Happy Year of the Monkey!
Is this you, as described by the experts at Peking Gourmet Inn?

“You are a very intelligent and a very clever wit. Because of your extraordinary nature and magnetic personality, you are always well-liked. The Monkey, however, must guard against being an opportunist and distrustful of other people. Your sign promises success in any field you try. Some Monkeys: Julius Caesar, Leonardo da Vinci, Harry S. Truman, Elizabeth Taylor.”

From the Editor  Mimi Gardner ’52

Perhaps we should start each issue with “In Memoriam” to honor those dear, wonderful friends, classmates, partners who have gone on to whatever comes after this precious life. This issue brings word of Peggy Smythe Bell among others –Richie Hofstra, Clara Jean Winter, 99-year-old John Bard McNulty. Peggy died in January in her home in beautiful San Miguel, Mexico where she lived for many years. Her kids were all there, including Karen Goddard who has come to be one of us, joining her mom in China and on the barge in France. Oh my, the memories of that Peggy star among us!

You will also read about our next reunion in May of 2017 at the University of Michigan. If all goes well, it will be a wonderful blend of historical scholarship and our lived experiences. You better not miss this one.

We have the first installment of a fascinating environmental rehabilitation study and model experiment in China, thanks to journalist film-maker and researcher John Liu, the very first SASA–sponsored lecturer at SAS. And there’s much more.

We hope you will take time to read the whole issue, right down to checking the list to see if your dues are up to date.

Thanks and have a good spring.

Calling for contributions!
Before or after SAS, did you attend other schools in China? Tell us about that.
Do you have wartime memories from the 1930’s and 40’s – perhaps written about in a memoir or just remembered? Tell us about that.
What are you reading and thinking about China-related these days? Literature? Poetry? Cook books? Philosophy?
Email or snail mail your contributions to: mimihollister1@verizon.net or Mimi Gardner, 7 Glover Square, Marblehead, MA 01945
In Memoriam

Peggy Smythe Bell, SAS 1949
Obituary courtesy of her daughter, Karen Goddard.

August 8, 1931 to January 31, 2016
Peggy Bell, well-known and well-loved San Miguel (Mexico) resident for over 25 years, passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 31, 2016. Her three children are incredibly grateful to have been able to be with her in her last hours. Peggy was born in Chundu, China, daughter of missionaries Lewis and Mardie Smythe. She and her younger sister, Joan, grew up in China and attended Shanghai American School where Peggy met her first husband and father of her three children, Albert Poppen (SAS ’48).

Peggy taught elementary school for nearly 20 years, was always involved in politics and charitable causes, and after she and her late husband, George Bell, moved to San Miguel, she continued her passion for doing for others. She… was instrumental in the founding of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, as well as Juieres en Canbio and Jovenes Adelante, raising money for scholarships for deserving young adults to enable them to attend secondary school and go on to college.

She briefly moved back to the U.S., but upon returning to visit, acknowledged that her heart was in San Miguel. In her last year she received amazing round-the-clock care from some of the same people she had helped with the scholarship organizations. Being in San Miguel was very special to her where she had so many loving friends.

She is survived by her children, Karen Goddard, Doreen Maxwell, and Eric Poppen, as well as her four grandchildren and one great grandson.

Peggy was a gentle, loving, and generous soul who will be sorely missed.

Editor’s note:
In recent years, Peggy and her lovely daughter, Karen, have been such a happy, appreciative, significant presence at reunions, including the wonderful centennial celebration of SAS in Shanghai in 2012 and the barge trip in France. Don and I also visited Peggy in San Miguel in 2008 while we were honeymooning there. We attended the church Karen refers to – a meaningful gathering in a hotel social hall, with brunch in the dining room following the service. Peggy’s husband, George, who has since died, was with us also.

At SAS, Peggy and Bud Poppen were a great couple on campus. I was in ninth grade when she was a senior so our companions were different, but I so remember her friendly smile and wonderful laugh. It is in recent years at reunions that we became good friends and we truly enjoyed the company of Karen, also. Peggy was a classy, beautiful, engaging woman. I will miss her mightily.

