

*"An eternity is
forever, and
forever with
you would be a
dream come true."*

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

ADAM
AND
SARAH

OCTOBER 12, 2008

SIAN KA'AN
BIOSPHERE

MEXICO



Welcome to Playa del Carmen!

Bienvenidos! We're so excited you're here and we hope you're excited too!
Have you had a cerveza or a Manzana Lift yet?!

First of all, we would like to thank you for coming down. We hope that all of you will enjoy Mexico and Playa del Carmen as much as we have over the years. If at any time you have questions please find us or Tony and Cheri. Also, Genaro (dayshift) and Jamie (evenings) are great guys at the front desk of the Luna Blue. Be sure to meet them! They are long time friends of ours as well.

We have left you some goodies to help get you acclimated to Playa! The coozies will come in handy considering how hot it gets here and how much beer we're assuming some of you will drink! Don't leave "home" without them! The Hot Nuts are one of Sarah's favorite snacks in Mexico. If you have gotten lucky, she may have shared her stash that she brings back from Mexico. We're hoping that we can get Ah Cacao brownies in time for your bags also. They are the best brownies on earth! If we aren't able to get them, make sure you have one while you are in town. Sarah has been known to drag these things all the way to Iowa for Adam in the past!

We have included a map of the area so that you can find your bearings when you are out and about. This map is very general and will hopefully give you an idea of the surrounding area as well as some highlighted places that may be important/ of interest. There is a more detailed map at the front desk of the Luna Blue too.

Thanks again for coming and we hope you have a great time!



Special Thanks...

GENE & PATRICK: We have no idea how to ever repay you for allowing us along with sixty of our friends (and mostly strangers to you!) to take over your house for a day! And, thanks so much for answering all of my weekly (sometimes daily!) emails with questions! We are eternally grateful for your friendship and generosity!

HEATHER, KITTIE, MARINA, AND SUSIE: Thank you all so much for being such great friends and wedding planners! It was so comforting to know that I could rely on all of you to help me while I wasn't in Mexico. I know I sent zillions of emails and asked for many favors and you all always came through! I miss all of you very much and I will never forget all of the great times we've had together in Playa!

MATT: Thank you so much for bringing your gift of music to our wedding. You will add a special touch to our ceremony and we really appreciate your offering to play. Matt is a world class violinist who has played and taught violin for almost all of his life. He is a member of the Des Moines Symphony, and he teaches for a living.

TIM: Thank you for offering to shoot the video of our wedding. Tim is an independent film maker who is currently working on a documentary about haunted places. If you get a chance, check out his website www.chasingthebadows.com.

TONY AND CHERI: Did you ever think "Show this boy to his room" would turn into helping us with our wedding?! Maybe you did because just a few days after we met Tony said, "S**t, you're gonna leave us and move to Iowa!" Thank you both so much for all of your phone calls, emails, ideas, and assistance in planning our wedding! And, thanks in advance, for putting up with a big party crowd in your hotel this week! We miss you!

VAL: Thank you for offering to be our photographer. We know that you will do a great job and we appreciate your taking time out of our vacation to help us!



Important Information...

BUS SCHEDULE AND LOCATION: There is a bus schedule in your bag. The main bus terminal to get to the airport is near the south end of 5th Avenue (where many of you came in). There is also a closer one to the Luna Blue that you can take back to the airport. See map for locations.

PESOS: It is much easier to pay using pesos. You can withdrawal money at ATMs (remember the amount you enter is in pesos!) and you can exchange US dollars for pesos all along 5th Avenue. See map for the closest ATM. Easy way to think of pesos is 10 to 1, so about 10 pesos = \$1 USD. If you have pesos when you leave Mexico you can exchange them back into USD, but you lose a little money.

STORES: There is a store across the street from the Luna Blue and convenience stores (often called Mini Supers) all over town where you can buy snacks, soda, beer, etc. Mega is a large store and close to the Luna Blue also. You are allowed to walk around town with an open beer. Bars will ask that you get a cup to go because bottles are turned in for a deposit.

