually played 2 rounds.

Please let me know if you need to borrow a set of golf clubs. Most courses have club rentals, or if we know ahead of time, I'm sure we can have participating alumni bring extra sets.

James Whang, 77

YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN (ALMOST)

Carol Pettigrew Hallman '62

Photos by Brian Hanson '60, and Father Bob Batton

Thomas Wolfe was convinced that You Can't Go Home Again, but my 10-year renewal of ISB 60's Kids relationships suggests otherwise. It's true that we are older, but at a point where we value our oldest friendships while expanding new ones. The 2009

Sixties' Kids reunion in Cannon Beach, Oregon reinforces my belief that the friends we chose in our teens were not only smart decisions, but are people we seek out 50 years later. To those of you who are waffling about attending your first ISB reunion, I guarantee that you will not be sorry if you go. People that you have not seen since ISB will welcome you, and the years will slip away faster than you can imagine. The class clown may be pot-bellied and balding today, but he is still funny as hell. The smartest person back then is still smart, and your best friend will walk back into your life as if she/he had never left. Even the



boyfriends/girlfriends who once rejected you pass the test of time. As one of the women said at Cannon Beach, "Even though they dumped us, they were still pretty good boyfriends!"

Chuck Kugler was and is 1962's "clown," & I mean that in a good way!

And don't forget the ISB stories. We all have them, other ISBers remember them, but in their re-telling one is struck by our vulnerability and our willingness to share our less than stellar actions with people we not have seen in years. Many of our other adult relationships have a guarded quality; however, this quickly vanishes when we re-acquaint with our ISB peers.

Tom Slemons '59, Gail Loudermilk Kirk '61, Tom McGlasson '61 and wife Susie



If you treasure your ISB experience, you will never be sorry that you took the time and made the effort to renew your old friendships.

We have learned from younger classmates about Third Culture Kids (TCKs). Remember that sense you had when you returned from Bangkok and you felt that you didn't really fit in? It has a name and a website, www.tckworld.com. A quote from that website states "Although elements from each culture are assimilated into the Third Culture Kid's life experience, the sense of belonging is in relationship to others of the same background." Sound promising? Join us in Virginia Beach 2010, and you will come home.

Brian Hanson '60, Noel Ragsdale '62, Ron Loftus '62 (holding Noel's famous Margaritas), Chuck Kugler '62 and Carol Pettigrew Hallman '62

And speaking of "home," there were close to thirty 60's Kids at Cannon Beach. We had a party suite from which we cocktailled and prepared superior dinners (thanks to Len Lanza, Chuck Kugler '62, Bob Gleason '62). A beach bonfire Friday night was a big success, but bad weather inhibited our Sat beach gathering. This did not stop Cricket Fluker Lanza '67, Jill Green Rench '59, Bunny Close Liebow '60, and Brian Hanson '60 from roasting marshmallows on the suite's broiler without tripping the smoke alarm! ISB ingenuity for sure.

We visited local micro-breweries, the Tillamook County Fair, Tillamook Cheese/Ice Cream Factory, Astoria Column and Youngs River Falls. Our reunion organizer, Ellen Ehle Schaefer '62, presented to Mike Morris '62 an inscribed silver yoyo for his consistent attendance, even though he comes from AUSTRALIA! It turns out that Mike is no yoyo novice, and he entertained us with various tricks. Who knew??

Soi Sisters in starlet gear thanks to Sherry Slemons
 L to R: Jill Green Rench '59, Gail Loudermilk Kirk '61, Ellen Ehle Schaefer '62,
 Bunny Close Liebow '60, Carol Pettigrew Hallman '62, Noel Ragsdale '62



You too can have this much fun. Join us in VA Beach, August 2010!

