



# *aoshs* Quarterly

The American Overseas Schools Historical Society  
PO Box 1500 Wichita KS 67201-1500

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## **Growing Up Military by....Tom Drysdale**

Jacey Eckhart, syndicated columnist and host of a national military family radio program, is an Air Force brat and Navy wife with three kids. She also is the author of an article about "Growing Up Military" in the fall 2008 issue of *USAA Magazine*. The article is about Jacey's family; the families of Donna Musil, a film writer and director; Brian Calhoun, a running back for the Detroit Lions; and James Peake, the current Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, who was raised overseas, attended military dependents schools, and later raised his own kids in the military.

The article is of particular interest to the AOSHS Archives because Army brat Donna Musil, a long-time AOSHS member, recently wrote and filmed *BRATS: Our Journey Home* ([www.bratsfilm.com](http://www.bratsfilm.com)), following the personal interviews of more than 500 other military brats. Of course, this is well known by most AOSHS members because the *Quarterly* publicized *BRATS* before, during, and after filming.

Many AOSHS members around the world also know that Brats Without Borders, an IRS tax-exempt nonprofit 501(c)(3) production company, was founded in 1999 by Donna and was highly involved during the research, planning, and production of the film.

Now, thanks to the *USAA Magazine*, AOSHS has more items for Donna's collection in its archive, including her dad "Bud" seeing her younger sister Tisa off to school in Bad Kreuznach, Germany, in 1970, and later Donna and Tisa during a layover with their family in Hawaii on the way to Seoul, Korea, in 1973. "Bud" Musil retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel.

It also is important to mention that Jacey Eckhart is the author of *The Homefront Club: The Hardheaded Woman's Guide to Raising a Military Family*. She can be contacted at Operation Homefront, P.O. Box 26747, San Diego, CA 92196 and at

[jacey@jaceyeckhart.com](mailto:jacey@jaceyeckhart.com). *USAA Magazine* is available at [www.usaa.com](http://www.usaa.com). Donna Musil can be contacted at Brats Without Borders, P.O. Box 3096, Eatonton, GA 31024 and at [donna@bratsfilm.com](mailto:donna@bratsfilm.com).

## **GoodSearch = Free Money for AOSHS**

If you don't know about GoodSearch, here's the scoop on how using GoodSearch can mean bucks in the bank for AOSHS.

GoodSearch ([www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)) uses the motto, "you search we give." Here's how it works in their own words: "GoodSearch is a search engine which donates 50-percent of its revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users. It's a simple and compelling concept. You use GoodSearch exactly as you would any other search engine. Because it's powered by Yahoo!, you get proven search results. The money GoodSearch donates to your cause comes from its advertisers — the users and the organizations do not spend a dime!"

Try GoodSearch — it's so easy! — as an alternative to Google or some other search engine. Simply use the drop-down to select "American Overseas Schools Historical Society" as your designated cause, and every time you search AOSHS gets a contribution. Every little bit counts.

## **The Play's the Thing by.... Sara Bowyer**

Ralph Janoe has been working on a complete digital collection of Würzburg yearbooks. He needs only the years '93, '95, and '03 to complete the collection.

Ralph also is searching for some long-lost videos of Würzburg High School plays/productions. According to Ralph, recordings have been made, but he doesn't know where they are. We hoped the school might have them on file, but we have yet to receive any more shipments from Würzburg since its closing. If any AOSHS members can help complete this collection, it would be fantastic. Let us hear from you at [aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net) or 316-265-6837.