TAXIS: You can grab a taxi easily on the main streets and they are 20 pesos or less to go just about anywhere in town. If you get a taxi at a taxi stand (such as Mega, Wal-Mart, Blue Parrot, etc.) they are a little more expensive. It is not customary to tip the taxi drivers.

TIPS: Please remember to tip your maids and also the staff at restaurants and bars. The tipping rate is 10% in Mexico and it's an important part of their income.

TOWELS, CHAIRS, AND SAFES: If you are staying at the Luna Blue, they have beach towels available for a \$10 USD deposit and safes available for a deposit also. You get the deposit back upon return. The Luna Blue also has passes to rent a chair for free at Mamitas Beach Club (see map for location).

WATER: Every hotel room has garrafrons of water for drinking and brushing your teeth. Restaurants all use purified water and ice and also sell bottled water.



Schedule of Wedding Events...

Other than the wedding, feel free to do whatever you want! I'm sure we'll be spending time during the days at the beach. If you are interested in seeing Tulum or any other activities please let us know. We can get a group together or help you figure it out.

We will be meeting at the Luna Blue Bar each evening around 6:30 pm and going to one of our favorite restaurants. If you want to come along, great! We'll be happy to show you some great food! If you want to go on your own, that's fine too. If you have any questions about restaurants just let us know. We've eaten all over town (and since you all know us, I'm sure you're not surprised!).

On Sunday, the bus will leave the Luna Blue at 12:30 pm. Please eat lunch before you leave because dinner won't be served until around 4:30 pm. Also, wear sunscreen and bring your coozies! When you arrive at Villa Destiny, feel free to look around. We will be taking some pictures before the ceremony and the remainder after, so you'll have time to check out the lagoon, the rooftop view, and the beautiful surroundings. After the ceremony, we will have drinks, dinner, music, and fun! The bus will depart at 8 pm. As part of a tradition in Mexico, when we get back to Playa we will walk down 5th Avenue shaking our maracas! We'll decide where we want to go and continue the party!

Many of you have already signed up for the Catamaya cruise on Monday, October 13th at 3 pm. If you want to go and have not signed up yet, please let us know.





Meemaw Bursey

After giving her failing organs a run for their money, Meemaw died on October 4th, 2007. If she was able, she would've been in Mexico this week without a doubt. She was adventurous, kind, determined, hard-working, and the most giving grandmother I could've ever asked for. She would do anything for her family (especially her grandkids!)...including a brand new car (that was for me!) and a sober ride home from a bar at 4 am (yes, that was me also!). Although

she didn't live nearly long enough, we are thankful for how close and involved she was in all of our lives. She is deeply missed by our whole family, but I have a feeling she arrived early today (as usual) and will be watching on Sunday from the best seat in the house.



The Day of the Dead isn't for a few weeks, but it's a very special holiday in Mexico when friends and relatives who have died are remembered by private altars that are built with their favorite things. This week, in remembrance of Meemaw, there is an altar in the Luna Blue.



*W*e thought it might be fun to introduce everyone by telling some things about all of our friends and family that will be in town. We are also putting the room number next to the couples that are staying at the Luna Blue so that you can get an idea of who everyone is and where they are staying. The good news is that we have 17 out of 18 rooms booked, so if you can't find your room in the hotel, chances are you'll at least find someone you know! Just try not to bother room 21! We don't know those people!



Bob and Linda

PLAYA PALMS HOTEL. This is my dad's fourth trip to Mexico and my mom's first (wow, dad, we finally got her here!); My dad had never flown until I took him to Mexico with me in 2005.

Since then, he's been to Mexico two more times to visit me. Once he flew on his own and once he came with Robby and Uncle Terry. My mom has always been afraid to fly, but years ago she said she would come if I got married here. She kept to her word! They are huge Orioles fans, so if you want to talk baseball I'm sure they're up for it! Thanks, mom and dad, for being in Mexico this week and for all you've done for me.





