

# THE THAI THAT BINDS

ISB Network News

March 2016

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## Dear Fellow Alumni,

**The ultimate act of volunteerism is serving as a member of the  
ISB Network Board of Directors.**

For many years, the ISB Network has relied on an army of volunteers to run our organization and to organize our reunions. Countless alumni have graciously and generously volunteered their time and effort to make our organization successful. We truly appreciate everyone who has volunteered in one way, shape or form, and cannot begin to thank you all.

The ISB Network Board of Directors is staffed entirely by volunteers. Board members do not receive compensation, and derive no personal financial gain or benefit from the ISB Network. We are inspired to serve by our love of ISB and Thailand, and our passion to reunite ISB alumni, to create a space where alumni can share their memories, rekindle old friendships, and make new friends who know that special bond we all share.

Our Bylaws govern how we organize and operate the ISB Network. This governing document provides that we may have as many as 15 Board members. We have currently designated 12 positions, or "seats," on the Board. We currently have 10 board members:

President	OPEN
Vice President	Todd Lockhart, '77 (current Acting President)
Secretary	Marla Berkow Stover, '73
Treasurer	Nicole Petschulat, '83
Director of Reunions	David Wilkerson, '71
Director of Membership	Kathy Beaird, '76
Director of Communications	Kathie Boslet, '73
Director of Technology	John Rubel, '75
Director of Outreach	OPEN
Director of Archives	Jo Hanna Ewing, '69
ISBN Ambassador to Thailand	OPEN
Director At-Large	Tim Lockhart, '75
Director At-Large	Helen Tinson Duteau, '85

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## ISB Network Board of Directors

**Todd Lockhart, '77**  
Acting President

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Secretary

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Treasurer

**David Wilkerson, '71**  
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**Jo Hanna Ewing, '69**  
Director of Archives

**Tim Lockhart, '75**  
Director-at-Large

**Helen Tinson Duteau, '85**  
Director-at-Large



## Message from Our Acting President (cont.)

While technically *any* Board position can be available, we currently have immediate openings in and seek to fill the following positions:

**President** - The President is the chief executive officer of the ISB Network, responsible for the overall operation and supervision of the organization and the activities of the other officers, subject to the control of the remaining Board members. The President presides over the Board meetings.

**Director of Outreach** - The Director of Outreach is responsible for recruiting and supervising the activities of Class Representatives, developing ways to locate alumni and promoting awareness of the ISB Network among alumni.

**ISBN Ambassador to Thailand** - The ISBN Ambassador to Thailand is responsible for maintaining contact with the ISB Alumni Office, ISB faculty, administrators and students, and coordinating collaboration with ISB alumni activities in Thailand. The ISBN Ambassador to Thailand is also responsible for coordinating the selection of scholarship recipients and the awarding of the scholarships each year.

To qualify for a seat on the Board of Directors, the only prerequisite is that you must have attended ISB as a student, or as a current or prior faculty member, and you must be a paid member of the ISB Network.

You don't necessarily need special skills, expertise or experience to serve on the Board; however, if you have particular skills or expertise, we encourage you to share them with us, particularly in the areas of accounting, communications, database management, document preservation, event planning, legal, marketing, and website development and maintenance.

Why should you join the ISB Network Board of Directors? We are open to everyone's ideas and suggestions for improving the ISB Network and the reunions, and there is no better way for you to have a direct impact than by serving on the Board of Directors. One of our core policies is that the individual views and statements expressed by members of the Board during our meetings are held in strict confidence. This is meant to encourage everyone to share their thoughts and ideas, and voice their opinions, openly and freely without fear of retribution or embarrassment.

As a member of the Board, you have the opportunity with your vote to truly make a meaningful difference, to make an impact on what we do and how we do it, and to make a lasting imprint on the legacy of our group.

The Board of Directors holds meetings once a month on the 2nd Sunday of the month via conference call. Each meeting lasts about 1 hour. We also have a face-to-face Board meeting onsite at the reunions, typically on Wednesday or Thursday before the official opening of the reunion. At a typical meeting, each member discusses the latest developments within their area of responsibility, and many decisions are made with each Board member casting his or her vote.

