



The Brick & Mortar Board

the newsletter of the HHS Alumni Association, Inc.

www.hobartalumni.org

Volume 3, Number 6

August, 2014

October 11 Homecoming Picnic Coming Soon!



This year's BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic will be held on Saturday, October 11, at Veterans Memorial Park on 73rd Street, from 12 noon to 3:00 pm.

The event is free of charge. The HHS Alumni Association will provide hot dogs, brats and bottled water. You are welcome to bring a salad, side or a dessert to share, but it is not required.

The Homecoming football game is the night before, on Friday, October 10 at the Brickyard, as the Brickies take on Hammond Morton. Also, for band alumni, there is a Band Reunion on Friday evening at the Hobart Elks on 61st Avenue from 6:00 to 8:30.

So, make a weekend of it: come to Hobart for the Homecoming game or the Band Reunion on Friday, and stay through Saturday for the Homecoming Picnic! Information about this event and class reunions being held that weekend are on our website, www.hobartalumni.org, or see our Reunion Roundup on Page 4.

Alumni Spotlight

Mark Holzmer, Navy Veteran and Nuclear Engineer



Hobart High School alumnus Mark Holzmer, Hobart High School Class of 1970, is a nuclear engineer and graduate of the US Naval Academy. He shares his story with us here.

Could you describe your life and career path from Hobart High School until now?

After graduating from Hobart High, I entered the naval service in June 1970 as a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy where I majored in mathematics. I graduated in June 1974 and was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Navy. After an additional year of training in California and Idaho to be a supervisor on naval nuclear propulsion reactors, I served aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (SSBN-602), making five ballistic missile patrols. While in the navy, I made port visits to Auckland, New Zealand, Sydney, Australia, Chin Hae, South Korea, and Hawaii, as well as

visiting all but a handful of the 50 states. I joined the navy and saw the world!

While in Idaho, I met a lovely young woman (Chris) and after my first patrol we were married on August 5, 1976. We lived in Hawaii for our first three married years while I made four more patrols. During that time we had our first two boys (John and Matthew). In November 1978, we moved to Groton, Connecticut, where our third son (Greg) was born and where I was an instructor at the Naval Submarine School. I taught courses in propulsion reactor engineering, radiological controls, and reactor and steam generator water chemistry.

In July of 1980, I separated from active duty naval service and we moved to northern Illinois. While living there, Chris and I were able to attend my 10th high school class reunion, where I saw many old friends. In 1981, our daughter (Emily) was born. I worked as a

(continued on Page 2)

Alumni Spotlight (continued)

reactor inspector for the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission from 1980 to 1989, our Illinois years. We owned homes in Naperville, IL, (four years), and in Zion, IL, (five years) and the kids grew so quickly!

In June 1989, we moved to Chris's home town, Idaho Falls, Idaho, where we now live. While here, I worked with the US Department of Energy until 2005 in the areas of reactor safety, worker safety, engineering support, supervision of federal employees, training, and related areas. I also managed recruitment, hiring, and training of some technical employees. While in DOE, I also did a wide variety of special projects, mostly associated with nuclear facility operations and management.

I retired from federal service in 2005 and immediately joined a support contractor – mostly we provide individuals experienced in reactor and other nuclear facility operations to DOE and DOE contractors. Most recently, I've been performing nuclear facility safety analysis, in which I've had an interest for a number of years.

Family life has been a great blessing, and like many other alumni, I enjoy watching our children grow, learn, struggle and succeed. Chris and I didn't start marriage with much - we slept on an apartment floor for the first few months and added furniture as we added family members. Our family has made many fun trips around the country, which continue to this day. My hobbies include fitness (I play golf and still run a little) and woodworking. I've made wood projects from small boxes to large entertainment center cabinets. I have a modest shop and enjoy making little pieces of wood from larger ones. I don't play guitar as much as I'd like, but I still dabble a bit.

In my career, I've worked with some fabulous technology and on some very interesting projects and programs and with very bright and talented individuals. I also served on the board of directors of our local United Way for ten years – was president for two years, too. We have a great community with some wonderful people who serve their neighbors with diligence and compassion. I feel like the most fortunate of men.

What are you up to these days? How do you spend your time?