We have read Atul Gwande’s wonderful little book called Being Mortal in our book group. Karen wrote of the last days with her mother in an email that reminded me of the best that he recommends about facing the death of a loved one.

(Continued on next page)
I quote from it:
“For the past year, I’ve been going to San Miguel about every 3 weeks or so – Mom’s been up and down. I went on January 24th to stay for a week and she was exceptionally glad to see me. She was very weak and got weaker. Friday was a very bad day and I thought we were going to lose her, but she rallied and had a bit of breakfast the next day and watched some Downton Abbey with me!

Saturday night was another bad night but my sister and brother were flying down and due to arrive, so I kept reminding Mom that they were almost here. She was either asleep, or in a deeper state, but we believe she could hear us. They arrived at 11:30 and we all sat with her for an hour or so, then went off to bed. At 3am, her caregiver came in and told me she’d passed. The good thing was that she knew we were all there for her, she was in no pain, and she passed in her sleep. Exactly what I’d been praying for for the past 6 months or so. Except my initial reaction when I got the news was, “I didn’t mean today!” Though we were ‘prepared’, I think we all spent the first week in shock and this week the loss and grief are setting in…her Memorial Service will be on March 26 in San Miguel.

I can’t tell you what the SAS reunions meant to her (and to me) – please know that all the incredible amount of work you all put in to make those happen is more than worth it as they are incredibly special and rewarding events…”

Clara Jean Winter Gasvoda, SAS 1952
1934 to December, 2015
Ed Winter’s wife, Evelyn, emailed me to let me know. Clara Jean or Cycie, as we knew her,” was in a nursing home for 12 years with Alzheimer’s and had problems before that so it was a blessing that she could finally go to be with her brothers and parents, and also her son. She is survived by her husband, Dick, who still lives in Concord, California, three daughters, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.” Evelyn and her sons “flew out to Concord to attend the service and spend some quality time with her family.”

Editor’s note:
The Winters were in Fujian Province, our part of China. Clara Jean was in my class. Besides SAS, we spent summers on Kuliang Mountain together and were all part of a teenage gang there with the Overholts and the Cooles and the Thelins and the Bishops. In 1984, Clara Jean and Dick were in a group of us who returned to China for the first time, visiting all the places of our childhood. Lots of lovely memories.
Richard Hofstra, SAS 1949
November 2, 1930 to December 5, 2014
Information courtesy of JoAnn Stob, niece of Richard’s, and Ted Stannard.
Richard was born in Changchow, China, to Dr. Richard and Mrs. Johanna Jansma Hofstra, missionaries in the Reformed Church in America. He was the younger brother of Dorothy and John, both of whom died before. He was the uncle of three nephews and four nieces.
Richie was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1951 and served until 1955. After working for the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan for 30 years at Oakhill Cemetery and the Water Department, he retired in 1985 and moved to Sand Lake, Michigan.
He lived in a small home on 40 wooded acres until his death.
“Although he seemed to be somewhat of a loner, his dry sense of humor brought a chuckle to those who knew him. He had the mind of an inventor and was one of the most organized people I ever knew. You should have seen his garage!”
He was buried next to his parents at Oakhill Cemetery in Grand Rapids where he had worked for many years.
JoAnn leaves her contact information for anyone who wants to know more:
jistob.sscage@yahoo.com.
Editor’s note: I remember Rich as quite handsome, a good athlete, and very, very shy, which made him very appealing in some way. But no girls got to date him at SAS.