Ideally, we would like to see a broad representation of class years to reflect the age diversity within our alumni group, so if you are an alumna from the 80s, 90s or beyond, we especially encourage you folks to consider Board membership.

In short, we want you! We need you!

If you feel inspired and motivated to serve the ISB Network as a member of the Board of Directors, then, please, contact any of us on the Board to explore how you would like to contribute. Simply email us at [Board@isbnetwork.com](mailto:Board@isbnetwork.com) or call 703-768-9668, or you may email any of us individually at the email address found in our online profile.

# Thai Scholarship Appeal from ISB



Supporting Thai students who are extraordinarily talented mathematicians, artists, writers, leaders and athletes, but who could not otherwise afford a high quality education. For those that are not aware, ISB accepts two Thai scholarship students in Grade 10 each year typically from the North and Northeast of Thailand. The scholarship students stay with ISB families throughout the school year and return home for holidays. As you can imagine, this is a wonderful opportunity for these students and in part helps ISB fulfill its mission of inspiring students to become caring global citizens. We also feel that ISB benefits so much from our host country that it is only right to give something back.

The students selected are strong academically and their families do not have the financial means to send their children to an international school like ISB. We are now at the stage when support will be needed to help with university fees for these students and we are appealing to the ISB community for financial help. If you are able to make even a small donation, it would make a difference.

We are seeking to raise funds annually to help with tuition and living costs at either universities in Thailand or around the world in the event that partial or full scholarships are granted. If you are willing to donate, please visit [www.isb.ac.th](http://www.isb.ac.th), click Alumni, then Giving to ISB and choose Thai Scholarship Appeal. It would also be helpful if you could inform other former ISB students that you are in contact with. Also on our website is an alumni “Guest Book” and we would love it if you posted a message and looked around for old friends.

# Thai Scholarship Appeal - Message from Todd

Your \$40 biennial membership dues contribution helps to fund two \$1,500 scholarships each year to students enrolled at ISB to further support volunteer work they perform in their communities.

In support of this new ISB scholarship initiative, your all-volunteer ISB Network Board of Directors has pledged one of our two annual scholarships toward this effort. We believe this new scholarship program is a perfect way for us, the alumni, to give back to the country and the people who embraced us during our youth, by extending an opportunity to enable bright, aspiring young Thai men and women who would not otherwise be able to attend ISB, experience a world-class education. We believe there is no better way to make a direct and lasting impact toward enriching a young person's life than by helping to further their educational opportunities.

If you are not currently a member of the ISB Network, or if you have allowed your membership to lapse, please join today the more than 450 fellow alumni who have already pledged their support. Benefits of membership include exclusive access to our searchable alumni database, discounts on your reunion registration fee and on purchases you make in our very popular Shack store, our not-to-be-missed quarterly newsletter, membership perks at reunions, your own unique ISB Network email address, and volunteer participation in our mentoring program for ISB students.

Membership in the ISB Network is only \$40 every two years. Visit [www.ISBNetwork.com](http://www.ISBNetwork.com) and click **Become a Member**. You can also extend additional support to the ISB Scholarship program, above and beyond your biennial \$40 dues contribution, through a separate, tax-deductible donation to the ISB Network Foundation. Very soon, you will be able to contribute directly to the Foundation through our website at [www.isbnetwork.com](http://www.isbnetwork.com). We will then forward your donations to ISB.

Or, donate NOW with a check payable to the ISB Network Foundation, Inc., and mailed to the following address:

ISB Network Foundation, Inc.  
Attn: ISB Scholarship  
15122 Seneca Trail S  
Lindside, WV 24951

On behalf of the countless dedicated alumni volunteers who over the past 33 years have passionately given their time and talent to make the ISB Network the premier association of international school alumni, I extend our sincere gratitude for your continued support!

Todd Lockhart

Vice President and Acting President of the ISB Network



# ISB Samlor “Ha Roi”

Hilton Daytona Beach Resort/Ocean Walk Village

August 4 - 7, 2016



## 2016 ISB Reunion Registration Update

Registration is open on the ISB Network. For all of the latest updates on the 2016 Reunion visit the Reunions page on the ISB Network.

