

Fulbright Hays Seminar Abroad Thailand and Vietnam

I applied for a grant at the end of last year,
Not knowing the outcome, I waited with fear.

It seemed like I waited for months on end,
To find out if I was a person they'd send.

For 5 weeks to Asia, across the sea,
Experiencing cultures, all new to me.

Finally the letter arrived in the mail,
Letting me know that I did not fail!

I prepared myself in the months to come,
Bought clothes, gifts and luggage and finally was done.

The time to leave arrived very soon,
I couldn't believe it was already June.

The fun began as we got on our bus,
Met the Fulbrighters, that would be with us.

Lectures and visits to schools each day,
Helped us to learn about the Thai way.

Then cooking, shopping and a puppet show,
We learned the culture but there was more to go.

Up to the north we went on a plane,
We visited hilltribes and knowledge we did gain.

The night market in Chiang Mai was enjoyed by all,
It was better and cheaper than our local mall!

Thai massage was also a treat,
We loved the massage of the legs and the feet!

The elephant ride was a big highlight,
Elephant artists were also a sight!

We continued our trip and learned even more,
As we visited Sukothai , on our tour.

We took off for Vietnam on Vietnam Air
Hanoi was our first stop, then on to where?

Halong Bay was a favorite place,
We kept touring at a very fast pace.

Hue and Hoi An, what great little towns
The fish market had some smells and some sounds!

Ho Chi Minh City was quiet a big place,
On the street when you drive, there isn't much space!

To the Cu Chi Tunnels was where we did go,
To enter them, we had to crouch low.

It amazed me that people had lived down there,
Under the ground, how did they fair?

The war memorials were touching to see,
But to help understand, were necessary.

Then back to Bangkok for one last fun night,
Before the trip on a very long flight.

I learned so much in the weeks away,
The sights and the sounds were different each day.

The people, the culture the friendships made,
The trip had memories that I wouldn't trade.

Thanks for the opportunity to visit Thailand and Vietnam.
It was an incredible experience.

Susan Schamay