



Bob and Listy announce engagement of Kristy to Seamus Keith
The wedding is planned for next summer – perhaps at St Vincent de Paul church

On July 31 we received the following e-mails from Bob and Listy announcing the wedding news.

Hi Dad, I'm sending you pictures from Seamus and Kristy's first celebration after their engagement. They drove over to his parents house in Sonoma and showed up in t-shirts saying they were a "Team in Training," taking the title away from his sister who was married a year ago and used that term during their engagement period. The second picture shows them using their first gift of champagne glasses to toast with at the wedding....you get view of the beautiful ring as well. We have some pictures from our dinner at the Godfather as well that I'll send. I'll see you next Saturday for our weekly shopping trip!

Much love, Listy



Dear Dad, Straight from engagement hotline....reporter Bob Gillingham writes (I attached a picture of the "bride and groom to be" from Kristy's graduation): "Yeah, three mortgages and three in college just wasn't enough of a challenge. Why even now I'm perusing Spare No Expense Wedding Journal looking for ways to take this event over the top...Mind blowing as this event is... it rolled out like it was scripted. Seamus drove out to our house a week ago to ask us for Kristy's hand in marriage... poor guy was shaking like a leaf. But what he said will have me choked up from now until they say, "I do." Looking right in my eyes he said he just loved Kristy so much... loved everything about her, and he'd like our permission to marry her. Man... Listy's been walking about 2 feet off the ground all week. They called from Tahoe Friday night right after he proposed at sunset at the end of a dock on the lake. Apparently, he had a rose and the ring. On bended knee, he told her each of the reasons he loved her as he pulled the petals of the rose then threw them onto the lake... pretty classy. Stay tuned... this is new territory."

Love, Bob and Listy

The above picture is the only one that we received with the e-mails, so we will have to wait until Bob and Listy return from a Florida vacation, on the 15th of this month. We did, however, get a chance to visit with the happy couple, who joined Grandpa, Grandma, Listy, Birdy, and Ed at a Saturday, August 5th pre-shopping lunch. Seamus (an Irish name, pronounced "Shae-mus") is a Manufacturing Engineer for an injection molding firm in Chula Vista. We do have some pictures taken at that time, as follows.



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Catch the News

August, 2006

JJ confirmed in Catholic church

This is the first chance we have had to report on the church Confirmation Rite conducted last June by the Bishop of San Diego. Along with about a small group of students JJ attended an impressive ceremony presided over by the Bishop and several other .

Dear Grandma and Grandpa,

Thank you for coming to my confirmation. It was a much better experience with people cheering for me at my side. Thank you for dropping your schedule and coming to my confirmation Mass. I hope you enjoyed the Bishop's homily like I did. I thought it was hilarious. Confirmation was something that was difficult for me to train for and I am glad you were there with me for the last part of my initiation into the Catholic Church. Thank you for everything,

Frank Riel

Thank you
J.J.

Frank JJ Riel
Confirmation
May 19, 06
Ascension Catholic Church
Bishop Brun



Each candidate had a sponsor who took charge of his final training and stood up with him during the ceremony. We congratulate JJ on this important step in his development.

Some news from Aunt Isa in Athens

7/26/06
Dear Frank,
Thank you so much for your regular family newsletters, which I enjoy reading, although most of the young folk, I never meet. However, I admire Helen for her achievement and send her my heartfelt congratulations, wishing her a full success in her career. A big "Bravo" to her. You must be very proud of all your grandchildren, as well as of your children. You do all look very happy, being each other often, organizing families get together. Really, you had a lovely family. God Bless you all. I wish, I could say the same for myself, but my children are somewhat scattered all over the world, and come overseas once or twice a year on short visits. I don't mind though, as long as I know, they are well and happy. Please remember me to those that remember or know me, and do give a special hug to Margaret, Bud, and their 2 children. P.T.O.

I always remember their kind hospitality when I was visiting. So my son Michael and Linda I am glad to see on the picture how fit and well Edith looks. Tell her to keep it going on. Shall close here, sending you my thanks to remember me, and keep in touch. With fondest love to you all -
Isa

For those of you who are not familiar with the Merica family, Isa is Grandma's sister-in law, the wife of Romulus Merica, Grandma's oldest brother



(deceased). Some of you have met Isa, at Margaret's home, when she was visiting her youngest son, Michael, who now lives in Vista. Their oldest daughter, Maria, now lives in England and is married to Sir Patrick Fairweather, and won an award for her latest

book, Madam de Stael. This story is told in the March 2006 issue of RFNL. We have a copy of the book, which was read by both Grandma and Grandpa, and now is on loan to Brett. The above picture was taken in December, 1950, when Romulus and Isa were still living in Teheran, Iran.

We thank Isa for sending us some news from her family, and hope that she will continue to provide us with more, as time goes by.

Margaret and Bud win RFNL Travelers of the Month Award

SAN DIEGO TO AMSTERDAM TO ENSCHEDE TO SAN DIEGO TO HAWAII TO SAN DIEGO TO PITTSBURGH TO SAN DIEGO

The trip to Netherlands was for a conference, Hawaii was a vacation, and the Pittsburgh one was for another conference. Margaret has provided us with some comments and pictures for the various stops, which we record on page three of this issue.

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AMSTERDAM

Bud and Margaret celebrated their 30 years of marriage by taking two very different trips. The first was to The Netherlands. Margaret had a speaking engagement in Enschede, a small city in the south east (very close to the border with Germany). But before going to Enschede, Margaret and Bud spent four days as tourists in Amsterdam. Amsterdam is below sea level and there are canals throughout the city which are lit up with small lights at night reflecting off the water. It is flat and bikes were everywhere.