## 2008 Reunion Information – AOSHS Website and Overseas Brats

Site & Event	Date & Place	Contact
Saigon, Vietnam	March 13-15, 2009 Saigon, Vietnam	<a href="http://www.saigonkids.com/reunion2009.html">www.saigonkids.com/reunion2009.html</a>
Johnson High School Reunion - All classes	April 23-26, 2009 Memphis, TN	Carolyn Kaylor <a href="mailto:McKaylor@yahoo.com">McKaylor@yahoo.com</a>
DoDDS Florida Reunion 2009	May 1-3, 2009 Miami, FL	Barb Cooper <a href="mailto:dodds-fl-barbc@hotmail.com">dodds-fl-barbc@hotmail.com</a>
Frankfurt High School, Germany - Classes of 1967 to 1973	May 28-31, 2009 Atlanta, GA	<a href="http://www.frankfurthigh.com/reunion2009Info.php">www.frankfurthigh.com/reunion2009Info.php</a>
Würzburg High School, Germany	June 25-26, 2009 Las Vegas, NV	<a href="http://www.wuerzburgwolves.com/2009.htm">www.wuerzburgwolves.com/2009.htm</a>
Karlsruhe High School - 50th Anniversary of First Graduating Class	Early July 2009 Karlsruhe, Germany	<a href="http://www.kahsknights.org/reunion.html">www.kahsknights.org/reunion.html</a>
Ansbach High School, Germany - Classes of 1983 to 1993	July 2009 Atlanta, GA	<a href="http://www.ahs.myevent.com/index.php">www.ahs.myevent.com/index.php</a>
Berlin Brats Alumni Association	July 9-12, 2009 Scottsdale/Phoenix, AZ	Jeri (Polansky) Glass <a href="mailto:BerlinBrats@gmail.com">BerlinBrats@gmail.com</a>
DoDDS Reunion XXI	July 12-16, 2009 Las Vegas, NV	<a href="http://www.doddsworldreunion.com">www.doddsworldreunion.com</a>
Kubasaki High School, Okinawa	July 15-18, 2009 Las Vegas, NV	<a href="http://home.roadrunner.com/~vegasreunion/ann.html">home.roadrunner.com/~vegasreunion/ann.html</a>
Mannheim High School - Bison Bash 2009	July 23-25, 2009 Kansas City, MO	<a href="http://www.mannheimalumni.com/reunions.html">www.mannheimalumni.com/reunions.html</a>
Poitiers High School, France	October 9-12, 2009 Tucson, AZ	<a href="http://www.poitierspanthers.com">www.poitierspanthers.com</a>
Overseas Brats - Dallas/Ft. Worth, 23rd Annual	October 14-18, 2009 Plano, TX	<a href="mailto:joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net">joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net</a>

### *Who and Where?*

*by....Nancy Hampel*

I have little information about these photos except that they are probably from the early 1960s and are most likely from a school in Japan. They are from Richard Osner's collection. I don't know who, when, where, or what. If any of our members can provide any of that information, I would really appreciate it. Email me at the AOSHS Archive at [aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net) or phone the office at 316-265-6837.





# Message from The Board

by **Donovan Walling**

Last year I decided it would be fitting to celebrate an anniversary with a trip. Thus, on December 14 I landed (along with my partner) in Frankfurt, Germany, exactly fifty years since arriving there for the first time in 1958 — as a ten-year-old.

At that time my mother, with me and my younger brother and sister in tow, were met by my dad, career Army, who whisked us off to Butzbach, where I would live and attend school for the next year and a half. Eight years later, after two tours, I had gone to school not only in Butzbach but also in Gelnhausen, then Nürnberg, stateside for a year and a half, and then back to Nürnberg for most of high school.

You might conclude from this experience that AOSHS has a nostalgic draw for me. That's partly true, as I suspect it is for many among us. But AOSHS, like any worthy endeavor that has history as its focus, is as much about *living history*, events chronicled as they unfold, as it is about the past — our own or someone else's. It's about capturing the history of American education overseas from those who lived it to inform those who can experience it only vicariously.

Last month in these pages, fellow AOSHS board member Les Burch wrote about the stories many members have contributed. These stories — like the personal histories, photographs, memorabilia, and other artifacts in the AOSHS Archives — bring to life the history of those who lived overseas and worked or studied in schools from A to Z — Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, if you like.