I've been trying to reduce my work hours to spend more time on family and on church activities, though I'm not succeeding very well. My current work project is safety analysis at a new DOE nuclear facility that will

process radioactive liquid waste from fuel reprocessing. At church, I serve as a counselor to the bishop of our ward (congregation), and my areas of responsibility include scouting, finances, Sunday school, and music, though I find ministering more to my liking. I'm trying to rehab my Achilles tendons so I can get back to running (I did 2 miles last night), and Chris and I enjoy walks together, too.



How do your Mormon faith and your strong patriotic beliefs support each other?

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believe that this continent (the Americas) is specially blessed by God. We believe that those who dwell here will be blessed and have God's protection if they are righteous, and will not have God's protection if they become evil-minded. We believe that the constitution is an inspired document in that it assures that men and women may worship as they choose and live as free people. Our understanding is that our church could not have been able to be established in any other place.

Members of the US Armed Forces and the US government swear an oath to protect and defend the constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. I've sworn those oaths as a naval officer and as a federal employee. Those who so serve are to uphold the law, serve our nation and its people, and preserve our basic freedoms.

To me, these significant parts of my life are seamless. Much of my life has been spent serving others in ways that support these constitutional freedoms. I would add that I feel that I have been blessed beyond what I deserve by rendering service to my country, my church, and my community and my heart is full knowing I grew up in a community as wonderful as Hobart and that I now live among wonderful people in Idaho Falls. Our church offers members a chance to share their feelings on line, and I have filled out a profile that can be seen here: <http://www.mormon.org> (search on People, Meet Mormons, Male, 50-64, Caucasian, "nuclear submarine" – I'll be in there somewhere, so good luck!).

Were there any people, places or incidents in Hobart that had a special influence on your life and career path?

Alumni Spotlight (continued)

My parents and sisters are first on this list. Our family learned faith, work, service, and learning. Mom and Dad sacrificed for us kids and saw that we had a great start in life, including sending us to private school. The education at St. Bridget's school was first rate. When I started freshman year at Hobart Junior High, I was seeing math I'd already been using for at least two years. My Boy Scout leaders (Bob Pictor and Jim Galler) were also very influential, stressing the Scout Oath and Scout Law as well as rank advancement and having fun outdoors.

Specific school teachers at Hobart High School that were influential were Stan Sendarek (physics), Tom Wuchner (German), and Mr. Scarborough (world history). Coaches like Don Howell, Frank Kurth, and Don Hancock were also very influential. Don Hancock used to run with the team almost every practice. Rosalind Howell was very influential in helping me select a school, as were other guidance counselors.

One story about Frank Kurth – I played football freshman and sophomore years and ran track in the spring (1/4 mile, 1/2 mile, and mile run) those same years. My sophomore year in track, I did pretty well in an indoor race and Coach Kurth walked up to me and said that I should go out for cross country in the fall. I wasn't very big and wasn't getting bigger very fast, so I was a bit discouraged about my football prospects. Still, I told Coach Kurth that I was thinking about playing football again. He said, "Aw, why pick splinters out of your butt playing football when you could run varsity cross country!" In the fall, I ran cross country.

What advice would you give to Hobart High School students about planning for life after high school?

I'm hardly qualified to give advice to others on how to live their lives, but here are some things that helped me. Regarding education, I believe that sooner is better than later, and more is better than less. In my experience, "running with the big dogs" is the best way to see what you're made of. When selecting a curriculum prior to my freshman year, I opted for the Math-Science curriculum that had chemistry and physics. I did so partly because of my interest in math and science, but more so because I thought it would be the hardest; I wanted to see if I could do well in the hardest curriculum. When selecting a service option

prior to graduating from the naval academy, I selected nuclear power for the same reason – that's where the "hot runner" naval officers were going.

If you *don't* know what you want to pursue for a life's work, all things being equal, select something that will make you unique and give you skills that few others have. If you want to be a teacher *more than anything*, God bless you – pursue that calling with all the energy you can. Just remember, teaching skills are not very unique – a retiring teacher can be replaced with a new college graduate. Be the best you can be at what you choose, but don't complain about pay if you picked a low paying career. I've found that people who have unique skills (like operating reactor plants) that require years to learn will usually be in demand and are hard to replace with someone right out of college.