John Bard McNulty, SAS 1934
1916 to September 2015
Information courtesy of Mulryan Funeral Home, Glastonbury, CT and Ted Stannard
Retired Trinity College Professor John Bard McNulty died September 4, 2015 at home. He was 99. One of four sons of Episcopal missionaries, he was born in Mokanshan, China, and spent his childhood in Soochow. He graduated from Shanghai American School in 1934 as class president, then came to the United States to continue his education. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Trinity College in 1938 and a master’s from Columbia in 1939, then returned to Trinity to teach English, earning his Ph.D. from Yale in 1944. In 1942, he married The Hartford Courant’s society editor, Marjorie Grant.
Known since childhood as Bard, he was named for his direct ancestor John Bard, a founder of King’s College, now Columbia University. John Bard’s son, Samuel Bard, was George Washington’s personal physician and the founder of New York Hospital. Pretty distinguished lineage!
At Trinity, he served for five years as chairman of the Dept. of English. He retired from the James J. Goodwin Professorship of English in 1984, although he continued to teach part-time for 15 more years. He was the author or editor of several books, among them Older than the Nation: the History of the Hartford Courant; Modes of Literature; The Correspondence of Thomas Cole and Daniel Wadsworth; Connecticut Observed, and John Warner Barber’s Views of Connecticut Towns.

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In recent years he devoted much of his time to studying and writing about the Bayeux Tapestry, the 11th century embroidery depicting the conquest of England by William the Conqueror. He was a consultant to the BBC on the Bayeux Tapestry and was the author of a book about it, having given presentations on it in England, France, Italy and the U.S. Connecticut history and arts were among his interests. He was a former president and trustee of the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society, and was an honorary trustee of the Conn. Historical Society. He was also a member of the Hartford-based historical society, the Acorn Club.

He lived in Glastonbury, where he was active in community life for many years with the Historical Society, the Heritage Committee and Public Library. He spearheaded the movement to establish Glastonbury’s first historic district, and was a founder of the Glastonbury Square Dance Club.

His wife, Marjorie, died in 2002. He leaves two children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Put This on Your Calendar Today

Mimi Gardner and Anne Romasco

If all goes well, in May 2017 (May 7-11, to be exact) we will be gathering at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for our next reunion. This will be a most unusual and remarkable time full of rich content as well as the richness of being together. The chief organizer is Joseph W. Ho, (hopefully by then Dr. Ho), the doctoral candidate in History whom we hosted at our last reunion in June 2015.

Anne Romasco and I went to Ann Arbor in February to meet faculty and staff that will be part of this adventure, to scope out our wonderful accommodations in the Michigan League building on campus, to meet with David and Gartha Angus who live in Lansing and who will be on the local logistics team (rest assured we will have our diem sum based Chinese meal), and to experience a taste of the University ambience. Thanks to Joe’s vision and inimitable planning skills, all meetings went extraordinarily well. The long and deep connections with China are impressive at this University. The Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies (LRCCS) has a considerable presence on campus and sponsors many interesting and colorful events.

Here’s a taste of what Joseph has in mind for us, drawn from his draft proposal to secure funding primarily from the LRCCS, and also from his email to Stape Roy inviting his participation:

“The broad goal of this proposed event is to provide a rare opportunity to merge these individuals’ (that’s us) unique experiences with cutting-edge scholarship on Chinese history at the University, focusing on the pivotal historical moments that SAS alumni lived through. This will involve an academic symposium that will allow faculty and graduate students in History and Chinese Studies to showcase their research on modern China as well as for the SASA members to share their memories and also engage as a community with scholars at the University.

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The symposium will include faculty talks on cultural, political, and social issues that existed in parallel with the SASA members’ time in the Republican China; a forum to allow representative alumni to share and to respond to faculty and grad students on their personal experiences against the backdrop of the Chinese Civil War, postwar Sino-American relations, and the early PRC; a panel on present-day culture and politics in China presented by LRCC’s faculty affiliates; and a panel featuring advanced graduate student research and new approaches to Chinese studies at Michigan…”

Joseph goes on to suggest broad topics for discussion, including this: “…perhaps most uniquely for this academic gathering, the complicated roles of personal experience, memory, and oral history in interpretations of key pivots in modern Chinese history. The conversations between the SASA group and faculty and graduate students at Michigan will allow for a productive merging of broad scholarly examination with valuable (and not always accessible) ‘on-the-ground’ perspectives…”