- [ISBNetwork.com](http://ISBNetwork.com)
- Click **Reunions**.
- Upcoming Reunion
- Sign Up/Pay Reunion Fees

To pay and register online - register via the website and process your credit card payment through PayPal.

To pay and register offline - download, print, and complete the PDF registration form and mail with your check. All details will be on the form.

## Hotel Reservations

You can access the Hilton Reservation site directly from the ISB Network Reunions Page, under Upcoming Reunions, Accommodations (you do not have to be a member to access this page). The room block is available August 2 - August 8, 2016.

You can also call (386) 254-8200.

The code to make your reservation is **ISB**.



## Room Cancellations

Please do not cancel your room without first notifying David Wilkerson, Director of Reunions.

[director.reunions@isbnetwork.com](mailto:director.reunions@isbnetwork.com)

Your room may be needed to preserve our room block.

Thank you!



## Registration Fee Schedule:

October 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016.

	Member	Non-Member
Alumni	\$140	\$150
Spouse/Guest	\$140	\$140
Children (12 and up)	\$120	\$120

**Registering after May 31? Fees TBA!**



**Coming Soon!**  
Look for additional updates on members' only perks at the reunion.

# The Creation of a Thai Production Studio

David Wilkerson, class of '71



From the day I first landed in the land of smiles I totally fell in love with its people. I befriended a Thai man "Tick" about two months after my arrival and he has become a life long friend. Our neighbor Captain Bob Van Sciever was a communications specialist with U.S. Army M.A.R.S. radio and my love for electronics was born as he mentored me in this field. After returning to the states, I felt the tug for years to return to Thailand, and so now I have, many, many times. When I served as president of the ISBN, I wanted to help give back to the wonderful Thai people and the country that we all loved, and so I pushed for the first ISBN scholarship whose only criteria was the student had to be Thai or Thai descent. About seven years ago, I met three YWAM missionaries in Texas through a friend who attended ISB. Tan and Gai are a young Thai couple, and Danny Brown an American, are writing Christian worship music in the Thai language. They told me of their dream to build a recording studio to record their music. As I began to get to know them over the next couple of years, I fell in love with them and their passion to spread the word in Thailand. When I took my daughter Caitlin to Thailand for her graduation present in 2011, we visited them and took them some much needed microphones. At that time their studio was slowly evolving, but I could see the potential. The next year I returned with some other essentials for the studio, and the following year, I decided to help by sending monthly financial support directly to Tan and Gai, as well as continue to help grow their



studio and live music equipment. Since that time they have taken on the task of housing and mentoring six young men who come from varying backgrounds but have a passion for music and spreading the word. Last year my daughter was getting married in the south of France, so I decided to take a side trip to Thailand to work with the boys and to teach them how to properly wire the equipment, and how to build a live music production studio which has been my profession since 1978. That week changed my life forever, and so now as I write this article about my experiences, I sit here again in Thailand, mentoring these boys hoping to help them evolve in to music production specialists.

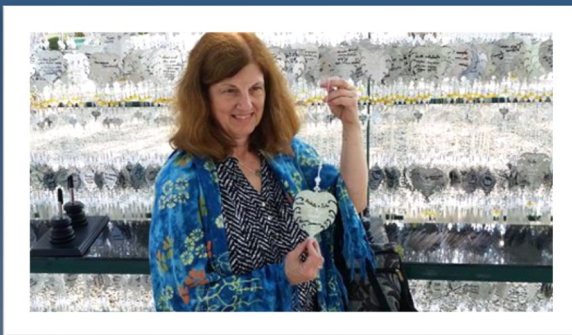




# Tales of Alumni Traveling “Home”

## Babette Dammon Class of '72

One of my dreams has been to return to Thailand with friends who also lived there. What better way to see Thailand again, remember old memories and build new ones than with people you care about. My gratitude and love go out to David Wilkerson and David Elder for making my dream a reality. Thank you for letting me tag along, see new places, try new things, and remember the old. Thank you for helping me to bring John back to a place that was an important part of his life. And most of all, thank you for being my friends.



