



United States Department of State

Foreign Service Institute

*George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center
Washington, D.C. 20522-4201*

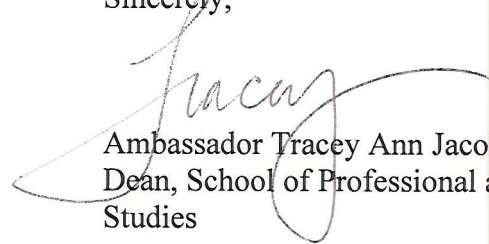
December 15, 2009

Bob Perilla
Big Hillbilly Bluegrass
4205 Havard St.
Silver Spring, Md 20906

Dear Bob:

Thanks and Rahmat to you and your Hillbillies for a great concert at our Holiday Party Friday. I often think back to your fantastic program in Tajikistan, where you not only acquainted your audiences with a unique facet of American culture, but also demonstrated your talent as musical diplomats. Your ability to work with singing grannies, young dancers, and everyone in between reflected the best traditions of American diversity and worldwide engagement. I was very pleased to have you here at the Foreign Service Institute, because it gave me both an opportunity to listen to some great music (folks are still talking about it) and a “hook” to talk to my colleagues here about the importance of cultural diplomacy in the field. I wish you and your crew happy holidays and safe travels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tracey".

Ambassador Tracey Ann Jacobson
Dean, School of Professional and Area
Studies