

aoshs Quarterly

The American Overseas Schools Historical Society
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www.aoshs.org
overseasschools@aoshs.org

A LOOK AT THE DODEA DIRECTOR



By Allen Dale Olson

Marilee Fitzgerald is no stranger either to Defense Department personnel or to the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), a good thing, because as DoDEA Director she is responsible for 194 schools and more than 86,000 students overseas and in the United States. She was appointed Director by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta last November after serving as acting director for seventeen months. She also serves as the Principal Deputy to the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Civilian Personnel Policy.

Marilee came to the Directorship with a wealth of DoDEA experience, as her former position titles indicate: Associate Director of Management; Chief of Staff; Chief of Executive Services; and Chief of Recruitment. These positions show clearly her roles in strategic planning and in the areas of human resources, logistics, procurement, financial management, information technology, and management control functions, and she believes the effort of DoDEA teachers "sets an example for other school districts across the nation to follow."

In her DoD assignments outside DoDEA, she had responsibilities for coordinating wage surveys, wage schedules, and human resources strategies for civilian personnel across the entire Department of Defense. Among her many awards are the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive and the Department of Defense Exceptional Civilian Service Award.

Marilee has a degree in Business Management from the University of Maryland and graduate work in Education and Human Development at The George Washington University and is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute. Marilee says "we are privileged to serve our nation and the families of the United States military

Prior DoDDS/DoDEA Directors

- Dr. Shirley Miles (2008 – 2010)
- Dr. Joseph Tafoya (2000 – 2008)
- Mr. Roy Toleson (1999 – 2000)
- Dr. Lillian Gonzales (1994 -- 1999)
- Dr. John Stremple (1987 -- 1994)
- Dr. Beth Stephens (1982 -- 1987)
- Dr. Anthony Cardinale (1964 – 1982)



Message from The Board

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Tina Calo

So much has been happening since our meeting last July that I thought I would try to bring you up to date on most of our projects, ideas, etc. Some reports have been good, some great, and some not so good. One of our not so good issues has been health problems of a few of our key people. All are better now and that's the important thing. I hope all of you have had a good start to the year 2012. Your board has been busy working on issues with lots of enthusiasm and expertise.

Tom Smith and Gayle Vaughn-Wiles have been contacting our representatives in Europe and Asia to improve our membership among the overseas educators still in the field. If you are out in the field, join them with this drive by making sure the teachers in your school know about us, and about the DoDDS reunion to be held in Denver in July. Although we are two separate organizations, we work hand in hand to keep alive our DoDDS friendships and legacies.

Lani Allenson-Donoho has been researching some of our past awards, recognitions, etc. so we can revive recognizing the special people outside of the board who help us stay in the limelight and out of the red.

John Williams and Winanne Murray are working on memories that members have turned in to us over the years. We have had some interesting stories and hope to continue to share some of them through our quarterly and our web site.

Evelyn Bauer is busy with a couple of research projects. One is to try to find a place for bricks and pavers and the other is trying to connect with the Smithsonian to possibly set up a traveling museum with their support. Along with that, our editors, Ole Olson and Circe Olson Woessner are working with us to see how we can join forces with their Military Family Museum. What better combination than the history of DoDDS and the families who helped us become what we are today?

Chris Kyrios has been acting as our liaison with the alumni. He is also our shopper for T-shirts and other souvenirs of AOSHS that will be available for you to buy when you attend the reunion in Denver.

Rita Wells continues to manage our finances and somehow has managed to keep us moving forward; this has been with the help of the many donations that arrived with our annual request last year. Thanks to all who have contributed.

And of course, my job as president is to keep up with the board and our many volunteers. If you have read something that lies in your special interest area, please do not hesitate to jump right in and offer to help. Contact information for the board is on page 11 of this quarterly. Your services will be welcomed with open arms.

Surfin' Our Websites

THE TIMES ON MILITARY CHILDREN

by Allen Dale Olson and Tina Calo

On December 12, 2011, **THE NEW YORK TIMES** reported that "Military Children Stay a Step Ahead of Public School Students." The TIMES was citing data from the federal testing program known as the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which showed military fourth graders outperformed public school fourth graders in both reading and math. The data even showed that the gap between black and white students is much "smaller at military base schools and is shrinking faster than at public schools."