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) was a post-World War II phenomenon, with the first school established in 1946. Now, more than sixty years later, its renamed successor, DoDEA is a diminishing presence around the world. All of the schools I attended in Germany in the 1950s and 1960s have been closed; the same is true of Zweibrücken, where I taught in the 1980s. It seems to me that this is all the more reason for us to be

vigilant in preserving the history of American education overseas.

Your board perpetually rededicates itself to the AOSHS mission to collect, record, and preserve the unique history of educating American children and youth abroad and to enhance public knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the contributions made by American educators and their students in the advancement of democracy around the world. At this moment in our national history the value of this mission cannot be disputed. We count on support and contributions of all kinds from AOSHS members to carry forward this important work.



## **LAS VEGAS IS SITE FOR DODDS XXI REUNION**

The DoDDS XXI Reunion has been scheduled!

July 12-16, 2009, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Registration fees are:

Feb 1 – Mar 31 ----- \$ 150.00

Apr 1 – May 31 ----- \$160.00

At the door ----- \$160.00

Room reservations can be made now.

Imperial Palace

(866) 583-2608 option 3

Reunion code – SIDOD9

\$59.00 per night plus tax

Visit the DoDDs website at

<http://doddsworldreunion.com>

Foregoing the usual turkey and trimmings, a group of juniors and seniors from Nürnberg American High School winged off to London for a four-day Thanksgiving weekend under the auspices of popular English teacher and drama director, Joseph E. Ferguson. The year was 1964.

It was not the usual structured tour. In fact, once we had arrived at the Prince of Wales Hotel (not nearly as grand as it sounds), the basic instruction was simply to show up in time for the plane home on Sunday. The rest of the trip we were on our own. As might be suspected, given that the trip was sponsored by a drama teacher, most of us were determined to see as much London theater as possible. Days found most of us sightseeing at the Tower of London, Madam Tussaud's, Buckingham Palace, and so forth. But the nights were for theater.

The gaggle I hung with went to "Boeing Boeing," starring Leslie Phillips and Patrick Cargill, at the Apollo that Thanksgiving evening. Friday evening it was the Globe Theatre for Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" with Constance Cummings and Ray McAnally. (We thought it was going to be a comedy, as we didn't know anything about Edward Albee at the time.)

Saturday the whole gang went to the only show that was part of the tour package, "The Sound of Music," a matinee at the Palace Theatre. Sonia Rees played the part of Maria with Donald Scott as Captain Von Trapp. Even though our seats were in the nosebleed heights, we were enthralled. None of these three plays had been made into movies yet, so we felt as though we were living on the edge.

In the spring, a number of the seniors who had been on the London trip took to the stage for the senior class play, "The Heiress," adapted from the novel, *Washington Square*, by Henry James and directed by Joseph Ferguson. Being a junior at the time, I couldn't be on stage but served behind the scenes and even had a line as an off-stage voice — delivering a telegram.



*We arrived by tour bus from the airport at the Prince of Wales Hotel in London. No one minded that it wasn't as grand as its name because we didn't spend much time there.*



*Nürnberg American High School in the fall of 1964.*

*The cast of "The Heiress."  
Standing (left to right):  
Dick Nicolosi, Wanda Senn,  
Lorna Rippe, Lynette Anderson,  
Barbara Shipley, and Larry Norman.  
Seated (left to right):  
Sue McClure, Gary King,  
and Barbara Loe.*





## The Way We Were: Memories from ?????

### *Memories from Oslo*

by....Joan Oak

#### *An excerpt from the account of Thomas M. Larner*

OAS [Oslo American School] was started up in the fall of 1954. Before that it was privately run by the embassy. I was a substitute teacher in 1953 while attending the Oslo University and was offered a job in 1954. Two rooms in a hotel and a private home a mile away from the hotel was the best the Embassy could obtain. When the military took over, a former German barracks in Smestad was made available and there was just enough room for eight grades.

There were eight teachers, a principal, and secretary for about 150 children, grades 1 to 8. There was excellent morale with the teachers and we were quite content in spite of crowded conditions and few "goodies."