“The intended audience will include not only SASA members and Michigan faculty and graduate students, but also the general public…leading journalists (with long backgrounds in Associated Press reporting in East Asia) with the University of Michigan News have also expressed interest in publicizing the event through English and Mandarin news channels…”

“In addition to the symposium and SASA’s own activities, the reunion may possibly include guided tours of the Asia Library, one of the largest collections of East Asian material in North America, and three excellent museums within short walking distance – the University of Michigan Museum of Art, the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, and the Museum of Natural History. Depending on the schedule, there may also be an opportunity to take in an evening concert at the University’s famed Hill Auditorium (which regularly hosts world-class artists on the Carnegie Hall circuit), which is less than a minute’s walk from the Michigan League’s front door.”

Additional comments from Anne: “all our meetings with University personnel were stimulating and informative. We were greeted cordially and with interest by faculty, administrators and others to be involved in the Symposium. All have academic interests in China and many have travelled there in recent years. Especially memorable was a meeting with Carol Stepanchuk, coordinator of the LRCCS, who among many other topics of conversation, mentioned holding dragon boat races and kite making contests at the University. In our ambles around the campus, we saw a site of local pride where President Kennedy announced the founding of the Peace Corps.”

Heady stuff, this! A bonus is that if all goes well with securing the LRCCS grant, which Joseph is optimistic about, our only expenses will be getting there and our rooms. We will have pretty much all of the top floor of the League to ourselves with lovely old-style hotel rooms and there are meeting rooms and food service that will be available right there also, for those who are less agile than they used to be.

(Continued on next page)
So who is this Joseph, our link to the University of Michigan? If you Google “Joseph Ho, University of Michigan”, a bunch of stuff comes up right away. Click on any one of the articles and then click on the bottom print that says “read more” or some such. What he is up to is all VERY interesting. Joseph’s Department of History profile is also available at this address: https://lsa.umich.edu/history/people/graduate-students/jwho.html

We invite you to put this on your calendars for May 7 to 11, 2017 – next year – and watch for more details to come. It promises to be a most unusual and interesting reunion.

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**Environmental Education Media Project for China**

*John D. Liu*

Editor’s note: A few issues ago, we included in serial form a report from Paul VanderMeer on work he had done with farmers in Taiwan. It has seemed important to include in SASA News substantive research and writings by folk who are connected to the SAS of our time and beyond. I ask again that you make us aware of writings of note that you or others have authored.

In that vein, we begin here the first part of a report from John Liu, the very first annual speaker at SAS sponsored by SASA in 2004. His work is so very timely and interesting. We will continue to include subsequent parts of the report in the issues of SASA News to come. John has kindly given permission for us to share this with you. We would welcome your comments in response. First, an introductory note from John:

“In the mid-1990’s I began a participatory process with a number of media and broadcasting colleagues in Beijing that led to the creation of the Environmental Education Media Project for China (EEMPC). I have directed the EEMPC (now EEMP) from its beginning. The EEMPC has distributed over 1000 environmental films in China since then. The EEMPC also helped found the China Environment and Sustainable Development Reference and Research Center and the China HIV/AIDS Information Center. Over the years our activities have broadened beyond China to include the entire world and to include the production of environmental and ecological films.” John’s work has won many awards. One film, “Hope in a Changing Climate” was named the best ecosystem film by the International Wildlife Film Festival and won several other honors.”

(Continued on next page)
And now to the report about China’s Loess Plateau:

A Continuing Inquiry into Ecosystem Restoration: Examples from China’s Loess Plateau and Locations Worldwide and their Emerging Implications
By John D. Liu and Bradley T. Hiller

Director, Environmental Education and Media Project: Visiting Fellow, Netherlands Institute of Ecology; Ecosystems Ambassador, Commonland Foundation
Freelance Consultant to the World Bank, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, University of Cambridge

A Journey Begins
In early September, 1995, after spending 15 years working as an international news television producer and cameraman, John D. Liu embarked on a life-changing assignment that ultimately prompted this section. Liu was part of a documentary crew flying in a small Soviet-era copy of a Fokker Friendship aircraft (dubbed the “Friendshipsky”), which landed at a small, dusty airport in Yanan in Shaanxi Province, on China’s Loess Plateau.