The article explained that DoD schools are not subject to "No Child Left Behind" or to "Race to the Top" and that test scores do not "dominate and are not used to rate teachers, principals, and schools."

In the article, written by Michael Winerip, DoDEA Director Marilee Fitzgerald is quoted as saying "We don't micromanage... Individual schools decide what to focus on."

(Ed. note: The TIMES is only calling attention to what AOSHS members have known for years.)

Teacher of the Year!

by Allen Dale Olson

A story from Stars and Stripes on January 20th, 2012, announced that Angela Wilson, a 7th grade language arts instructor at Vicenza Middle School (Italy) is a finalist in the National Teacher of the Year competition.

Oahu DoDDS Retirees Meet in Honolulu, Hawaii

By Linda Connelly

On Thursday evening, 26 January 2012, more than twenty DoDDS retirees now living on Oahu met for dinner at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for delicious Mongolian Barbecue. Retired educator, Sandra Kuplinski, organized the event. On a beautiful, breezy lanai at the historic Hickam Officer's Club, old friends met new friends and swapped stories of mutual friends and in-common duty assignments. Stories of the Philippines and Pinatubo's forced premature closure of DoDDS schools were compared with recollections of the night "The Wall" came down in Germany. Also heard were stories of Korea's DMZ and climbing Mt. Fuji in Japan. Talk of military build-ups and drawdowns, PCS moves, and the multitude of cultural experiences that made us who we are, made for an exceptional evening of fun and reminiscing. Ultimately, the conversation always turned to kids...the one, great unifying factor in everyone's experience with DoDDS.

Linda Connelly spoke to the group on the importance of the AOSHS in preserving the history of the overseas educational experience and distributed applications for AOSHS. A number of the attendees shared that they were AOSHS lifetime members and encouraged others to join. There was also discussion on the types of historical memorabilia that is welcomed by the Archives.

As the evening drew to a close, it was evident that this was just the first dinner of more yet to come. It also proved that there are "no friends like old friends"...even when the old friends are new!

LIFE WITH DOC

by Allen Dale Olson

The phone rang about noon on Saturday, March 10, 1979. I barely had time to pick it up when I heard Ron Downing say, "Ole? Doc's dead." Almost robotically, without fully comprehending what I had just heard, I repeated, "Doc's dead." I heard my wife Joan gasp and break into tears.

We were at home in Karlsruhe. Ron was calling from the Rhine-Main Frankfurt Airport, a hundred miles away. While I was trying to grasp the meaning of his message, Ron explained that his wife (Dorothy) and Doc's wife (Ketty) had just cleared security at the airport en route to Israel when Doc keeled over with a fatal heart attack (myocardial infraction). The wives had been called back through security and were with Ron in the airport chapel, awaiting a decision from German authorities about what to do with Doc's body. "I'll see you when we get back later today," Ron said; "but by reporting this to you now I know it's in good hands."

Doc – Dr. Joseph A. Mason -- at the time of his death had just been appointed Director of the DoDDS Mediterranean Region after serving 14 years as the Director of the entire DoDDS program in Europe. His Deputy Director, Dr. Ronald Downing was assuming the Directorate of the newly-formed DoDDS Germany South Region as part of a DoD re-organization of the world-wide DoDDS system. The two men were giving their wives a week-long vacation in Israel while they prepared for their new assignments and Doc's move to Torrejon, Spain.

He had fought this reorganization. He never felt that oversight of the dependents schools should have been removed from the Army in Europe and relocated to the Defense Department. Even so, the new regions in Europe largely followed the same boundaries he had established for the European districts under his Directorate, except for Germany which DoD formed into two regions – North and South with headquarters in Wiesbaden and Karlsruhe – instead of Doc's former district headquarters in Kaiserslautern, Mainz, Nurnberg, and Munich.

The new structure also retained the logistics support services provided by the military commands established by Doc and the military departments shortly after he became Director of the entire European program in 1965. On November 22 of that year, Doc was sworn in as Director of the United States Dependents Schools, European Area (USDESEA) as part of the staff of the United States Army, Europe (USAREUR) Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (DCSPER). As an executive appointee, he held the simulated military rank of Brigadier General.