By 1957, enrollment made it too crowded and we needed more space, plus the fact that we were to have a correspondence high school. There was another former German WWII barracks about 500 yards away. There was room for four classrooms on the first floor and the second floor was used as sleeping accommodations for the Norwegian Home Guard. The seventh and eighth grades plus about 10 correspondence students took up three rooms and the fourth was the storeroom, teacher's lounge, and tutoring room now and again when tutors were scheduled. Naturally the rooms were

small and heating was a problem in the winter. The first year they installed a coal-burning stove which took up much space in seventh- and eighth-grade room and had to be replaced the following year by a kerosene stove.

More children were enrolled and I had to replace my desk with a small typing desk, which was hidden from view whenever the door was opened.

Communication to the main building was by a WW II field phone system, which was not in good working order. Naturally, we three teachers were mainly on our own. One day the principal came by to inform me I was to have a few more seventh-grade students. When he opened the door he saw no teacher at first. I must admit I was most unhappy to have another student as there was so little space. My comment was, "Fine, move me out into the hall and the student can occupy my small typing desk." After much discussion I agreed to squeeze in one and the second one was promoted to the eighth grade where there was enough space. Fortunately one of my students was sent back to the States the following week. It was a good thing no military fire marshal had visited us. The following year a new school building was made available.

In spite of the working conditions in that barracks, these were the best teaching years at OAS. We three teachers got along very well and the students were extremely cooperative. I don't feel the students suffered at all or received a poor curriculum.

## Surfin' Our Websites

### **W.T. Sampson Elementary and High School Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba <http://www.cuba.am.dodea.edu>**

Established in 1931, W.T. Sampson Elementary and High School bills itself as the oldest DoDDS school in the world and the only DoDDS school in a communist country. With all the news recently about President Obama's order to close the prison at Gitmo made infamous during the Bush presidency, it might be easy to overlook the fact that there is a naval community at Guantanamo Bay, including a school with American educators and students. The school's website is a good starting point to learn more.

Emily Brown, writing in a *Stars & Stripes* article in July, 2008, about W.T. Sampson, commented, "There is no vandalism or theft. Bullies and gangs don't exist. Class sizes are small. There were two scuffles in the 2007-2008 school year that probably don't qualify as fights.

"Going to school at W.T. Sampson High School and Elementary School in Guantanamo Bay has its perks.

"But then there are the social side effects to being a kid on an isolated U.S. naval station.

"Options are limited, so dating can be difficult. Playing sports means going up against adult intramural teams. And there are no college fairs, so searching for higher education is a personal endeavor."



*Members of the W.T. Sampson high school basketball team show off their jerseys.*

## AOSHS Individual Life Membership Program

As of January 1, 2008 the Individual Lifetime Membership Program has increased their fees. The AOSHS Board has recommended these changes as well as to discontinue the Life Membership Program in August, 2009. So it is important to ride the wave now and join the life members already aboard.

The chart below shows the increased rates starting January 1, 2008:

<u>AGE</u>	<u>PAST FEE</u>	<u>PRESENT FEES</u>
21-30	\$735	\$770
31-40	615	645
41-50	520	570
51-55	435	490
56-60	360	425
61-65	295	320
66-70	250	275
71-75	210	230
76-80	170	180
81+	130	140

AOSHS welcomes new members to join using this form.  
Please feel free to pass it along to friends and colleagues.

*The American Overseas Schools Historical Society, Inc.*

### Nonprofit Membership Program

PO Box 1500 Wichita KS 67201-1500

PLEASE NOTE: This address is for **tax-exempt MEMBERSHIP DUES, ILMP, AND DONATIONS ONLY.**

Printed full name: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member ☐ -or- Renewal ☐

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street or Box No.      City (APO/FPO)      State      ZIP)

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a Former ☐ -or- Current ☐; Educator ☐-or- Student ☐ -or- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit code: \_\_\_\_\_ (from signature strip on back of card)  
(as it appears on your Credit Card)

Individual Life Membership (*See above*) -or- \$25 for annual dues and 4 issues of the newsletter \$\_\_\_\_\_

Donation for the AOSHS Endowment/Building Fund. \$\_\_\_\_\_

Donation for the Drysdale Archive Endowment Fund. \$

Donation for the AOSHS Operating Fund. \$

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$

*Thank you!*

*I have included AOSHS in my estate planning* ☐

Referred for membership by (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

*For all current and past educators and support personnel,  
American and foreign, of DoDDS, DDESS, and DoS*

# THE AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS ARCHIVE ALUMNI REGISTRATION FORM

For all alumni, American and foreign, of overseas American schools at any grade level.