Considering the Implications
The Loess Plateau has proven to be an excellent place to pursue a type of ecological forensics to witness and understand how human actions over time can destroy ecological function. The restoration process of the plateau is providing a living laboratory in which the potential of returning ecological function to long degraded landscapes can be studied. Essentially, what has been witnessed and documented on the Loess Plateau is that it is possible to rehabilitate large-scale damaged ecosystems. This realization has potentially enormous implications for human civilization. Witnessing first-hand many geopolitical events as a journalist, including the rise of China from poverty and isolation throughout the 1980’s, the Tiananmen tragedy in 1989, the collapse of the Soviet Union, global terrorism, and much more, provided John D. Liu with references to compare to the restoration of the Loess Plateau. He quickly came to realize that, in terms of significance for a sustainable future for humanity, understanding what occurred on the Loess Plateau would be critical.

John Liu filming on the Loess Plateau
Yanan is perhaps most famous as the mountainous hideout where Mao Zedong led the Chinese communist Red Army to escape annihilation by the Nationalists (this retreat is often referred to as the “Long March”). The typical dwellings in Yanan at the time were man-made cave dwellings dug so deeply into the soil that they were almost invisible, which made Yanan a particularly good place for a revolutionary to disappear. By 1995, the Chinese communist revolution had moved on and China’s socialist market economy was flourishing on the eastern coast and making waves worldwide. But Yanan remained virtually untouched by the agricultural changes, the industrial growth, and the increasing international influence that much of China was experiencing. Yet in this backwater, a new revolution was brewing.

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The purpose of the assignment was a World Bank baseline study for an ambitious development project called the Loess Plateau Watershed Rehabilitation Project. The scene was of a completely barren landscape. This did not instill confidence in the possibility to restore the vegetation cover, biodiversity or natural hydrological regulation. This project sounded optimistic, though few seemed to actually believe that serious rehabilitation was possible. Within a few hours after arrival all the team’s equipment and clothes were covered with fine dust. The area was incredibly dry and after the first day, it became apparent that regardless of how much water one consumed, it was rarely necessary to urinate. The overwhelming first impression of the Loess Plateau was a virtual “moonscape.”

The Loess Plateau in northwest China occupies approximately 640,000 kilometers and is the dominant geological feature in the middle reaches of the Yellow River basin. The Plateau has been inhabited for more than 8,000 years and while somewhat fragile for farming, historically the environment was rich. Many studies have indicated that the plateau originally contained wide, large, flat surfaces and few gullies and that the driving forces behind landscape, vegetation, and hydrological changes can be attributed to the dual effects of human land use and climate changes. The plateau’s forest cover dropped to 7% - 10%, down from historical estimates of 50%. 70% of the plateau is affected by soil erosion, 58% of which is extremely severe, and the soil erosion rates are among the highest in the world. In addition to downstream sedimentation and eutrophication problems, dust storms and landslides have also been problematic.

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A Brief Summary of the Loess Plateau Watershed Rehabilitation Projects

From 1994 to 2005, two projects were implemented in 48 counties in the Shanxi and Gansu provinces and the autonomous region of inner Mongolia. Over 35,000 km of physical activities were performed and total investment amounted to US $550 million. The projects had objectives to achieve sustainable development in the Loess Plateau by increasing agricultural production and incomes, and improving ecological conditions in the tributary watersheds of the Yellow River... Counties were selected based on specific criteria relating to project objectives, including severity of soil erosion, poverty level, experience with water conservation works, leadership and commitment at the local government level, development potential and loan repayment capacity, and proximity to science and research organizations involved...