From the moment I walked through the airport, I felt a sense of familiarity, of coming home. I told David Elder on our way to Koh Chang as our taxi driver talked on one phone and texted on another while driving 70 miles/hour....at home I would freak out, but in Thailand, I didn't worry about it... mai pen rai! There's an ebb and flow that everyone seems to innately understand and follow. The Thais are always gracious and friendly and never appear angry. If you let it, that spirit will seep into soul even if it's just temporary.

I'm not sure how we packed so much into the 8 days that I was in Thailand. We stayed at the beach in Koh Chang, went to Buddha Hill in Pattaya and visited with Randy Laseter and his wife, meandered through the night market and Wat Phra That Doi Suthep in Chiang Mai, beheld the White Temple in Chaing Rai, the market in Tachilek, Myanmar, the Golden Triangle, the ruins in Ayutthaya. Then we travelled to many places in Bangkok... the old ISB, the Atlanta Hotel where I lived for 3 months when we were evacuated from Laos in 1960, the weekend market, and Jim Thompson's house. We travelled by taxi, scooter, van, tuk-tuk, airplane, Sky Train, and klong boat. We ate delicious Thai food, drank Singha, coconut water, Thai iced tea, and Thai iced coffee. Most importantly, we were able to bring John back to Thailand. A part of him is now in Pattaya and in Bangkok, places that he held close to his heart. If you haven't been back and want to go, just do it. Sure there will be some disappointments. Your old house or apartment may not be there anymore, the traffic in Bangkok is insane, it is crowded, a Starbucks or 7/11 is on every corner, and the skyline is littered with tall buildings. But the Thai people are the same, the food is still amazing, the country is still beautiful, and, as Wilkie says, if you don't look up you will find the home you remember in your heart.





Spirit Tree, Buddha Hill, Pattaya



David Elder, Sophia Noyes,  
Babette Dammon, and David Wilkerson



A Rose Between Two Thorns  
David Elder, Babette Dammon, and  
David Wilkerson



A glass of wine that we toasted with  
when spreading John's ashes



The coconut that we used to contain John's ashes  
before sending them out to sea.



Randy Laseter and his wife Aum, David Wilkerson,  
Babette Dammon, and David Elder



# Tales of Alumni Traveling “Home”

## Phillipe Ritter Class of '73 *Journey for Answers*

This past January-February (2015) I traveled to Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar for 3 weeks. The first part of my journey was to finally visit my father's crash site in Northwestern Laos (near Pak Beng). For those who do not know, my father was an Air America pilot who was shot down by Chinese troops in Northern Laos. That morning was December 27, 1971. We lived in Vientiane at the time after 5 years in Bangkok. My father and his crew (3) are still missing. The suspected crash site was found in 1997. Nothing remains except small pieces of wreckage. It is now a small rice patty in a broad rolling valley. Back then, dense forest and remote. I met a man, who was a boy at the time who witnessed the plane being hit. To finally be there, to see, to feel, to know, to cry, has been a life changing event. I know my father died that day. We held a Buddhist ceremony with the help of villagers. A wife of one of my father's crew was with me.



Our Buddhist Ceremony with the help of local villagers

The second week I spent with classmates from the American School of Vientiane. A wonderful time with some I had not seen in 40 years. My time in Laos was brief. But those memories are the richest and the most bittersweet of my Asia life. Laos is wonderful. In my heart, it is home. The final week, I travelled alone to Myanmar. A place I have dreamed of. I visited Mandalay, Bagan and Yangon (Rangoon). Bagan was my prized destination. Its ancient Buddhist pagodas, that rise up around you and as far as you can see, are peaceful and beautiful beyond words. To watch a sunset from atop of one of them, through the smoky haze of evening fires, gave me time to deeply reflect on all that I had seen and have ever been.



Bagan, Buddhist Pagodas



Balloon ride over the Pagodas.

Crash Site  
Northwestern Laos



This is a picture I took while traveling down the Mekong River from Pak Beng to Luang Prabang. The “hill” on the other side has a small river just in front of it called Pak Ou that empties into the Mekong. In a cave in this hill are Buddhas that throughout the centuries, people placed Buddha statues there.





