

*Remarks by Mary Williamson, Recording Secretary, AIS/AES Alumni Association Board of Directors, at the WCR Dinner, June 15, 2008*

Good evening! I'm Mary Williamson, Class of 1974 and here to represent the AIS/AES Alumni Association Board of Directors.



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank YOU for taking the time and effort from your busy schedule to come to this reunion. Hopefully, you have been able to laugh, cry, and reminisce with some of your oldest friends.

I would also like to say HUGE THANKS to Judy and Cindy for their time and hard work planning this reunion. I know from having organized reunions before that it is not an easy job and is very time-consuming. They did an awesome job, don't you think?



(red & white carnations -- our school colors)



I'm not going to make a long speech because I know you are here to be with your classmates and friends - and still want to



meet other alumni from our AIS/AES community. It's hard to catch up on some 20-30-40 years over one weekend.



There are a few items from the alumni association that I'd like to pass along...

## **AIS/AES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEBSITE**

Our alumni association website was created in 2004 and is maintained by Tim Brown (Class of 1970), with contributions from AIS/AES alumni. The website is the hub of our alumni community. Since our website has gone up, we have grown tremendously with a listing of a little over 4,500 alumni, ranging from the Class of 1962 to our recently-graduating Class of 2008.

-We'd like to remind you to check the website often for news and updates.

-Don't be shy about sending in your news and photos -- or sending any old pictures from AIS/AES or other memorabilia that can be scanned and shared on the website.

-Don't forget to let us know when your contact information changes.

-You can send your news, photos or updates to Tim, Suzanne Fricke, or me. Our contact information is on the website.

## **ALUMNI DUES**

I hate to bring this up, but I need to make a pitch for association dues and any other donations that you can make to help keep our association alive.

We suggest \$25 per calendar year...or whatever you can contribute will be very, very appreciated.

Your contribution goes towards the upkeep of our website, Board expenses, events, and reunions. I am here tonight if you

wish to contribute now. Otherwise, please write your checks out to Anne Beattie Kerr, our BoD treasurer, and put a notation on the memo section “AIS/AES Alumni Association Dues.” Many thanks to all who have already contributed...or will rush home after this reunion to send their dues in!

## **2010 REUNION**

Hopefully, you’ve heard – and will help us spread the word - that the Board will be hosting the next BIG all-school AIS/AES 2010 Reunion the weekend of July 2nd and 3rd in the Washington, DC area.

We have had a tremendous turnout at our DC-area reunions in the past, with hundreds of classmates and their family members. Check the website for pictures of past reunions to catch a sense of the fun and excitement that awaits you in 2010.

The reunion will feature 5-star Indian cuisine, music, special DC group tours and a weekend of fun in the beautiful Crystal City Gateway Marriott Hotel (where we’ve held previous reunions and is located at the Crystal City underground metro line station).

Please mark your calendars and keep your eye on our alumni website for detailed information in the coming months. In advance, I want to mention that July 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 falls on a Sunday and that the hotel has agreed to honor our group rate if you want to stay an extra night in DC for the magnificent fireworks display at the National Mall.

Last, I'd like to leave you with "10 Reasons to Come to Our 2010 Reunion."

Some of these reasons were borrowed...and some came from our own Board of Directors!

10) Enjoy an evening out without the kids...or grandkids...as the case may be

9) You don't have to lie about your age

8) For the brutal reminder that high school was really your life's high point

7) For the happy reminder that those people you knew in high school were not all they were cracked up to be

6) An excuse to travel

5) Let's be honest...without YOU, the whole thing will fall apart

4) Feel better realizing you are not the only one who has been married, divorced, married, divorced, and/or is still looking

3) With the exception of myself...everyone is taller!

2) Some high schools never end. Looking at the attendance tonight and past reunions, AIS-AES is definitely one of them.

1) Humor our alumni association!! We are a deluded bunch of diehards that think everyone should show up to appreciate all our efforts!!

That's really about it from me, folks. Happy Father's Day tomorrow to all the Dads in our audience. Once again, thank you for coming to this reunion. Thank you, Judy and Cindy. See you all at the 2010 Reunion in Washington, DC!