The Loess Plateau projects are regarded as among the largest and most successful erosion control programs in the world and one of the few large-scale working examples of the much promoted “win-win poverty-environment model”...

Socially, 2.5 million people were raised from poverty.

Ecologically, soil erosion was reduced over 920,000 ha of land, and vegetation cover increased from 17%-40%. The annual reduction of sediment inflow into Yellow River tributaries was estimated at 110 million tons with correspondingly lower variability in downstream water flows. The grazing ban was adopted throughout much of the plateau, dramatically altering over 500,000 km of landscape.

Economically, the projects significantly contributed to the restricting of the agricultural sector and adjustment to a more market-oriented economy.

Institutionally, the projects increased farmer participation and the effective project management structure was replicated for other national programs.

To be continued...

Notes from You

About David Roy, SAS 1951

David’s brother, Stapleton Roy, (SAS 1952) wrote: “I visited my brother in Chicago in January, 2016. The ALS is advancing, but he is still able to talk normally and move about for short distances. We had a lively conversation about the possibility that Jin Ping Mei (The Plum in the Golden Vase, the Chinese classic that David has translated into English) was written by a female author, triggered by his comment that the author showed great perception in detailing the rivalry among Ximen Qing’s various wives and concubines. This is not a topic that can usefully be pursued with most people. He was resistant to the idea, but apparently at least one scholar has toyed with the possibility.”

Another juicy tidbit about David, from Joseph Ho, our next reunion host at the U. of Michigan: “Over coffee yesterday, one of our emeritus professors in the Department of History, Ernest P. Young – listed as a potential speaker for the reunion symposium – gave me a fascinating rundown of the topics – the French involvement in China during the Second World War – on which he wishes to speak. It turns out that Professor Young was David Roy’s graduate school classmate at Harvard and shared the same famous advisor, John K. Fairbank. He spoke fondly of David’s remarkable ability to wow their Chinese instructor with his intimate knowledge of ‘street Chinese,”

(Continued on next page)
having grown up speaking it in China (a fact that drew the envy of the other grad students…). “Furthermore, he told me that he was a very good friend of Harriet Mills, SAS 1938? who, for many decades was ‘THE China person’ on the University of Michigan campus – not to mention a political prisoner in the early People’s Republic for 4-5 years – and a pre-war SAS grad.” In an email from her sister, Angie Mills (SAS 1941), we learned the day before going to press that Harriet died on March 5, 2016. There will be an obituary, not yet written by Angie, in the next SASA News on this remarkable woman.

Fred Rogers, recent SAS staff member and good friend to several of us, wrote
“I heard a fascinating BBC interview this morning with Rebecca MacKenzie whose book has just come out…She is the daughter of Scottish missionaries in Thailand. In her book, however, she fictionalizes her own boarding school experience, setting it in early 1940’s Lushan. I’m keen to get hold of it as it surely must have echoes of SAS in that era.
“I am pleased still to receive the Newsletter and am glad you and others are still so active. I remain very touched by the book Teddy sent to me after I had returned to the States.
“All is well with the Rogers. We are looking forward to a two-week trip to Ireland this summer. Eileen’s brother has been promoted to U.S. Consul General in Belfast, so that will be an exciting excursion. Greetings to all others who may remember me from SAS…”

Arthur Kim, SAS 1948
“After reading these interesting articles (from SASA News), I thought I’d share one with you about my email address: raffie1941@aol.com. Ted Hale, class of 45 and classmate of my brother, Dick, before he and his family were interned by the Japanese, had two Irish Terrier pups; one was named Raffie and the other Jerry. Since the family couldn’t take the pups to camp, we took Raffie and another schoolmate, Sonny Ling (class of 1945, deceased in Hong Kong in the 1970’s) took Jerry. Raffie was named after the British RAF and Jerry was named after the German Luftwaffe.
“Recalling this event, I should have coined my email address Raffie1942 rather than 1941.”

