

Tracy Meyer, a former JIS teacher writes:

It has been terrific receiving emails from students I had during my tenure on the JIS staff, "kids" who are now accomplished young adults (in some cases, not so young!). The JIS alum magazine will ensure yet more of the same; thanks for all the work that goes into it.

My (wonderful!) husband, Dale Smith, and I met and married in the States after I left Jakarta, and since have had two years in Beirut, Lebanon, and landed here at the Singapore American School eight years ago. At SAS, I started out teaching 8th grade English/Social Studies, and then started up the MS drama program (for five years). I now have the HS drama program, (that includes former JIS student Kelly Schuster, daughter of Laura and Charles Schuster, former JIS teachers, Ed.). To say it "keeps me out of the pool halls" is indeed an understatement, but I'm loving it. Currently, we're looking forward to hosting IASAS Drama after an Interim Semester in Italy! Dale teaches Psychology, and Western Civilizations, though his doctorate is in philosophy. He also coaches track and field (being a high hurdler when there's time for it!). I still play a lot of music (guitar and sing) and tennis...but no time to run a "Casual Choir" here, sad to say.

Travel continues to be great from Singapore, and we now have little (*little*) houses in both Thailand and Mexico, partly in an effort to cut down on expenses when traveling to those places. Come meet up with us in San Miguel de Allende or Sam Roi Yod!

Looking forward to an avalanche of emails, or just one or two, from the fabulous students I taught for those terrific nine years at JIS!

Love,

Tracy Meyer (a once-upon-a-time JIS elementary teacher and volleyball coach, '87-'96).
[asiatrace@yahoo.com]



Tracy and Dale

Dan Roberts ('02) Still Bringing Smiles Around Indonesia

It's been a busy year since I left Jakarta last spring. During the 2008 Clowns without Borders 10-week expedition I was able to teach and perform for over 3,300 children in need of a little levity across Jakarta. I returned in February 2009 for a 20-week expedition with bigger plans and more support through a different organization, Red Nose Circus.

With the generous support of JIS, I've created a performance troupe that rehearses on Sundays on campus. JIS sends several buses to pick up different groups of children from across Jakarta that I work with weekly and we all come together to learn circus. We will soon be preparing a show that can be performed in pieces or in its entirety at different venues across town. The performance troupe is comprised of JIS high school students, Cilincing *kampung* kids, One More Chance house kids and youngsters from a homeless shelter in Bekasi. During this Sunday lesson, kids learn more than just circus and performance skills. They learn how to work with people from completely different life styles and they are becoming good friends, which is wonderful to watch.

Along with the performance troupe, I've been teaching many other groups around Jakarta. With the help of a very generous donation from the American Chamber of Commerce (Jakarta) and other private donors, I'm able to travel around the city and bring circus performances and lessons to underprivileged communities. Part of this donation is also funding a two-week trip to Northern Sumatra, where I will perform along with a local musician, for children still affected by the 2005 tsunami. I'll also head to Bandung to perform and work with a school that is so poor the teachers are paid with corn. A few days after returning from Bandung, we'll head to Lebak-Banten to perform and teach at an impoverished village that is supported by Trisakti University's social outreach program. To follow the journey and see pictures, videos and read journals, check out our website, <http://rednosecircus.wordpress.com>.

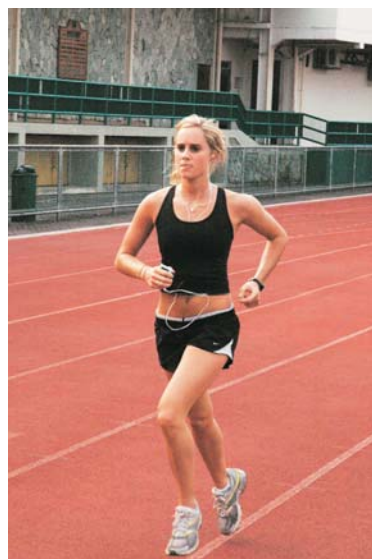
Meilyn Tan ('95) Weds in Singapore

At an intimate family affair on February 10, 2009, at the Registry of Marriage in Fort Canning, Singapore, Meilyn Tan and Andika tied the knot. The full wedding ceremony will be in Jakarta on May 2, 2009. For more information please visit www.andika-meilyn.com.



Former teachers **Woody Kramm** and **Cynthia Ruptic** celebrated the wedding of their daughter, Rosemarie, in the USA.

Former star athlete, **Amelia Clark**, runs past the record plaque near the JIS track that has her name on it a few times over.



In Memoriam

Marji Cooper

Marji Cooper came to JIS Pattimura in 2005 and immediately fell in love. She fell in love with Indonesia, she fell in love with Pattimura, she fell in love with the animals she helped at the animal society, the street boys she taught how to cook and the ICU babies she held at the hospital. She fell in love with her students in grade four.

I always enjoyed Marji's enthusiasm and positive outlook on life as well as her commitment to helping others. She took such personal care of all of those that were dear to her. Marji loved to teach and she also loved to learn. She worked hard to be a great teacher - she would do things like come in on a weekend and set up archaeological digs using sand in her classroom so that kids could experience archaeology hands on.

Marji also loved to cook. On Mondays, all of us teachers at Pattimura benefited from her weekend cooking sprees. I still have Marji's recipe entitled, "Coops Hummous" which she wouldn't share with me until she "perfected" it. Marji liked nothing better than gathering a group of friends together to share a meal and celebrate. She took an active role in organizing our TGIFs, wanting to create community and bring people together.

Marji had a big smile and gave out lots of hugs. When asked how she was doing, she would nod her head slowly and thoughtfully and grin. "Gooooood" she would say in her Marji way. She loved her "sweet little house" as she called it and never ventured far from Indonesia, if she left at all, as she said she had everything she needed here. To Marji and those that loved her, *May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.* (Numbers 6.24-26)

Submitted by Danielle Hollenbach and Kitsie Emerson
JIS teachers



Marji Cooper (left) with Danielle, one of Marji's many friends, at Pattimura

A former JIS teacher, Marji passed away in Jakarta, in July of 2008.

Lisa Ligda ('90)

Lisa Ligda (married name of Beaulieu) was killed in the line of duty. She was a Beaumont, Texas, police officer and was hit by a drunk driver while investigating a traffic collision on April 27, 2007. Lisa was a JIS student and left after her freshman or sophomore year. She was a freshman in 1986. I contacted the Beaumont Police Department and they are sending me pictures and a DVD that depicts her memorial service. Being a law enforcement officer myself, this really hit home. I hope to share her story at the Las Vegas reunion. Please forward this to all persons involved in the reunion and post in the next JIS alumni magazine, if possible. Here's the link to Lisa's memorial site.



Lisa (Ligda) Beaulieu

<http://www.odmp.org/officer/18858-police-officer-lisa-beaulieu>

Sr. Deputy George Savers ('88)
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department