Moving sideways in one's career (lateral transfers vs. promotions) is a good way to gather new skills that can be parlayed into other lines of work later in life. Don't discount opportunities (in class or on the job); some skills I learned in high school and college (like the discipline involved in doing geometry proofs) didn't matter early in my career, but came in handy years later. I've found that having the mental discipline to keep the logic straight is not a common skill.

Learn to write. As my civil engineer friend from Georgia Tech says, "If you write like a moron, people will think you're a moron." Grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and style all matter. Learn how to write a good sentence, paragraph, and paper. Create and follow logical outlines.

Principles matter. I've found it easy to find work when customers know that I stick to task, work hard, produce results on time, and make a difference. Keep God in your life, and he'll keep you in his. Values like those in the Scout Law never go out of style; people notice and respect your values and your morality even when they don't agree with them. Giving service to your church and community is extraordinarily rewarding.

Keep a sense of humor and a sense of perspective. Some of the most rewarding working relationships I've had were with folks who were serious about the work *and* knew how to keep things light. It's better to be light-hearted than light-minded.

HHSAA is on Twitter!

You can now follow us on Twitter. Look for us @hobartalumni. We'll keep you up-to-date on HHS alumni activities.

Fundraiser for Coach Balash Raises over \$13,000

Coach Steve Balash, a graduate of Hobart High School, and teacher and coach at Hobart for 42 years, has been experiencing symptoms of an unknown source.

On July 26, a car wash was held at three different sites to raise money to help with Coach Balash's medical expenses, and at the same time, a website was set up through [Go Fund Me](#), to raise donations over the Internet. The website reports that as of August 6, \$13,225 has been raised!



Hobart Educational Foundation to Host “A Taste of Autumn” on October 23



The Hobart Education Foundation has given over \$250,000 to the School City of Hobart. “A Taste of Autumn” is a fundraiser for the Foundation, featuring live and silent auction items, as well as delicious hors d'oeuvres and fine wines, and will be held on Thursday, October 23. The ticket price is \$30.

For more information, contact publicity chair Phyllis Jones Graham, pjg912@hotmail.com, or president Lisa Young, breadlady_2000@yahoo.com. More information can be found on the [Hobart Educational Foundation website](#).

Reunion Roundup

Here is the current list of upcoming class and all-class reunions. If your class is having a reunion, send the information to us at info@hobartalumni.org, and we will publicize it on our website and in our newsletter! More information on all these reunions can be found on the [HHS Alumni Association website](#).

Class of 1989: Friday, August 15 to Sunday, August 17

Visit the [HHS Class of 1989 website](#), or email Gloria Irwin at gloria@giamarketingllc.com.

All-Class Band Reunion: Friday, October 10

Hobart Elks Club, 61st Street in Hobart, 6:00 to 8:30. Cash bar and kitchen open for orders. Call Pam Ketchem Caldwell at 219-947-2455, or send a TEXT to Jeff Robertson at 219-771-1219.

All-Class BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic: Saturday, October 11

Veterans Memorial Park, 73rd Avenue in Merrillville, 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. Admission is free, and free hot dogs, brats and cold bottled water will be provided by the HHS Alumni Association.

Class of 1974: Saturday, October 11

Hobart Elks Club, 61st Street in Hobart. Contact Theresa Galovic-Smith at smithgto38@gmail.com.

Class of 1954: Saturday, October 18 and Sunday, October 19

Luncheon at the Ambassador Banquet at 12:00 noon Saturday, and a “get-away” brunch at the Paragon Restaurant Sunday morning at 10:00 am. Call Dee Shinneman (Chairman) at 219-942-3282, or Sharon Johnston (Reservations) at 219-942-1278.

(continued on next page)

Reunion Roundup (continued)

Class of 2004: Saturday, November 29

Starting time is 6:00 pm. Price is \$35 per person. You can send checks, made out to **Hobart High School Class of 2004**, and mail it to Katie Galka Rinas, 523 Pheasant Run Dr., Hobart, IN 46342. For more information, contact Katie at teacher.rinas@gmail.com, or visit the [Class of 2004 Facebook page](#).

Class of 1965: Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26, 2015 (next year)

Social night on Friday. Reunion Banquet on Saturday at the Elks Club, 61st Street in Hobart. Contact Barb Phillips Rowley at mnbrowley@msn.com.