Up till the establishment of USDESEA, dependents schools in Europe were under the supervision of the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy. One of Doc's first tasks was to merge the three systems under a single Directorate. Within two years, the system grew to 226 schools with 3,300 civilian educators, and 103,000 students, at that time the tenth largest American school system. For most of Doc's tenure, USDESEA and its successor organization, DoDDSEUR, was comparable in size to the public schools of St. Louis, Missouri. By 1967, he had standardized the curriculum and book ordering procedures for all schools regardless of which military service provided the host facility.

For the next several years Doc would earn outstanding performance ratings from the USAREUR DCSPER. Among the achievements cited in those awards are the following:

- creation of a Pre-Discharge Education Program (PREP) for soldiers
- implementation of Project Bold, an Outward Bound Program
- establishment of a Drug Education Program
- assumption of responsibility for all Army, Air Force, and Navy school equipment
- sponsorship of a series of Youth Culture Symposia for senior military officers
- implementation of a system wide Minority Studies program
- establishment of a "hot line" communications system
- implementation of a doctoral program with the University of Southern California
- creation of a sponsorship program for teachers arriving from the US

Doc's guiding philosophy was to encourage each school to develop its own personality and for school administrators to "nourish creativity in their teaching staffs."

... After my conversation with Ron, my first call was to General George S. Blanchard, Commander-in-Chief, USAREUR. I had never before called a four-star at his home or without going through a chain-of-command. The duty sergeant put me right into the general who pledged any and all the help and support we would need. He suggested that his public affairs officer get out a media release with instructions to call me for details. That afternoon, Tom Wilber (Executive Officer), Chuck Little

(Human Resources Director), and I reviewed all pending actions and called everyone we could think of from family to appropriate DoDDS personnel and supporting organizations – no easy task on a weekend before cell phones.

By evening, the media were spreading the word, and by the time Ron, Ketty, and Dorothy got back to the Mason home, DoDDS staff members had begun gathering with food, flowers, condolences, and tears. And true to his word, General Blanchard provided an elite honor guard to help with the memorial service a few days later. March 10, 1979, signaled an end to a memorable era in dependents schools history and gave birth to a legend.

Dr. Joseph A. Mason: August 14, 1914, Youngstown, OH; March 10, 1979, Frankfurt, Germany

THE AOSHS MEMORIAL PROGRAM

MEMORIAL FUNDS

Barbara Burke-Wyrick

January 3, 1933 - October 8, 2011

Barbara was born in Longview, Texas, the only daughter of Lawrence and Lillian Burke. She received her BA in Education at Southern Methodist University and her MA in Education at Michigan State University. She taught elementary education for 8 years in Texas before joining DoDDS in 1962 at Chateauroux elementary school in France, teaching grades 1 and 2. After 3 years she transferred to Lindsey ES in Germany and a year later returned to Texas. Within a few months Barbara realized how much she missed the overseas life and reapplied to DoDDS. She went to Okinawa where she spent 7 years at M & K ES. She transferred to the Philippines for a year and then back to Okinawa for the next 20 years. It was there that she met and married her husband Lt. Col Donald Wyrick (Dumpy). In 1995 they retired to Florida and enjoyed an active retirement until her death this year.

Barbara was a dedicated teacher who taught and instilled values and skills to hundreds of students who have subsequently gone on to serve their country and humanity.

Georgia Burgess

October 13, 1933 - February 16, 2011

Georgia was born in Toledo OH on October 13, 1933. She graduated from Woodward High School in 1951 and the University of Toledo in 1955, with a degree in education. She taught for 10 years as an elementary teacher at the Warren School in Toledo before starting her DoDDs career. In 1960, Georgia moved to England and taught at Weathersfield ES. The following year she moved to Wiesbaden ES, Germany and a year later, transferred to Hamura ES in Japan.

While teaching in Japan, she met and married her husband Wayland (Bill) Burgess. They were married for 47 years and retired in Williston, Vermont. Georgia enjoyed traveling, exercising at the Racquet's Edge, crafts, and shopping.

Georgia is survived by her husband Bill, children Julie and David, and grandson Howard.

Robert Ricci

February 28, 1935 - August 1, 2011

Bob was born February 28, 1935 in Arce (Frosinone) Italy, the son of Domenico and Tomasina Ricci. He passed away Aug 1, 2011 in Palo Alto, Calif.