60's Kids attending: Chip McKee '61, Frank McKee '69, Hank Snow '69, Tom Slemons '59 and Sherry, Tom McGlasson '61 and Susie, Chuck Kugler '62 and Ann Monroe '63, Gretchen Schmader Batton '64 and Father Bob, Ellen Ehle Schaefer '62 and Dennis, Carol Pettigrew Hallman '62, Gail Loudermilk Kirk '61, Bunny Close Liebow '60, Noel Ragsdale '62, Jill Green Rench '61, Brian Hanson '60, Bob Gleason '62, Mike Morris '62, Ron Loftus '62, Van Bucher '62, Jan Flesch Libby '63 and Harry (their daughter, Jocelyn and husband, Brian), Cricket Fluker Lanza '67 and "Chef" Len.



A Walk Down Memory Soi

Whenever I get a chance to visit Bangkok, I enjoy walking along Sukhumvit Road. So many of us lived off Sukhumvit and it was a huge part of our lives there. It's amazing to see how much it has changed – especially with the Sky Train down the middle of it. On my last trip to Bangkok in May 2009, my husband John and I took the Sky Train to soi 53 and then walked back towards Siam Square. Join me now for a little trip down memory "soi".



Soi 53



Soi 41

Soi 31



Soi 21 looking north towards the Teen Club



Soi 17



Soi 15



Thai'ing up Loose Ends

Want to read about today's ISB? Go to <http://touchstone.isb.ac.th>

Be sure to read the <http://www.isbnetwork.com/bboard.php?options=expand> Bulletin Board on the website. It's full of "what's happening."

Please forward suggestions, constructive criticism, or comments regarding this newsletter to <mailto:isbpeggy67@gmail.com>

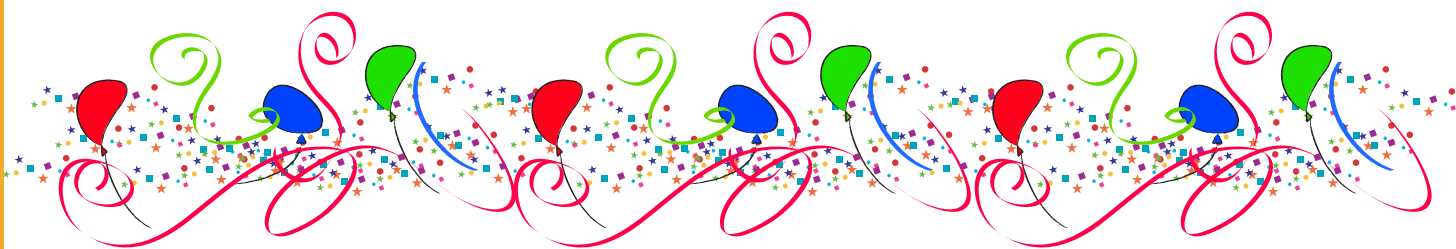
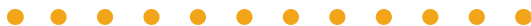
This is your newsletter, and it can't exist without your input. Send stories, memories, current news—anything that would be of interest to the above email address. I'll help you with editing, etc.

When the time comes, http://www.isbnetwork.com/membership_join.php renew your membership in the ISB Network. You'll be glad you did.

Have you had a "Small World" experience, in which you've by chance run into an old ISB pal or found someone that went to ISB? I'd like to hear about it. It doesn't matter if it was yesterday or many years ago. Send Peggy an email. <mailto:isbpeggy67@gmail.com>

Check out the website for the latest http://www.isbnetwork.com/hotel_pickup_2010.pdf "Who's Coming" to see an updated list of ISB'ers who have already made hotel reservations for the 2010 Virginia Beach Reunion. Then, if you haven't already done so, make YOUR reservations so you won't miss out on what promises to be the best reunion ever!

Our webmaster, Maureen Lockhart Salashoor, needs an assistant. If you have mySQL/PHP skills and have some time to lend a hand, contact her <mailto:webmast@isbnetwork.com>.



In Closing...

Confetti and streamers to all the ISB'ers who have contributed to this newsletter. Remember, this is your newsletter, and it can't exist without your input. Send stories, memories, current news—anything that would be of interest to the above email address. I'll help you with editing, etc. Khop Khun mach ka.

Peggy