Elizabeth (Libby) Young Roulac, SAS 1933
This amazing lady, whom some of you may remember from the Centennial trip to Shanghai, sent her Christmas greetings. I quote: “…I am well and active with many activities at Smith Ranch Homes (in northern California). In May, my son John hosted a party for family and friends in honor of the publication of my memoir, Adventures of a Lifetime. My son Stephen and daughter Ann did a lot of work getting the book ready for publication. It was printed in China.
“In September I celebrated my 99th birthday. In early October I flew to Seattle where I met my daughter Joan. We enjoyed our favorite restaurants and shops. We took the Clipper to Victoria for a day and had lunch in the Bengal Room in the Empress Hotel.”

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John Hendry IV, SAS son
Also joining us for the Centennial Celebration of SAS in 2012 were members of the Hendry family: John, III (the SAS alum) and his wife, Rose Marie, their daughter Lynn and son John IV. We recently received an email from John IV asking for information on how to get a copy of Deke Erh’s book, “86 Shanghai American School Students and Teachers, 1937-1949”. We also welcome him as a new SASA News subscriber and member of SASA. As we all know, family members are an especially welcome lot to keep the legacy going. Hope you will join us at reunions.

David Bridgman, SAS 1951, Dr. Harold Adolph, SAS 1950, and Bonnie Jo Adolph
David sent a newsletter about his recent trip to Yunnan where he works with “China Minorities Ministry”. He had some health problems in 2015 “brought on by shingles” and is happy for his apparent full recovery.
Harold Adolph wrote about his November, 2015 trip to China to speak about his work as a surgeon and to visit his father’s mission hospital in Changzhi, among other places on the trip. Both of these newsletters are excerpted in a separate article.

DUES UPDATE
This is a list of all who have paid at least through 2016 – some beyond that. There are many more of you that were up-to-date for 2015, but I thought it might be helpful, if you are not on this list, to know that you have yet to send in your 2016 dues of $15 (or more if you want to get ahead), made out to Charles Way, Treasurer, with “SASA dues” on the memo line. Send it to Charles Way, 222 Highland Drive, Bellingham, WA 98225


If I have left you out and shouldn’t have, please let me know. Thank you one and all.
This is a very well-done publication of Shanghai American School. If you go to the website, (google Shanghai American School) on the home page you will see “publications”. Click on that and then “The Eagle Review”. Up come all the recent issues with very colorful covers. The most recent one is the annual “alumni issue”. Lots of interesting stuff there!

One article is about a recent SAS grad, now at Middlebury, who made the New York Times recently in an article about her organizing of college students for Bernie Sanders, which has spread to many colleges.

In this issue also are an article with pictures about our 2015 reunion in Herndon, Virginia and an article about the Rev. Dr. Carl Scovel (SAS 1949) who is our SASA sponsored speaker in April coming up. Carl is introduced at the top briefly and then responds to a series of get-acquainted questions sent to him, probably by a student journalist. The last question was, “Do you have any advice for the younger generation of SAS alumni?” Carl’s response: “I suggest that you immerse yourselves insofar as is possible in the life of ordinary Chinese people. They have much to teach you, as they taught me. Indirectly, I breathed in many of their values and perspectives and those values have served me well.” Amen.

SAS is doing a much better job these days of reaching out to alums that have been there since the re-start of the school in the 1980’s. They have had and continue to hold gatherings around the world and are encouraging their recent grads to stay in touch and to let the school know where they are and what they are up to. Good job, Crickett Kasper and Lindsay Thierry, the alum relations team these days!

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The Legacy Goes On – Two Trips to China

Excerpts from newsletters by Harold Adolph and David Bridgman

Dr. Adolph was invited to speak about his particular plastic surgery work, along with his friend, Dr. John Woods of the Mayo Clinic. He was also accompanied by his daughter Carolyn:

“We had 2 days in Beijing where I went to kindergarten and one day in Changzhi were my father and mother started a mission hospital in 1931. The hospital is now a fantastic 1000 bed municipal hospital. My father’s book “Surgery Speaks to China” had been translated into Chinese, was very well worn, and in a prominent place in the archive rooms…”

“I gave two power point lectures, one on TB spine surgery and the other on reconstruction of the mandible with a living 5th rib after resection of Ameloblastoma tumors of the jaw.