His family moved from Italy to Providence, RI and in 1950, to Modesto, California. He graduated from Modesto

HS 1953, and, after serving two years in the US Army, earned a BS from UC Santa Barbara and a MA from Boston University.

Bob's teaching career in the Department of Defense Dependent Schools included one year in Ankara, Turkey; five years in Stuttgart, Germany; and 28 years in Vicenza, Italy. He loved soccer and was a coach of the Vicenza HS team for all the years he was there. He also loved photography and had his own darkroom at home to process and prints his works.

His students were delighted by his backward talking and today there are hundreds of people around the world who know how to say things backwards because of Bob!

He leaves his wife Marlene and their children Monica, Marisa and Peter.

Raymond Moser

July 26, 1941 - February 27, 2011

Ray was born on July 26, 1941 and spent most of his life in rural Fairfield Township, Ohio. He was a graduate of Youngstown University with a BS in Education and earned a MS at Kent State University. He taught high school math for 18 years, 13 of which were in DoDDs schools in Landstuhl and Ramstein Germany. Over the course of his teaching career he also taught history and electronics.

Ray left teaching in 1982 and went to work as a radiation technician at the Beaver Valley Power Station. In 1999, he retired from Duquesne Light as a Health Physics associate and Emergency Planner. He enjoyed woodworking, gardening, bird watching, fishing and riding his bike. He was a ham radio operator for over 40 years, holding an advanced class license. He was patient and good humored a natural storyteller and keeper of family lore. He believed in the importance of service to community and volunteered with local ham clubs and Habitat for Humanity.

Ray died quietly at his home on February 27, 2011, after a long, brave struggle with cancer. He is survived by his loving wife Kathleen, whom he married October 15, 1968, and his daughter Heather and her husband Steven Bone.

Closed Funds:



Beverly Buchwald	Ceramic Paver
Cheryl Griffin	Ceramic Paver
John Hunt	Ceramic Paver
Harry Lyons	Brick
Betty Nicholas	Granite Paver
Erlinda Ramos	Ceramic Paver
Ramstein Educators	Ceramic Paver
Lois Shook	added to "those no longer with us"
Teddy Steensoon	Brick

The AOSHS Memorial Program

Memorial Program

You may purchase a brick or paver in your own name, as a gift, in memory of a friend or loved one, or a school. Write to the Memorial Program address or the e-mail address below for the correct order card(s). You may include a 300-word biography and a photo along with the check when you submit your order. The selection of bricks/pavers appears below.

Memorial Fund

You may organize a fund for a deceased friend or loved one. The fund will be announced in two issues of the Quarterly so that others may contribute. When the fund closes in six months, you will receive an accounting and determine which item the fund will purchase. Write to the Memorial Program address or the e-mail address below to request a Memorial Fund Form, or print the form at www.aoshs.org/kiosk; just click on Memorial Program.

Donate

You may also donate to an already established fund by sending a check payable to the AOSHS Memorial Fund at the address below. Please note the honoree's name on the check's memo line.

AOSHS Memorial Program,

PO Box 4312 Scottsdale AZ 85261-4312

[Don't forget to indicate the honoree's name on the check's memo line.]

Memorial Program for Alumnae/Alumni

We have had many names added to our Those No Longer with Us paver, where friends or loved ones have sent a donation to remember a special person in their lives, but did not wish to purchase a brick or start a memorial fund.

Though this began as an educator remembrance, several of those recognized are alumni. Because of the increase in donations for this fund, we feel it appropriate to create a second paver specifically to recognize alumni. If friends wish to remember a deceased former student, send the honoree's name, school, and year of graduation (if appropriate), and it will be included in alphabetical order on the kiosk page, which can be viewed by going to www.aoshs.org/kiosk, then clicking on the Interactive Kiosk link, and following directions.

To remember an alumna/alumnus in this way, send a check payable to the AOSHS Memorial Fund at the address below.

Please note the honoree's name on the check's memo line and include a note requesting that this person be honored on the Alumni Memorial Paver.

e-mail: memorialprog@aoshs.org

[Note: e-mails must include AOSHS in the subject area, to pass through our spam filters.]