Uncle Terry

ROOM 1. Terry is Sarah's Uncle and most of you have met him already. He is the first relative to visit Sarah wherever she moves! He visited Iowa this past summer and ran the Dam to Dam with us. He is a frequent visitor of Italy and hopes to own a house there one day. We can hardly wait for that to happen...free place to stay! And, although he doesn't like to talk about it, he has run 54 marathons! I think that's simply amazing...and possibly insane!



Ryan and Mandee

ROOM 2. Ryan and Adam went to college together and Adam and Mandee went to high school together. No, Adam didn't introduce them! Sarah got to know Mandee when she came to Mexico with Ara and Val for a visit. They have two kids, Genesis and Elijah. They own a nutrition supplement store in Iowa. They are competitive body builders, in case you didn't notice! This is close to their 10 year wedding anniversary so tell them congrats!





Cisco and Shawn

ROOM 3. Shawn has been my best friend for 25 years (wow, we're getting old, Shawn!). Shawn's family moved in across the street from my family in when I was in first grade. Now Shawn has moved several times to several different states, but we've remained friends through the years.

From paper dolls to Aqua Net to drivers licenses to weddings, we've shared some great times and memories! Cisco is Shawn's fiance. He's into fishing and hunting, and he's an all-around great guy. He also shares some common work stuff with Adam. They live in Baltimore, Maryland. Cisco speaks Spanish fluently in case any of you need a translator!



Graham and Missy

ROOM 5. Graham and Missy live in Des Moines. Graham and Adam met in Korea while in college, and then immediately became good friends, which has turned into best friends. Missy is Adam's "little sister" that he likes to beat on while Graham laughs cause he can't do it! They've become great

friends of Sarah's as well. They have a cute little girl named Cooper that all of us have adopted as our niece. Missy and Graham threw our bachelor and bachelorette parties. Thanks again! They are a great couple and are always ready for a party...so test them!





Barry and Jewel

ROOM 5. Barry and Jewel are also friends from Iowa. Jewel is an avid traveler, just returning from a summer in Korea. Barry is in the hotel business and owns a great bachelor pad where he and Pete host many fun (normally sports-related!) parties!



Dan and Amy

ROOM 6. Dan and Amy just moved into together recently and are from Des Moines. Dan is in a rock band, called The Cues. Maybe we can try and get Dan to rock out at some point. Amy is the one of the biggest girl sports fan you ever met and she knows her stuff!





Jess

ROOM 6. “Anybody want a shot?!” All of us that know Jess have heard her say this several times and I’m sure the rest of you will hear it this week! Jess is a ton of fun and a great friend. Such a great friend that I’ve washed her feet after she had a long day of tailgating (written by Sarah, not Adam!)



Anthea

ROOM 6. Anthea is a great friend as well and our supplier of Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Tastefully Simple, and all of those fun party things! She’s also crafty and makes very cute gifts for all of us! I must think she’s a great dancer as well because I’ve been known to ask for dance lessons (although I don’t remember it!)





Bob and Holly

ROOM 7. Bob and Holly are also from Des Moines and have been friends of Adam's for several years. They are very prego at this point so you won't be able to see Hollywood at her finest, but I am sure Bob will represent on her behalf! We're really excited for Baby Frary's arrival!



Pete

ROOM 7. Uncle Pete is one of Adam's good friends and a former roommate (who was forced out when Sarah moved in!). Pete is about as easy going as they get and affectionately called Uncle Pete because of his fondness for Maya and the fact that he helped raise her while Adam was in Mexico all the time!





Bob and Janelle

ROOM 8. Bob and Adam share some work ties and have shared many a beer together. Janelle is Bob's saving grace, when Bob gets too wild. Janelle also hangs out at the softball park on Tuesdays with Sarah and Kim. This is close to their first wedding anniversary so tell them congrats if you can. They're spending their last few days in Mexico at their honeymoon resort.



PJ and Ara

ROOM 9. PJ and Ara have two daughters, Ellie and Kinzie. When Ara came down to Mexico with Val a couple of years ago she and Sarah met. PJ is a friend of Adam's from high school and college. They are very laid back and a lot of fun... and great makers of jello shots!