(Continued on next page)
“After flying to Shanghai we were able to visit the Shanghai Pediatric Hospital that had taken over the location where we had lived while I was at SAS. We had an evening with my father’s favorite medical student, Dr. Paul Xia, who had worked with me in Niger for four years.

“A bullet train took us to the Lushan Mountain Resort where we had spent our last summer in China, 1948, living in the place where Mao had his personal guests stayed…

…”a visit to my mission boarding school in Yantai in Shandong province and finally a night sailing to the World Congress in Dalian, Liaoning, formerly Manchuria, where I gave the same lecture.

“…on returning home to Louisville, we attended the Global Mission Health Conference and I gave two presentations on “Stories from a Lifetime in Africa.”

The pace of the trip took its toll with a clot in his left upper leg which, fortunately is healing as he rests with Bonnie Jo in Sebring, Florida

David Bridgman had an eventful January trip, his 16th trip to Yunan, visiting sites of work among the Miao peoples, dating back to 1887. He visited three remote village churches and encountered some of the most dazzling and rugged terrain, and villages perched high above deep ravines all feeding into the Yangtze River far to the north. It was like traveling to the edge of the world…climbing towering ridges when the way was often shrouded in mists that parted briefly to unveil vistas of the river valley and the many switchbacks our SUV negotiated.”

One destination was Stone Gate Church and mission in Shimenkan – Stone Gate Village, which had celebrated their 100th anniversary in 2005. At that time, China’s President Hu Jintao paid tribute to the founding British missionary, Samuel Pollard:

“In 1905, a British missionary, Samuel Pollard came to a village called Stone Gate Pit (Shimenkan)…It is a very poor and desolate village with harsh living condition. He raised funds to build a school, football fields, and swimming pool…He created a written system for the Miao language.

(Continued on next page)
He compiled a textbook: ‘I Am Chinese, I Love China’…he left a generation of Chinese elite whom he trained with heart, two Miao PhD’s and two Yi PhD’s; over 20 provincial level government officials; and over 100 county level or above officials. He spread scientific knowledge and western culture and left a spirit of devotion and professionalism. Almost 100 years have passed, but today old people in this small village still remember…through his example the unconventional discovery of education can take place in poor and backward areas through science, culture, and hard work.”

From David: “The original Stone Gate Church had been destroyed during the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution but the church has been rebuilt and the graves of Pollard and his colleague, Reginald Coldsworthy, have been restored.

“The oldest church in Zhaotong Prefecture is in Zhaoyang City…all suffered greatly during early years of the Communist regime and have slowly been recovering and now growing and expanding…I had a chance to speak to students in the emerging lay training center, adjacent to where a new church is to be built. Here we also visited the graves of five of the early missionaries, today honored and remembered…

“We visited neighboring Quijing Prefecture, a place of China’s burgeoning industrial development – a major center of petro-chemical and coal industries and the manufacture of synthetics…The highlight of our meeting was with the Prefectural and County heads of the government’s Religious Affairs Bureau and their staff – a highly informative and engaging dialogue. It was disarming to hear the top official say, ‘You are so easy to talk with. I think we could be good friends…my role has developed into that of a good will ambassador.’”

On his return through Chengdu, he got quite ill with high blood pressure and was well cared for by a doctor there. As he looks to the future, David sees his role “to be primarily in building relationships…encouragement for leaders…enhancing a growing bond of trust between church and government, and demonstrating that the Gospel is good for China, that it builds a better society of citizens that are honest, dependable, worthy, and that it contributes greatly to making China a better, law-abiding, harmonious, and unified country. Most of all, in the light of a long history in which Minorities were considered less than human, dignity, respect, and worth are at last being restored…”
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