Reunion News

Class of 1969 (from Jane Woodruff):



Small group enjoyed a picnic with classmates from Texas, Arizona, North and South Carolina, Nevada, Kentucky and local. Had visit by Paul Throne. Looking for ideas for our 50th. Would love to hear from anyone. Please pass the word we need updates for so many people. Send to me in FB or email janewoodruff@yahoo.com or phone 219-942-4141, or cell and text 219-688-7573.

(Note: If your class has had a reunion recently, and you'd like to report it here, please email the

information, with pictures, to info@hobartalumni.org, and we will publish it in the next issue of this newsletter.)



Recent Obituaries

AUGUST 2014:

Richard Blaszkiewicz, Class of 1967

Danny Gooch, Class of 1974

JULY 2014:

Dennis Nelson, Class of 1964

Terry Brooks, Class of 1955

Patricia Gulban, Class of 1948

JUNE 2014:

Robert "Bob" Ramsay, Class of 1951

Elin Ballantyne Christianson, Class of 1954

Larry Marquardt (Teacher)

Clarabelle "Clara" Loggie Kostbade, Class of 1943

Andrew Schultatz, Class of 1990

Kenneth Stanley, Class of 1968

Kathleen (Kathy) Knouff Anderson, Class of 1967

MAY 2014:

Carole Downey Powell, Class of 1958

Kenneth Siegesmund, Class of 1932

Sharon Bellinger Mathis, Class of 1965

Joseph "Joe" W. Matan, Class of 1953

Thomas Alvin Weakland, Class of 1956

Nancy Teer Snider, Class of 1985

Dennis Smith, Class of 1959

HHS Alumni Association Board

The Hobart High School Alumni Association was officially incorporated on July 17, 2010. The current members of the Board of Directors are:

OFFICERS

Paul Addison, Class of 1970.....*President*
Holli Smith Kostbade, Class of 1998..... *Vice-President*
Debra Broker Opolski, Class of 1970 *Treasurer*
Lynn Hasza-Heintz, Class of 1967 *Recording Secretary*
Tracy Estabrook McCullough, Class of 1978 *Corresponding Secretary*

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Brent Martinson, <i>Principal, Hobart High School</i>	Sherry Oswald Peterson, Class of 1965
Lynn Sheets Kostbade, Class of 1966	Michael Trammel, Class of 1967
Dawn Briney Krull, Class of 1968	

Mission Statement

The mission of the Hobart High School Alumni Association is to develop and maintain a close relationship between Hobart High School, its constituents, and its alumni for their mutual benefit. The Association is committed to, and involved in the support and well-being of Hobart High School and its alumni.

OUR GOALS

- To assist Hobart High School in communication with its alumni
- To convey to Hobart High School the views, attitudes, and needs of the alumni in seeking to preserve, advocate, and promote alumni interests
- To strengthen alumni activities and programs
- To support educational programs through teacher grants and student scholarships

Our Supporters

The HHS Alumni Association is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation, and our entire financial support comes from membership dues and contributions. We recognize our supporters by listing the names (not the amounts) of those who have contributed to HHSAA, including memorials, donations, and new and renewed members. Membership in the HHS Alumni Association is \$10 per year, and life memberships are \$100.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS (since May 2014 newsletter)

Lyle Hatten (1958)
Jeffrey Young (1968)

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS (since May 2014 newsletter)

Jim Addison (1965)	Linda Quinlan Koziol (1960)
Larry Koziol (1958)	Paul Sheehy (1961)

The Brick & Mortar Board is a publication of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc., a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation. It is an electronic publication, delivered by email to members of the Association. Membership is \$10 per year, or \$100 for a Life Membership, and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to: **HHS Alumni Association**, and mail it to: HHSAA, PO Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342. Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org. The editor of *The Brick & Mortar Board* is Paul Addison.



Membership Application Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc.

Check one: New member ____ Renewal ____

Check one: 1-year membership (\$10) ____ Lifetime membership (\$100) ____

First Name _____

Last Name (in high school) _____

Married Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Home phone _____

Cell phone _____

Work phone _____

Your class graduating year at HHS _____

"Once a Brickie, Always a Brickie!"

Thank you for your support!

Membership is \$10 per year, or \$100 for a Life Membership
(proceeds go towards scholarships and teacher grants)

Make your check out to: HHS Alumni Association

Mail to: HHSAA, P.O. Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342

Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org