# Loy Krathong Festival

## Shirley Kennedy, Class of '77

Every once in a while, if you're lucky, you find a place that is so much like Thailand that it transports you back in time to a festival by a river with the sights, sounds and tastes of your childhood. This magical place that has drawn many ISB alumni is Wat Mongkolratanaram Buddhist Temple located along the Palm River in Tampa, FL. The temple is exquisite and there is even a Sunday Market with vendors tempting you with fried bananas, sticky rice with mango, curry, pad Thai and big bowls of tasty rice noodle soup.

Every fall the temple hosts a Loy Krathong Festival complete with candle lit floats. For our ISB Alumni Florida Chapter, we naturally had to experience this beloved and beautiful Thai ceremony which also featured traditional Thai dancing and tours of the Wat on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Our group of 20 ISBers from all over Florida and several other states quickly decided to make it a weekend mini reunion and began arriving at the Bay Harbor Hotel in Tampa on Friday. Randy Perritt, who resides in Tampa, arranged for us to meet at Thailand Restaurant on Saturday for lunch to start the official gathering with many hugs, and much laughter and reminiscing. After our bellies were satisfied with delicious Thai cuisine, we returned to the hotel where Dee James, Jolli Sidon and Lora Keeting brought flowers, banana leaves and supplies to make beautiful krathongs. They quickly realized the banana tree slices that are used for the base of the float had been left behind at Jolli's. They remedied that by commandeering a machete from the hotel groundskeepers and chopped down a nearby banana tree. Proving that where there's a will (and a machete), there's a way.

Many of us had visited the temple previously for the Sunday market, but as we entered the temple grounds Saturday evening, it was transformed by lights and the setting along the river was enchanting. We loaded up on exotic desserts and foods like those we remembered from our past, then joined the people and monks at the river. Steps led down to the water where candles and incense



Shirley Kennedy, '77



ISB Alumni, Wat Mongkolratanaram Buddhist Temple

were lit and hundreds of krathongs were released one-by-one with a wish – sending bad luck away. We were all moved by the lights, beauty and symbolism - sharing that moment with other ISB friends forever imprinted it into our memories. As with any reunion, it was hard to say goodbye and go our separate ways the next day, but I know we'll return and every one of us can't wait for the ISB Network reunion in Daytona!

## Design Winner

2016 ISB Reunion: Daytona Beach!

House Games  
(Yellow House won in 2014)

Teen Club  
Dancing  
Beach  
Pool  
Singha  
ISB Friends

Former Young Internationals,  
please attend the  
Daytona 2016 Reunion and  
Contact David Wilkerson of your  
interest!  
[director.reunions@isbnetwork.com](mailto:director.reunions@isbnetwork.com)



International School Bangkok  
Network All-Year Reunion

August 4 - 7, 2016  
Hilton Daytona Beach Resort

# Are you on the list?

We need an accurate list of attendees for the upcoming reunion. Many alumni share rooms and we need the names of everyone in your room so we can cross check the lists from the hotel.

Please email  
Nicole Petschulat at  
[treasurer@isbnetwork.com](mailto:treasurer@isbnetwork.com).

## OTHER ISB NEWS



## Shop the Shack

Members always receive a discount at checkout. If you don't know the coupon code to receive the discount, please contact David Wilkerson at [shack@isbnetwork.com](mailto:shack@isbnetwork.com)

Many new items from Thailand will be available at the reunion!

## Membership Information

The ISB Network Foundation, Inc., is a non-profit 501-C-3 organization, dedicated to reuniting Alumni of **International School of Bangkok** to support, maintain, and create contacts between people who shared similar experiences in Thailand. Membership fees are \$40.00 for 2 years and are tax deductible. Our goal is to provide you with newsletters several times a year and access to contact information of all known ISB Alumni. Your paid membership supports 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. Thank you for being a member and supporting the network.

Tony Grady -  
This green  
Logo is for you!



KEEP  
CALM  
THE REUNION  
COUNTDOWN  
IS ON