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: M ☐ F ☐ Date of Birth: M \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship (include both if dual): \_\_\_\_\_ (This address may be shared with other

City and Country of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ AOSHS members: Yes ☐ No ☐

After graduation from high school, I:  
Entered the work force ☐ or military ☐

Attended a:

Trade/Technical School ☐

College: 2-yr ☐ 4-yr ☐

Army ☐

Military

Navy ☐

Academy

Air Force ☐

Coast Guard ☐

Graduated: Yes ☐ No ☐

Highest Diploma/Degree Attained:

HS Diploma ☐

AA ☐

Degree

List Type

Bachelors ☐

Masters ☐

Doctorate ☐

## Department of Defense Overseas Schools and Private Overseas Schools Attended

Year or Years Attended	Grade Level (e.g. K,3-6, etc.)	Name of School(s)	Military Base/City	Country

## Names Of Siblings Who Attended Overseas Schools, With Their Grade Levels And Schools

Siblings	Year or Years Attended	Grade Level (e.g. K,3-6, etc.)	Name of School(s)	Military Base/City	Country

I understand the information I provide will be available for research in the AOS archives.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: AOSHS Archive Registration, PO Box 1500 Wichita KS 67201-1500



## aoshs Directory

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Educator Database Info	AOSHS Educator Database, PO Box 1500 Wichita KS 67201-1500
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## The American Overseas Schools Historical Society

A Kansas Nonprofit Corporation

This AOSHS *Quarterly* is published four times a year by the Society to enhance public understanding of the human effort, service, reward, and sacrifice in educating our American children and youth abroad.

AOSHS MEMBERSHIP is \$25.00 annually and includes four issues of the newsletter. To join, send dues to AOSHS, PO Box 1500 Wichita KS 67201-1500. A membership application form is provided elsewhere in this newsletter for your convenience.

DONATIONS to help preserve the *American Overseas Schools Archives* (AOSA) for posterity and historical research are appreciated and are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Donations may be sent to the above address.

READERS are ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT short, factual ARTICLES of human interest regarding their experiences overseas. Articles printed may or may not reflect the opinions of AOSHS. Please submit articles preferably by e-mail to [overseasschools@aoshs.org](mailto:overseasschools@aoshs.org), or by snail mail to: AOSHS, PO Box 1500 Wichita KS 67201-1500.

### AOSHS Policy

The Directors realize that to obtain all AOSHS objectives:

- 1) the strong support of the membership is absolutely essential and must be recognized;
- 2) that although the Society greatly appreciates and recognizes all donations and gifts, it will neither recommend nor encourage its members to obtain the services or products of any company; and,
- 3) the Society will not discriminate on the basis of lifestyle, race, sex, religion, or political affiliation.

## Mary Muehring Circle Honors AOSHS Members' Philanthropy

The Mary Muehring Circle was established in 2002 to recognize philanthropists large and small who have included AOSHS in their estate planning. It is important to provide for the Society's future in a variety of ways. AOSHS honors all those who have made bequests through a will, trust, life insurance policy, or retirement plan. If you wish to include AOSHS in your estate planning, please contact:

President, AOSHS, PO Box 1500 Wichita KS 67201-1500



### *Take a Look at What's Inside – and Learn about...*

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### *In our next edition of the Quarterly:*

#### *Donations*

*The listings of all the 2008 donations to AOSHS, which usually appear in the Winter edition of the Quarterly, will appear in the next Quarterly*