The "bike park" at the train station, had four levels for parking bikes. It was the size of any car park but the slots were all of bikes. Kids, teenagers, adults, some in professional clothes, and old people all moved around the city in bikes. Parents expertly balanced babies, kids,

and packages on bikes and young adults even held hands while riding. You had to watch carefully to stay out of bike lanes and not be hit by bike traffic.

The city has an "I Amsterdam" tourist plan where many of the museums entrances and access to all of the public transport, and a boat ride on the canal was included for a daily rate. With multi-day passes, it seemed to Bud that Margaret was intent on mapping a path through the city that got them to visit every museum on the list. (Truth is they only saw a small fraction of the 50 museums.) Margaret's favorite was the Van Gogh Museum and the The Rijksmuseum. (When Grandpa and Grandma were in Amsterdam a few years ago we also were very impressed by the Rijksmuseum. If any of you are ever in Amsterdam, be sure and allow a day to enjoy its contents.)

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ENSCHDE (NEHERLANDS)

The iEARN (International Education and Resource Network) World Conference 2006 in the Netherlands.

(Here is the text from the program...)

"10 years of Learning Circles within iEARN

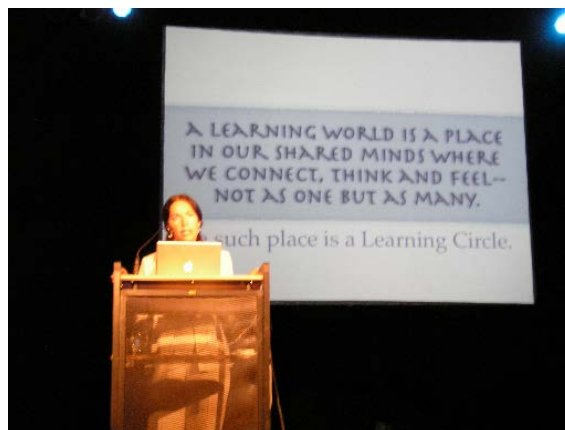
We have a special commemoration in this 13th iEARN World Conference, We are happy to celebrate ten year of Learning Circles in the iEARN. Learning Circles, a way of organizing online learning, have been very effective in stimulating active

international collaboration and learning. Margaret Riel, 'inventor' and elaborator of the Learning Circles will be plenary speaker at the 'Learning World' Conference. She will present the history of learning circles, research findings and discuss the experience of setting up learning Circles in different projects including the Global Teenager Project.

Learning Circles at the Conference

Monday: Special pre-conference workshop on Learning Circles, Margaret Riel, Barry Kramer & Bob Hofman

Tuesday: Plenary Session --10 years of Learning Circles, Margaret Riel



(It is quite apparent that Margaret was the "STAR" of the conference. Some of you may not know that Margaret got her start in the Education Research field through contract work supported many years ago by AT&T. As you can see from the conference program, she is identified as the inventor of the Learning Circle concept.)

HAWAII

Margaret and Bud later took off to Hawaii to continue their celebration. They had hoped to meet up with Lyle and Francie but they could not get the dates to work out. So



they just had to spend the time snorkeling, swimming, touring and reading novels. While not completely disconnected from the world (Margaret

had to grade student papers and hold office hours), it was as close to break as one could wish for. Margaret's clock was so confused that she sprang up for each sunrise and would go out and take pictures. The sunsets were easy to

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capture as all of the palm trees were placed perfectly to create a "Kodak" moment. What makes Hawaii so close to paradise is the sweet aroma and brilliant colors of the flowers, the unpolluted crystal clear warm ocean water, and the warm island breeze.

PITTSBURGH

Margaret completed her month of travel by a trip to Pittsburgh, which, to her great surprise, is a very interesting city. It is intersected with three rivers and has great, unusual places to eat and a very attractive downtown walking district. It is, however, a bit on the hot side this time of year. However, since Margaret was there to give a workshop on online learning, she spent most of the 3 days in a hotel conference room.

Much thanks, Bud and Margaret, for the stories on your busy travel schedule. We hope you will always give such good accounts of your many travel experiences.

Some baseball with Carol and Jeff

We are a little late with this story, but we always like to cover a special event. It happened that last May Grandma was not feeling very well, and did not want to go to a Padres game. Carol and Jeff were interested in filling in for



the surplus ticket, so we set out for an evening of baseball. Before the game we needed to eat, so we stopped off at the Tin Fish, a nice restaurant located at the Trolley stop. We had some good food and drinks, and then headed over to Petco Park. I do not remember how the game came out, but we had a great time, and thank Carol and Jeff for joining us.

Mehans enjoy RFNL dine out dinner

We are a little late with this item, also. At the last Riel Bowl Bud and Margaret won one of the RFNL Dine Out

gift certificates issued during the White Elephant game. As usual, the delay was the result of trying to find a time when both parents and kids were available. Also as usual, this was the case for the Mehan family, since Michael was away at school. However, Megan joined us for a dinner at Prego's, in Hazard Center. We enjoyed great food and some special desserts, along with a chance to get up to date on Megan's career progress. It was a pleasant evening, enjoyed by all.



Tim finishes cross-country bike tour

We have word from Ed that Tim will be finishing up the Habitat for Humanity tour in a week or so. The end destination is Vancouver, B.C., and Ed and Jan will fly there to greet him after his summer-long trip. We understand he will be spending a little time in San Diego before he returns to work in San Francisco. We certainly hope to see him then, and learn all about his experiences in biking across the northern section of the country, helping build houses along the way.