Mark and Val

ROOM 22. Mark and Val are from the Des Moines area. Mark is one of Adam's good friends from high school and college. Val is Mark's poor wife and after hanging out with Mark you will soon find out why! If you get a chance, ask Mark about the time Adam knocked him out or beat

him arm wrestling! They have two kids, Meghan and Addison, and it's a good thing they both have Val's brains! Val is also our photographer! Thanks, Val!



Robby and Lucy

ROOM 23. Robby and Lucy live near Washington DC. Robby is Sarah's little brother and Lucy is his super sweet girlfriend. Yes, there was a time when Robby was actually little! He loves his sisters and will do anything they ask of him (haha, written by Sarah)! Adam has yet to meet Lucy, but has hung

out with Robby enough to know that he has great taste. They are seriously considering moving out of area so try and talk them into moving to Iowa! You're volleyball and softball teams need him! (Also written by Sarah!)





Kevin and Maria

ROOM 31. Kevin and Maria are from the DC area. Maria and I have been friends since our first year of college and roommates our last two years. The last year of college was our best, living in our Jimmy Buffet/Mexico apartment. I do remember having flip cups parties (know to the Iowans as flippy cup), so maybe that's where I get my skills?! Maria came down to Mexico twice to visit me. I was a bridesmaid in their wedding in October 2003. Oh, Happy Anniversary, Maria and Kevin! Kevin is from New York, an accountant, and a great guy.



Max and Melanie

ROOM 32. Max and Melanie now live in Austin, MN (home of SPAM!). Max is a former college roommate of Adam's and also went to high school with him. Adam was introduced to Playa del Carmen when Max and Mel got married here a few years ago. If you get a chance, ask Max about his bachelor party and how they all almost got arrested! Mel you can thank us later for saving your wedding!





Bret and Kim

ROOM 33. Bret and Kim are friends from Iowa. Bret works with Adam, plays sports with Adam, and Kim drinks with Sarah while Bret and Adam are working/playing. It gets complicated when they have to take score as well! Makes for a pretty good time! Kim is also in the same line of work, but she

gets to wear a cute, blue, Smokey the Bear hat while she pulls truckers over! They've also become Maya's step-parents when we are away! Thanks for taking care of her!



Matt and Alicia

ROOM 34. Matt and Alicia are from Iowa. Matt and Adam golf together and are both huge Cyclone fans (not many around!). Alicia is an Iowa fan, but we won't hold that against her! They have two kids, Nick and Grace. Matt is the violinist at the wedding. Thanks, Matt!





Laura and Kyle

ROOM 35. Laura and Kyle are from Winchester, VA (Sarah's hometown). Laura is Sarah's sister and one of her best friends and Kyle is Sarah's awesome nephew. They talk, text, and email numerous times a day! Both Laura and Kyle are in the wedding and flew for the first time just to

come here! Kyle is a huge video game fan and collects Webkins in case anyone wants to talk shop. He's also a great student and plays basketball, baseball, and (soon) football.



Brooke

ROOM 35. Brooke is a friend of Sarah's from middle and high school and now lives near her parents in Arkansas. She has a daughter, Riley, and just bought a new house. Brooke and Sarah shared their days of Poison t-shirts and wild hair-dos.

They also shared some really fun times too...like "borrowing" her mom's car while wearing disguises! Brooke and Sarah lost touch for a few years, but reconnected again somehow. Brooke came to Mexico to visit right before Sarah moved.





Brendon

ROOM ?. Brendon (aka Crackhead) is a former roommate of Adam's (who was also forced to move out when Sarah moved in). If you get a chance, play some AC/DC for Brendon and see what happens. Oh, and test him with his 80's hair band trivia!