Type of Bricks and Pavers Offered In the Program	Size (in inches)	Characters/Line (includes spaces)	Maximum Lines	Total Characters (includes spaces)	Cost
Ceramic Brick	4 x 8	15	2	30	\$100
Ceramic Paver	8 x 8	15	5	75	\$250
Medium Granite Paver	8 x 8	15	5	75	\$500
Large Granite Paver	16 x 16	25	11	275	\$1000
Premium Granite Paver	24 x 24	35	17	595	\$2500

A Note from the Editors....

APOLOGIES FOR A LATE QUARTERLY

Just as we going to press, our publisher and Quarterly layout master became gravely ill and was hospitalized. We wish Bob a speedy and complete recovery, and with a scramble for templates, the editors put together this current issue.

Material for the spring issue should reach us by May 25 so we can issue it in early June. Deadlines for subsequent issues will be published in the June issue.

Sincere apologies – the Editors.

AMONG OUR FAMOUS GRADS ... A Foreign Minister

By Circe Olson Woessner and Richard Smith

Wiesbaden American High School graduate Dr. Kantahi Suphamongkhon was the 39th Minister of Foreign Affairs for Thailand from March 11, 2005, till September 19, 2006 when a military coup d'état forced him out of office. He resides in Thailand where he is Chairman of Kanta Enterprise International Limited, in international real estate development. Since 2007, he's been a senior fellow at the Burkle Center for International Relations and a visiting professor of law and diplomacy at UCLA.

Dr. Suphamongkhon comes from a diplomatic family. His father was the first Thai ambassador to Australia. When Kantathi was twelve, his father became ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. Kantathi enrolled in an English boarding school, but soon transferred to Bonn American High School, and later, Wiesbaden American High School.

His desire for political science came as a result of writing a letter to the former President of the United States telling him that he was a Thai student studying at UCLA and appreciated his contributions to Thailand-U.S. relations. From this letter came a personal invitation from President Richard Nixon for Kantathi to visit his home.

Dr. Suphamongkhon has also worked in the private sector as Director of the Post Publishing Company, which publishes the Bangkok Post and the Post Today newspapers.

... And an International Actor

by Richard Smith

Stage, film, and television star, Marcus Calvin graduated from Frankfurt American High School in 1983. After completing two years with the University of Maryland (1985) in Munich, Germany, he won a full scholarship from the government of Germany to attend the Otto-Falkenberg-Schule for the Performing Arts (1989). Marcus has over fifty films and TV appearances to his credit along with the title character of the hit TV show "War Was Rickie."

On the German stage Marcus has performed in more than seventy productions: among them the title roles in Little Shop of Horrors, Twelfth Night, Macbeth, Angels in America, Don Juan, Cyrano de Bergerac, and Tartuffe. After being in Ensemble Companies in City, National and State Theatres in Germany for twenty-two years, he is now a freelance actor working independently. Living in Germany, Marcus is married and has three children.

... And a Cook Show Hostess

by Richard Smith

You may have seen her on the *CBS Morning Show* or on *Good Morning America* or as hostess of *Cooking for Real* on the Food Network; or maybe you were one of Sunny Anderson's teachers as she traveled the world with Army parents. After she finished high school in San Antonio, she joined the Air Force and became a military radio host in Seoul, South Korea, and worked for the Air Force News Agency in radio and television out of San Antonio.

After her Air Force tour, Sunny opened a catering business in Jersey City – *Sunny's Delicious Dishes* – which brought her to a number of cooking shows, including an appearance with *Emeril Live* –and to positions such as Food and Lifestyle Editor for *Hip Hop Weekly Magazine* and co-host of the Food Network program *Gotta Get It*.

... And a Dance Professional of the Year

Submitted by Richard Smith

After two years at Kubasaki High School, Rodney Williams auditioned for a dance company while a freshman at William & Mary. "I didn't make it," he said; "I had never taken a dance class; I thought you just danced."

Three decades later, Rodney, artist in residence at Longwood University and Director of the Longwood Company of Dancers, and a three-time national winner with Dance America, is a master choreographer, composer, singer, and dancer. And, for the third time, he was named last November the Dance Professional of the year by the Virginia Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. This last award makes him a strong candidate for National Dance Professional of the Year which will be determined in April of this year.

Besides all that, Rodney has judged the last two Miss Oklahoma contests.

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704 West Douglas Avenue
Wichita, KS 67203-6104
(316) 265-6837

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