Tony and Cheri

Tony and Cheri are the owners of the Luna Blue and Sarah's "Mexican" parents. They are from San Francisco and they moved to Mexico about the same time that I did. My old apartment is between their house and hotel, so just about every other night I'd get a

yell up to my balcony to join them for dinner. I don't think I ever passed that up! We went through a lot together while I lived in Playa...laughs, tears, sicknesses, personal injuries (not always my fault!), birthdays, decorating the Christmas tree with dry rotted lights, parties, me wrecking their van...I could go on and on, but I'm sure you'll hear some stories from them too!





Tim and Theresa

Tim and Theresa live in Colorado. Tim is one of Adam's longest and best friends, going all the way back to when Adam moved to Iowa. They had many adventures in high school. Ask him about the Christmas lights! Tim makes movies about haunted places. If you get a chance to ask about it, you might become a believer. Teresa is a teacher in Colorado, but we've only met her once, so we're hoping she can make it to Mexico and we can get to know her better. Tim is shooting the video of our wedding. Thanks, Timmy!



Michael and Heather

Michael and Heather are originally from Chicago and have lived in Playa for several years. They recently started their own property management business. Sarah and Heather became good friends and have had many fun times together...a lot of them include parties: girls' night parties, birthday parties, baby showers, bachelorette parties, Halloween parties, etc.! Heather gets into Halloween more than anyone we know (she doesn't normally look like this picture!); Adam and Heather are convinced they were brother and sister at one point!





Gene and Patrick

They are the gracious hosts of the wedding and have spent the past couple of years designing and building their dream home that they have so graciously offered for the wedding. They love their dog, Mischief, as much as we love

Maya! Sarah met them through church. We are so thankful to them for allowing us to have our wedding at their beautiful home!



Randy and Kittie

Ex residents of Playa, Sarah met Randy and Kittie at church in Paamul also. They were normally her ride to church each Sunday. Randy is a retired Police Officer from California and Kittie has the kindest heart

you will ever encounter. They are long time friends of Gene and Patrick and are now living in Las Vegas.





Eduardo and Marina

Sarah and Marina were teachers together at Papalote and shared a classroom. Eduardo and Marina have lived in Playa for a couple of years and have an awesome German Shepherd named Mook. They live in Playacar (think golf course) and are originally from Mexico City.



Susie

Susie is one of Sarah's best Playa buddies. She lives in Paamul which is the most amazing RV park that you can ever imagine. Susie and Sarah have traveled all over Mexico and had many amazing adventures together.

At times just jumping in the car with a bag and taking off... whether it be to an All-Inclusive or hotel in Cancun to indulge or a remote Mexican town or craft show in the jungle! They've had some pretty amazing adventures together!





Rick

Otherwise known as Babaloo, Rick just finished making a trailer into a one of a kind paradise in Paamul. He retired to Mexico and is the life of the party. Buy him a beer and ask him about his artwork! We have a couple of pieces that you've probably seen!



Jose and Renee

Renee and Jose moved from Chicago to Playa and started a construction business. Sarah also met them through church. They are kept very busy with work and raising two teenage daughters in Mexico. They also have children in the USA. One of their sons recently got married in Mexico.



Jim and Penny

Jim and Penny moved to Playa from Atlanta, Georgia. They owned a framing business in Atlanta and then an art store in Playa, which they recently sold. Jim must be on his third retirement! Sarah knows them through church and designing marketing materials for their art shop. Jim has insights on about everything and Penny might be one of the best cooks we've ever met! Remind all of us that we need to make Penny's apple pie for you!



John and Libby

Guess where they are from? Chicago, yup, a trend! John and Libby own a computer company in Playa and run a great internet website (www.inttheroo.com). They have been friends of ours for the past couple of years and they are always up for a good party! They ended Sarah's 30th birthday with us by singing karaoke at a local bar til about 4am! Fun times!





WE ARE SORRY THAT VIRGINIA FRAZIER (SARAH'S MEEMAW)
IS NOT PHYSICALLY ABLE TO BE WITH US THIS WEEK.



IN MEMORY

This week we remember those we miss,
and who are most certainly with us in spirit and love.

Robert Bursey (Sarah's Granddaddy)

Thelma Bursey (Sarah's Meemaw)

Roy Frazier (Sarah's Granddaddy)